

ELSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Elsing Parish Council meeting held in Elsing Village Hall, Church Street on Monday November 18th 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Councilors Laws, Palmer, Chaplin, Butler, Horncastle and Brailsford

Other Members Present: - 2 Electors and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. To appoint the Chairman for the meeting.

Cllr Horncastle proposed Cllr Laws, seconded by Cllr Palmer and carried.

2. Clerk to receive signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office from the Chairman.

The Clerk received the signed Declaration of Acceptance Form.

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

Cllr Laws welcomed those present. There were apologies for absence received from Cllr Adams and these were accepted.

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

No interests were declared.

5. To confirm and accept minutes of the meeting held on September 23rd.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Horncastle proposed the minutes of September 23rd be accepted as true and accurate records of the meetings, seconded by Cllr Palmer and carried.

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

Cllr Horncastle had received a reply to the letter he had sent regarding car parking fees, which are going to be implemented by Breckland Council. Cllr Bambridge had made some statements in his report regarding the car parking fees. Cllr Laws intends to attend a meeting, which is taking place soon, regarding car parking fees. The subject of buying a SAM2 sign through the Parish Partnership was discussed because half the cost could be funded through that. However the cost of the sign is very expensive. Cllr Laws had contacted North Tuddenham Parish Council and the Clerk is going to consult with the Parish Councillors to find out if they are willing to share it with Elsing Parish Council. It will be an item for the next agenda.

7. To discuss the Jumps and a replacement crash barrier.

This will be a regular agenda item. An accident happened a few weeks ago when a child from Reepham suffered two broken wrists and a collar bone. A letter was sent to Reepham High School. The Parish Council did try to do something about it by writing the letter. The litter problem is currently not too bad.

Regarding the crash barrier, Mr Doubleday and Cllr Horncastle have put up three sections but one section has been ripped off and there is now a gap. If another

crash barrier is made, it will have to be more resilient. Cllr Horncastle is thinking of putting up two new concrete posts. The concrete posts are necessary to be vandal resistant. There has been some more anti-social behaviour taking place.

8. To hear additional views regarding the proposed redevelopment of the military site at Swanton Morley.

The Parish Council thinks that a small development on the brown field site is what the Parish Council would prefer. The green field site is not acceptable. That was the point of view of the Parish Council when it was previously discussed and it has not changed its opinion.

8. To discuss any necessary Correspondence.

Reply from East Harling Internal Drainage Board. The letter informed the Parish Council that it does not cover the River Wensum and supplied her with an alternative organisation and address. She will send another letter to the alternative organisation and address.

9. To discuss any Planning Issues.

No new applications had been received.

The Clerk explained that she no longer receives weekly updates regarding planning applications that have been received by Breckland and she will contact them about this situation. She is expected to check the Breckland planning section of the website daily, as Parish Councils only have 21 days to respond. She feels the new way of doing things is unsatisfactory and will speak to Breckland about the situation,

10. To receive an update on the Borehole, Allotment, Nursery and Vineyard

The borehole will be turned off for the winter. The allotments are looking good and the couple of vacant allotments will be advertised as available. The tree nursery is looking good. A grant has been obtained for replacing some trees. Some plums and cob nut trees will be bought. Cllr Laws will purchase these from a company in Loddon. Cllr Laws is waiting to receive a call from the Manager. He is going to buy 15 mm stakes at £3.50 each. The delivery cost is £21.00. He can buy 10 trees. He is going to find out if someone else could go and get them on his behalf.

11. To discuss and agree to put in an application to the Wind Farm Fund that provides for community projects.

An application will be submitted to help the group of children that are involved with outside activities. The Woodlanders should do it themselves. A while ago Cllr Laws thought about putting a fence on the allotments but no longer thinks this is a good idea. Mr Doubleday is going to ask for a shed to be sited on the orchards or a vacant allotment. He has quotes for that and quotes for wheelbarrows, tools and benches. Cllr Laws is going to see if the Fund will fund a SAM2 sign.

12. 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.

13. To authorize any necessary financial payments.

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

Clerk's net salary for Oct. – Nov. £390.62 HMRC tax for Oct. – Nov. £86.20
Clerk's expenses for Oct. – Nov. £45.28 Cllr Palmer, printing £55.00
Donation to the Village Hall £400.00 Donation to the Church £400.00

The Parish Council, in October, received a credit from Breckland Council for £254.00.

14. To discuss and debate the precept in readiness to set in January

Discussion took place regarding documents produced by Cllr Horncastle and the Clerk. The precept amount will be decided upon at the January meeting.

15. To discuss marking our boundary with Fern Lea.

A resident was present at the meeting and informed the Parish Councillors of all the trouble he is having, due to anti-social behaviour. Cllr Horncastle will put two yellow marking posts in place.

16. To receive an update on the Mermaid Pub Project.

Cllr Palmer has received back some completed questionnaires and she has created a summary of the responses. A very high percentage were positive replies. Cllrs Palmer and Butler went through the questionnaire and the amount of people who had answered each question and the results were quite positive. Cllr Butler will be having a conversation with the Mermaid owners to see if he can obtain a clear understanding of how much money the owners are hoping to obtain from the sale or lease of the Mermaid. Some investigations will be made regarding values. Some lengthy discussion took place regarding how the community pub in Gressenhall. The Swan, got started. Cllr Butler will look into a valuation and Cllr Palmer will contact Plunketts and find out what the cost would be for Plunketts to carry out a valuation. It will be necessary, eventually, to hold a meeting with residents to discuss the outcomes. Cllr Laws thanked Cllr Palmer and Cllr Butler for all their hard work regarding this project.

17. To receive items for the January agenda.

To set the precept for 2025 – 2026 to be received from Breckland Council.

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

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday January 20th 2025 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 8.55 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date