

ELSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Elsing Parish Council meeting held in Elsing Village Hall car park, Church Street on Monday July 17th at 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Councillors Horncastle, Laws, Palmer and Chaplin

Other Members Present: - Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the Public were present.

1. To appoint the Chairman for the meeting.

Cllr Chaplin proposed Cllr Horncastle, seconded by Cllr Laws and carried. The Clerk received the signed Declaration of Acceptance Form.

2. Welcome by the Chair and to receive apologies for absence.

Cllr Horncastle welcomed those present. There were apologies for absence received from Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge.

3. To declare any Interests re items on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

4. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on May 15th.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Horncastle proposed the minutes of May 15th be accepted as true and accurate records of the meetings, seconded by Cllr Laws and carried.

5. To discuss any matters arising from these minutes (not on the agenda).

Regarding trying to get the speed limit on Heath Road and Church Road reduced down to 20 m.p.h., a letter will be sent to the Highways Department asking for information on the criteria for being granted this request.

6. To discuss any necessary Correspondence.

A letter had been sent to George Freeman, M.P. regarding the I.D. photo requirement for voting, as the Parish Council did not support this. A reply from George Freeman, M.P. had been received and he explained the situation on this subject.

7. To discuss any Planning Issues

There were no planning issues to discuss.

8 To receive an update on the Borehole, Allotment and Nursery

The borehole is working well, apart from a few teething problems. The allotments are mostly let out and occasionally people contact the Clerk, if they are interested. The tree nursery is looking very good. Regarding the vineyard, 99% of the plants have been planted out and it is hoped the success rate will be good. The footpath at Green Farm was unpassable but it is going to be cut back, as there are loads of brambles and nettles. The land owner is responsible, so he will deal with this problem.

O.L

9. To receive an update re Royal Mail Collection times

The Clerk had written to Royal Mail asking if it was possible to reinstate the second collection from the village's post box, which had ceased. The Clerk had received a reply to say this was not going to be possible, mainly due to costs.

10. To discuss whether we should introduce a procedure to ensure we follow up on correspondence

The subject of letters not being replied to were discussed as Cllr Palmer was concerned that letters sent out were not acknowledged or replied to. The Clerk assured her that when she sends out letters, most of the time she does receive a reply and if she does not, then she chases up for a reply. Sometimes it is not possible to persuade someone to send a reply, but these occasions are rare.

11. To discuss the proposed New Town Development.

Cllr Palmer had attended a meeting and she felt that everyone in attendance at the meeting was definitely against the idea of the New Town. She learnt that each area has to build a quota of houses every year. She thought that preparing an environmental plan would be a good idea. At the moment no actual planning application has been submitted but she will continue to inform the Parish Council of the situation if she learns of changes.

12. To discuss Breckland's idea of signs and cameras

The idea of the mobile deployable surveillance camera was discussed. The Parish Council are supportive of this scheme, as long as there is no cost to the Parish Council, and the Clerk will relate the views to Breckland Council.

13. To discuss how to create interest in the Village for residents to join the Parish Council

It was felt that it a direct approach to certain people might persuade them to join the Parish Council. Cllr Palmer will draft a letter regarding joining the Parish Council and then she will email it to the other Parish Councillors for comment.

14. To discuss the missing sign at Fustyweed

The Fustyweed sign has been removed. It was sited at the far end of the village on 2 posts, on the Lyng side of Fustyweed. It was on the only road in Fustyweed, between Mill Road and Lyng. The Clerk will ask Highways to replace it.

15. To receive a Financial Update from the Clerk

This had been circulated and no-one had any questions regarding it. Cllr Horncastle's figures had been circulated.

16. To authorise any necessary payments

Cllr Horncastle proposed the following financial payments be authorized, seconded by Cllr Laws and carried.

Clerk's net salary for June/July	£316.27	HMRC tax for June/July	£67.40
Clerk's expenses for June/July	£31.46		

O.L.

17. To discuss whether we should compile a list of contact details of parishioners for the Parish Council to use.

This idea was discarded as there are many rules to follow for Data Protection. The only person who can hold personal information is the Data Protection Officer of the Parish Council and permission has to be sought from residents before this can happen.

18. To discuss whether the Parish Council uses the Hill and Vale magazine enough.

The Parish Councillors discussed how it might be possible to make use of the Hill and Vale magazine and the idea of submitting articles to be included were talked about. There is a need for more Councillors so an advert will eventually be placed in the magazine, plus it was thought useful to try to inform residents what the Parish Council is involved with, in the hope this would encourage more interest.

19. To receive items for the September agenda

To adopt the amended Financial Regulations.

20. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 18th September at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chris Laws

Chairman

18/9/2023

Date