



Elsing Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

July 2020

Date of meeting: Monday 20 July 2020

Councillors Present:

- Pip Wallwork (Chair)
- Henry Atkinson
- Steve Crebbin
- Bill Horncastle
- Oliver Laws
- Stuart Chaplin
- Suzy Horth (Clerk and RFO)

There were 0 members of the public in attendance, Gordon Bambridge joined the meeting. The meeting was held via Zoom (due to Covid-19 restriction)

Item 1 To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received

Item 2 Approve minutes from meeting held on 20 May

The minutes/notes of this virtual meeting were approved save for Cllr Horncastle confirmed he had not given his approval to sign off the budget. Clerk to resubmit budget and bank statements ahead of final approval. Any changes will need to be ratified by the rest of the council.

Note: 23.7.20 – Cllr Horncastle has now approved the budget statement with amendments.

Item 3 To receive declaration of interest in items on the agenda and requests for dispensation.

No declarations were raised. Cllr Chaplin did raise that his property borders to affect site for the proposed Solar Farm, but the meeting felt this should not be an issue, as this impacted on the whole village.

Item 4 Open Forum for Public Participation

Consultation into a proposed new solar farm – land off Heath Road

Cllr Bambridge joined the meeting to provide an update on the process and status of the application.

He confirmed that the application was yet to be submitted with queries and questions able to be submitted ahead of any application being submitted. Any questions will then be considered when and if any formal application is submitted. This will not preclude anyone making further comment in the

future. BDC will be looking at the environmental impact, but the Government is very keen to encourage green energy.

This proposal will impact other neighboring villages include Lyng, North Tuddenham, Hockering and Swanton Morley, so Cllr Bambridge suggested it may be worth considering getting a consortium together if any application is submitted to raise any questions together.

PACE had made contact with the council to offer a meeting to answer any queries and it was felt that this would be useful, but a structured approach would need to be taken, with questions being planned to ensure best use of any meeting and the meeting agreed to draft some questions for submission to PACE ahead of any meeting.

Cllr Bambridge confirmed that the application comments closed on 24 July, so any questions or comments would need to be submitted online asap, or the council could seek an extension of time to enable meetings to be held.

Note: Request submitted to extend the timeline, and this was declined by BDC, so any questions or queries need to be submitted by 24 July.

Following lengthy discussions the following actions were agreed:

- (1) List of native animals and species to be collated by 24 July. (OL/SC)
- (2) Any archeological elements for consideration to be identified. (HA)
- (3) Any questions for PACE to be submitted to the clerk (All)
- (4) Final list of questions to be drafted by clerk and approved before submitted to BDC and PACE. (SJH)
- (5) Details of the questions raised to be included in parish newsletter (Chair)
- (6) Clerk to contact PACE to arrange an initial meeting with the council, ahead of any consultation meeting being planned. (SJH)
- (7) Clerk to contact BDC to see extension of time limit. (SJH) – complete and declined.
- (8) Chair to speak to the Church to see if this would be an option for any public meeting, due to covid-19 restrictions

Cllr Bambridge left the meeting

Item 5 AGAR return and update

The clerk confirmed that this was being progressed, but as the budget had not been approved this could not be moved on. As mentioned above budget statement and bank statements to be recirculated for urgent approval/ comment to enable us to meet end of July deadline.

Item 6 Internal Audit update

As above, this could not be submitted for internal audit until budget formally signed off.

Item 7 Co-option of 7th councillor

The meeting confirmed that there were 2 possible interested parties. The Chair will speak to those and update at the next meeting.

Item 8 Missing Peaseland Green Postbox

Cllr Laws confirmed that he had now received a letter to confirm that this postbox would now be replaced. There is a backlog due to covid-19, so this will be monitored to ensure it takes place.

Item 9 Update on borehole/water supply project

Cllr Horncastle updated the meeting inline with the report which Cllr Atkinson had submitted and confirmed that the proposed option was to look at a bore hole, with consideration for applying for funding. This project will run for the next 9 months. A main supply would be the preferred option if the borehole funding application was not successful.

Item 10 Consider any planning applications

The solar farm was discussed at the start of the meeting.

Item 11 Footpath/allotment update including proposed pig pen

Cllr Laws confirmed that work was taking place on the Orchard and mowing was being undertaken. A volunteer to help day will be planned.

There is a blocked footpath, which they are unable to access until harvest, to enable access to vehicles due to restrictions.

The pig pen contracts are due to be signed and once completed Cllr Horncastle will forward copies to the clerk for filing.

Item 12 Orchard Seating

Cllr Laws confirmed that the Village Hall committee had offered to purchase new benches for the orchard area. This linked to a request to consider a replacement seat near the village sign. The chair will look at options and costs for replacement for the bench seat and come back to the council with options and costs.

Item 13 Highways update

Surface dressing – Cllr Atkinson confirmed that the majority of roads in Elsing and surrounding roads had been surface dressed. They are just awaiting the white lines to be re-painted.

The sign outside Church Street has been replaced but they have removed the sign to the village hall. He will contact highways to ask if this can be re-instated.

The hedge on Church Road are overgrown, and Cllr Atkinson confirmed that this is not a council issue, it is down to the landowner. It can be reported to the council if nothing is done.

- Item 14 Telephone Box Maintenance** – The Chair confirmed that the paint and glass had been purchased, and labour sought, but due to Covid-19 there had been a delay. It was hoped that this work could commence within the next 3-4 weeks.

Cllr Chaplin confirmed that on checking the pads expired at the end of July. The Chair confirmed she would check and if necessary arrange for urgent replacement. The meeting approved this course of action and payment of the replacement pads as soon as possible, so as not to wait until the next meeting.

Item 16 Financial update

The Clerk gave the following update:

Expenditure:	Oliver Laws – allotment costs	£105.76
	X2 connect Ltd – paint and glass	£245.68
Approval for payment:	L P Everett – leaflet printing	£190.00
	Oliver Laws – sign maker gift	£124.00
	NALC subs	£136.30
	Clerk Expenses	£196.20
	Clerk electricity (June/July)	£ 20.00

The meeting approved the all payment requests

The meeting closed at 21:30

To confirm date and Time of Next Meeting: 21 September 2020, 19.45 in the Village Hall.
(or via Zoom dependent on lockdown restrictions being lifted.) (or earlier if required)

Elsing Parish Council

Minutes of Monday 20th July 2020

Please note the following addendum

The Council unanimously voted that Cllr P Wallwork should continue as Chairman until 2021.