

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of full Council held on

Monday 16th December 2019 at 7.30pm

at The Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road IP30 9UH

Present: Cllr Burch, Edmonds, Friend, Mansel, Pallett (Chairman), Roots, Shaw

Attending: District Council Ward Member Helen Geake
Parish Clerk Peter Dow
3 members of the public

19.12.01 **Noted:**

- 1.1 An apology for absence was noted from Cllr Barker who was on holiday
- 1.2 An apology for absence was noted from Cllr Schofield who was on holiday
- 1.3 An apology for absence was accepted from Cllr Hawes who was unwell
- 1.4 An apology for absence was accepted from Cllr Osborne who was unwell

19.12.02

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th November 2019, as tabled, be agreed as a true record

19.12.03

Noted:

That there were no Members' Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in subsequent agenda items and no additions, deletions or alterations to the Council's Register of Interests.

19.12.04

Noted:

- 4.1 A written report from SCC Ward Member Cllr Jane Storey
- 4.2 A written report from MSDC Ward Members Cllrs Geake & Mansel
- 4.3 A written report from the BWMA
- 4.4 Cllr Mansel, speaking as Ward Member, undertook to look into the proposed partnership between MSDC and any third party organisation in the matter of bringing back into commission the bungalows at Thedwastre Close which had been empty for several years following contamination from heating oil seepage.

19.12.05

Noted:

The following when questions or comment from the public were invited on any matter on this agenda;

- 5.1 A question as to the determining Policy precedence in the matter of any incongruity between a Neighbourhood Plan and the District Joint Local Plan with reference to a possible relief road in the village was referred to Agenda item 15.

19.12.06

Noted:

Correspondence to this meeting unrelated to an Agenda item;

- 6.1 From BMSDC – Wesley now removed from the ACV Register as of the 10.12.2019
- 6.2 From BMSDC – Reg 16 Consultation re Woolpit NDP as part of the statutory 8 week public consultation

19.12.07

Noted:

The Clerk's report as per Appendix A.

19.12.08

Noted:

That when any Complaints Committee business for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda was invited none was forthcoming and that the date of the next Complaints Committee meeting was not known.

19.12.09

Noted:

Planning results as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council;

- 9.1 DC/19/04242 Erection of 1no. dwelling, annexe and summerhouse...
Mulberry Farm, Ashfield Road
REFUSED EPC objected

- 19.12.10 **Noted:**
Other Planning business;
10.1 Correspondence from Suffolk Preservation Society reinforcing, on reconsultation, their earlier objection to DC/19/04135 & DC/19/04242 re Proposal for conversion of office to dwelling within setting of Listed Building at Mulberry Farm, Ashfield Road.
NB EPC objected.
10.2 The Clerk drew to the Meeting's attention to Planning Application DC/19/05810 for the erection of 3 No 4 bedroomed dwellings at Kiln Farm Cottage, Kiln Lane, and undertook to ask the Chairman to convene an Extraordinary Meeting to allow comment to be made if he cannot secure an extension to the consultation deadline.
- 19.12.11 **Noted:**
That progress on the Wesley development was as detailed in paragraph 9 of the Clerk's Report.
- 19.12.12 **Noted:**
That progress towards the purchase of the Greene King site at School Road was as detailed in paragraph 8 of the Clerk's Report. The Chairman reiterated that there are no plans for the site unless and until a purchase is effected and that the essential first step in preventing the inappropriate development for which Planning Permission was already secured had been to purchase the site on the community's behalf.
- 19.12.13 **Resolved:**
That Council purchases an Epson EB 2065 PowerLite projector from Messrs AV Partsmaster for permanent mounting in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne for a sum including delivery and installation by others not to exceed £1125.58.00 net of VAT.
- 19.12.14 **Resolved:**
That the pro-forma document, as tabled, which structures a comprehensive review of the Council's systems of internal controls, is approved as the basis on which the Chairman, Vice chairman and Cllr Roots conduct a formal examination of relevant documents and records on 08.01.2019 towards a Report to Council at the January ordinary meeting.
- 19.12.15 **Noted:**
That progress towards the writing of an Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan was as detailed in the Clerk's Report at paragraph 5 and that the following points were made in discussion:
15.1 There seems to be a move towards removing the requirement for a relief road linking Ashfield Road with A14 avoiding the railway crossing and this could be considered as being retrograde given the impending highways pressure from development already granted Planning permission.
15.2 There is no support from any other agency for a relief road and there would be no chance of the Plan Inspector allowing it to form part of an Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan. It must be deliverable.
15.3 Funding for any such road would have to come from Developer Contributions. A fair cost estimate is currently £12m. which would require input from more than 1,500 more houses.
15.4 The experience gleaned from other such plans is that the relief road concept might best be expressed as a community aspiration so that there is a published and approved point of reference.
15.5 There are serious concerns regarding education provision which are not addressed on the emerging Woolpit Plan and which shortcoming impinges on Elmswell. Cllr Mansell is pursuing clarification from District and County officers.
- 19.12.16 **Noted:**
That progress in the matter of the establishment of an Elmswell Community Land Trust was as detailed in the Clerk's Report at paragraphs 6 & 7.
- 19.12.17 **Resolved:**
That the Elmswell Over 55's Club be thanked for their excellent stewardship of the Station Road recycling centre for the 3 months to 23rd November and for their considerable time and trouble spent decorating the Chamberlayne Hall for Christmas events and that a grant of £200.00 be made to the Club's funds.

- 19.12.18 **Noted:**
That progress in the matter of the proposed extension and improvement works to the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne was as detailed in the Clerk's Report at paragraph 10.
- 19.12.19 **Resolved:**
That the registration of signatories to the Council's Co-op bank account be extended to include Cllrs Mansel, Roots and Shaw.
- 19.12.20 **Noted:**
The public concern regarding the procedural inconsistencies in the recent closure of the Elmswell railway crossing as detailed in the Clerk's Report at paragraph 2 and that the Clerk was working to secure a meeting with relevant agencies towards making the next closure event, scheduled for early February, less disruptive. The Clerk also drew the Meeting's attention to a closure posted for Saturday 28th December at 10.30pm until Sunday 29th at 8.30 am.
- 19.12.21 The Meeting received a Report as tabled, dated 03.12.2019, on the recent training session for Councillors held on 02.12.2019, and noted that the Precept for 2020 / 2021 will be set at the January meeting.
- 19.12.22 **Noted:**
The authorised payments made and income received as per Appendices B and C, and indicative financial overview as at 30.11.19.
- 19.12.23 **Resolved:**
That proposed payments, scheduled as Appendix D, be authorised.
- 19.12.24 **Noted:**
The note Balance as per Appendix E and the Chairman's confirmation that the relevant bank statements and computer report verify the published figure.
- 19.12.25 **Noted:**
The following when public comment or questions were invited on matters relevant to Council business;
25.1 The Chairman confirmed that the borrowing, following the community consultation, for the purchase of the Greene King site at School Road would be funded from the Precept within the uplift as advertised in the consultation documents.
25.2 It was noted that suggested disaffection with the proposed borrowing had not been voiced in any formal way to Council, neither had any complainant or objector attended Council meetings to suggest an alternative way forward.
- 19.12.26 **Noted:**
The following when any other Council business was invited from Councillors or the Clerk for information, to be noted, or for inclusion on a future agenda;
26.1 The Clerk undertook to attempt to have SCC attend to the sequence of potholes from Oak Lane down Ashfield Road to Blackbourne Road which pose a serious hazard to cyclists.
26.2 the clerk undertook to reinforce the need for vegetation to be cut back on SCC land at School Road where the loss of visibility on the bend poses a serious hazard.
- 19.12.27 **Noted:**
That the next meeting of Council was scheduled for Monday 20th January 2020 beginning at 7.30 p.m. at the Blackbourne.
- 19.12.28 **Noted:**
That the meeting closed at 8.56pm