

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of full Council held on
Monday 21st February 2022 at 7.30pm
at The Blackbourne, Elmswell IP30 9UH**

Present: Cllrs Brown, Burch, Edmonds, Hancock, Hawes, Mansel, Pallett (Chairman), Shaw

Attending: District Council Ward Member Helen Geake
Parish Clerk Peter Dow
1 member of the public

22.02.01 **Noted:**
1.1 An apology for absence was accepted from Cllr Schofield due to his long-term illness
1.2 An apology for absence was noted from Cllr Barker who had a family commitment
1.3 An apology for absence was accepted from Cllr Roots who was unwell

22.02.02 **Resolved:**
That the draft Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on the 17th January 2022, as tabled, be agreed as a true record.

22.02.03 **Noted:**
That when any Members' Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in subsequent agenda items were invited, none were forthcoming and that there were no additions, deletions or alterations to the Council's Register of Interests.

22.02.04 **Noted:**
4.1 A written Report, as tabled and circulated, from MSDC Ward Members Cllrs Sarah Mansel & Helen Geake
4.1.1 Cllr Mansel confirmed that the recent by-election had returned a Green Party councillor thus retaining the equal split between the Conservative and Lib. Dem. / Green Party alliance requiring the Chairman's casting vote on many issues.
4.2 A written Report, as tabled and circulated, from SCC Ward Member Cllr Andy Mellen.
4.2.1 Cllr Mellen confirmed that the SCC approach to the Central Government approaches regarding their 'Levelling Up' agenda was tending towards a middle way with no directly elected County-wide mayor but allowing some devolution of powers. He suggested that the policy followed the line of the ruling party on the Council and did not necessarily represent a universal view.
4.2.2 Cllr Mellen agreed to seek clarification from the relevant officer at SCC regarding the reasoning behind the current working practices related to filling potholes.

22.02.05 **Noted:**
The following correspondence to this meeting unrelated to an Agenda item;
5.1 From Elmswell School re tree removal on grounds of Health & Safety.
5.2 From SCC confirming the Speed Limit Order at Wetherden Road
5.3 From SCC confirming commencement of works to expand Elmswell School on the Oxe Close site.

22.02.06 **Noted:**
The Clerk's report as per Appendix A.

22.02.07 **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.

22.02.08 **Noted:**
Planning results as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council
8.1 DC/21/06401 Erection of 1 No detached dwelling
Beech Glade, 106 Bennett Avenue GRANTED EPC objected
8.2 DC/21/6610 Erection of a single garage
3 Thedwastre Close GRANTED EPC supported

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|-----|---|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 8.3 | <u>DC/21/06611</u> Erection of 2No detached dwellings... rear of Woodstock and orchard House, Ashfield Road | GRANTED | EPC supported |
| 8.4 | <u>DC/22/00259</u> Application of work to trees... The Cottage, Church Road | GRANTED | EPC supported
(Clerk delegation) |

22.02.09

Noted:

The following Planning application as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council;

- 9.1 **DC/22/00212**
Erection of single story side extension (following demolition of existing conservatory)
Folly Cottage, Rose Lane`
 Councillors agreed to support this application
- 9.2 **DC/22/00259**
Application for works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order WS312: Re-pollard 1no Lime (T29) to 1m higher than original cut, and re-pollard 1no Lime (T28) to 2m higher than original cut
The Cottage, Church Road *NB Clerk already supported under delegated power*
 Councillors agreed to support this application
- 9.3 **DC/22/00668**
Erection of single storey side link extension between existing bungalow and detached garage (revised scheme to that granted under DC/21/05172)
51 Blackbourne Road
 Councillors agreed to support this application
- 9.4 **DC/22/00638**
Erection of 1No. class E(g) commercial building
Land at Stage café, Old A45 Woolpit
 Councillors objected to this application for the following reasons:
 The developments on this site have grown in an ad hoc manner with no cohesive or strategic plan. The result is 7 trading units in 6 separate buildings, one of which, immediately to the East of the Indian Restaurant, is not shown on the block plan which is submitted with this application. This 'ghost' building is not listed in the Planning Design & Access Statement although, clearly, it impinges upon what is defined as, 'a vast expanse of car parking'.. This proposal seeks to worsen the parking situation when any overspill will be on to the old A45 taking traffic at speed off A14 at J47A. The random piecemeal nature of the developments on this site means that access to 3 of the buildings, housing 4 units and which is currently asked to serve the proposed new building, is tortuous and reflects the absence of overall design. Parking will inevitably rely on the main area fronting the original Stag Café which already must take the parking for the café, the food sales outlet adjacent, the Indian Restaurant and the 2 Class E units which are not shown on the plan but which were granted Permission under DC/20/02823. The Applicant contends that A14 is easily accessed in either direction. This entirely denies the obvious problems in accessing A14 to the west. The nature of these buildings suggests that much of the traffic which will service them will not be HGV and will, therefore, seek to access A14 via Warren Lane into Elmswell and down Church Road / Church Hill to the A1088 roundabout or, worse still, via Kiln Lane. These are single track country lanes with restricted passing places. The HGV weight limit, when observed, should mean that traffic travels back to Tot Hill to gain A14 access. In practice this option is often ignored and unsuitable traffic ignores the weight limit on Warren Lane or runs through Woolpit where it poses an obvious hazard. The development-creep on this site has already left its mark on the very rural road network. This Proposal can only worsen the situation and should not be granted.
- 9.5 **DC/21/06555**
Application for Discharge of Conditions for 3469/16 – Condition 14 – (Sustainable Urban Drainage System Components and Piped Networks)
Land to the East of Borley Crescent
 Councillors made no comment on this application

22.02.10

Resolved:

That the Clerk makes known the Council's comments on the Planning Applications on this Agenda to the Chief Planning Officer at Mid Suffolk District Council.

- 22.02.11 **Noted:**
The following other Planning business;
11.1 The Clerk agreed to revisit the detail relating to the footpath along the boundary of the new development off Borley Crescent regarding complaints of non-compliance.
- 22.02.12 **Noted:**
The Meeting received a report from the Task & Finish Working Party established ref. 22.01.15 to assess the current and future workload of the Clerk's office and to make recommendations as necessary towards ensuring that future pressures of growth can be accommodated without a drop in standards of service.
- 22.02.13 **Resolved:**
That Council advertises for a weekend caretaker covering the facilities at Blackbourne, Wesley and at the Elmswell Tavern as appropriate with a view to developing the post to cover the forthcoming retirement of the incumbent.
- 22.02.14 **Resolved:**
That Council advertises for a clerical assistant to work part-time in the Clerk's office towards being able to offer public access on all weekdays.
- 22.02.15 **Resolved:**
That, effective from 01.03.2022, the post of Assistant to the Parish Clerk be remunerated at the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay scale SCP7 rather than at SCP6, a cost implication of £5.80 per week, and that this be reviewed forthwith by SALC towards confirming the appropriate pay rate in the longer term.
- 22.02.16 **Resolved:**
That, effective from 01.03.2022, the hours of work allocated in the Contract for the post of Assistant to the Parish Clerk be changed to be a minimum of 29 hours per week, as currently maintains, and a maximum of 37 hours per week at the discretion of the Clerk and at a potential extra cost to Council at SCP7 rates of £83.52 per week
- 22.02.17 **Resolved:**
That, from 01.03.2022, the post of Clerk to the Council be remunerated in accordance with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay scale framework at the full time rate of 37 hours per week at the current rate set at SCP38, a cost implication of £261.24 per week, and that the post be reviewed forthwith by SALC towards confirming the appropriate pay rate in the longer term.
- 22.02.18 **Resolved:**
That Messrs Top Garden Services be retained as contractors for grass cutting and ancillary services on Council's land at the cemetery, at Crown Mill and at Clay Field for the 2 years beginning 01.03.2022 as specified in their letter of 18.01.2022 for the total sum of £7,200.00 net of VAT.
- 22.02.19 **Resolved:**
That, as from 01.03.2022, the licensee of the Elmswell Tavern be Oliver Jackson and that, under his general management, the Council underwrites the capital and running costs of the enterprise, employs the staff and receives any financial surplus from trading.
- 22.02.20 **Resolved:**
That Council approves the draft Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan, as tabled, for the purposes of the Pre-Submission Consultation to be undertaken in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and delegates to the Clerk, in collaboration with the Chairman and Cllr Shaw, the agreement of any minor factual, grammatical and spelling errors in the Plan currently ahead of the commencement of full Consultation.
- 22.02.21 **Resolved:**
That a grant of £200.00 be made to Founders4Schools.
- 22.02.22 **Resolved:**
That a sum of £1,000.00 be made available towards the costs of Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village.

- 22.02.23 **Noted:**
Chairman confirmed the position regarding the transfer of land at Ashfield Road from Matthew Homes Ltd to Council which is awaiting details by way of a Method Statement and proposed Programme of Works related to the infilling of the wrongly specified drainage swale and the re-cutting to an agreed profile.
- 22.02.24 **Noted:**
The authorised payments made and income received as per Appendices B and C, and indicative financial overview as at 31.01.22.
- 22.02.25 **Resolved:**
That proposed payments, scheduled as Appendix D, be authorised.
- 22.02.26 **Noted:**
Balances as per Appendix E and the Chairman's confirmation that the relevant bank statements and computer report verify the published figures.
- 22.02.27 **Noted:**
the following when public comment or questions on matters relevant to Council business was invited;
27.1 Comments from the public reinforced concerns regarding the making-up of the footpath on the new Borley Crescent developing along the site boundary with Blackbourne Road properties.
- 22.02.28 **Noted:**
That there was no Council business from Councillors or the Clerk for information, to be noted, or for inclusion on a future agenda.
- 22.02.29 **Noted:**
That the next Ordinary Meeting of Council is scheduled for Monday 21st March 2022 beginning at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 22.02.30 **Noted:**
That the meeting closed at 9.15pm.