**MINUTES OF ELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HIGHGATE HALL ON THURSDAY 26TH MAY 2022 COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tim Cummins, Malcolm McCann, Sylvi Ranford, Ian Ross, Richard Smith (Vice Chair), Kathryn Taylor, Paul Willson,

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Kerry Rew, Clerk; District Cllr Marge Beuttell; 8 members of the public

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|  | Cllr Smith, in the chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. | **ACTION** |
|  | **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Donoyou, Cllr Strowbridge, Cllr Bywater |  |
|  | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**  There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.  Councillors were reminded that Declaration of Pecuniary Interest forms must be submitted to the Monitoring Officer at HDC. |  |
|  | **MINUTES OF MEETING 12TH APRIL 2022:**  Proposed as a true record by Cllr Ranford, seconded by Cllr Cummins and AGREED. |  |
|  | **FINANCE:**   1. Cllr Smith advised that a new 3-year Business Plan and forecasts for 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 must be prepared. This was not discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 23rd May, so councillors were asked to prepare suggestions and costings for proposal at the next Parish Council meeting on **Tuesday, 14th June**. The budget will then be reviewed, and priorities for expenditure/LHI/CIL bids agreed.   Cllr Beuttell stated her readiness to be involved directly with Highways for the next LHI application in the summer.   1. Cambridgeshire Highways have issued a credit note for the Greenhill Road traffic calming invoice. An amount should be included as a debt until a revised invoice is received.   The precept payment of £18,000 from HDC has been received.   1. Clerk produced 9 payments for authorisation. Schedule of payments attached. AGREED 2. Internal audit completed and RESOLVED at Annual Meeting of the Council on 23rd May. 3. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (external audit) to be completed by 1st July and carried over for resolution at the next Parish Council meeting on 14th June. | **ALL**  CLERK |
|  | **PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**   1. **Newlands Land North of Peterborough Road Haddon (ref 22/00441/FUL) –** Cllr Beutell gave an update indicating that the process is currently being held up by the investigations of the Highways department and further news could be some months away. Local County and District councillors recognise it is outside of the local plan and are fully supportive of local opposition. 2. **Newlands PCC ref 22/0381/FUL** – planning application with Peterborough City Council. As above. Cllr Beuttell to keep the parish up to date. There has been no contact from Peterborough City Council, despite requests. 3. **6 Back Lane ref 22/00685/HHFUL** – Observations have been submitted to HDC to ensure the use of matching walling stone and roofing tiles. No objections - ALL IN FAVOUR. 4. **18 Middle Street refs 22/00973/HHFUL & 22/00974/LBC** – observations submitted that there was minimal impact on the conservation area and neighbouring properties/street view. Due to Listed Building status the detail should be left to HDC conservation team. No objections – ALL IN FAVOUR. 5. **The Moorings** – since the communication from the selling agents, Woodfords, the site has been cleared but there has been no further contact from the new owner/agent or North Northants DC. To continue to be monitored. It was noted that a different owner has a separate parcel of 4 acres of land with a mooring for sale. 6. **Solar Park** – 21/70004/SCRES   Cllr Beuttell advised that the application was originally incomplete but that the missing paperwork has now been furnished and an application received on 25th May **ref 22/00668/FUL.** The consultation will be sent out shortly.   1. **Peterborough Showground** – no update. |  |
|  | **CORRESPONDENCE:**   1. The route of the Nene Valley Trail Race taking place on Saturday, 11th June will come through the village. Elton Estates are liaising directly with the organisers. 2. The survey for Cambridgeshire CC’s Draft Transport Strategy for Huntingdonshire has been received and circulated to councillors. The consultation period is **until 19th June**. Given the potential increase in traffic from developments such as Newlands or Sibson, it is essential that the Parish Council develop a strategic plan. This was not discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 23rd May and will be carried over to the next Parish Council meeting on 14th June. All councillors were asked to review and consider ahead of the meeting. 3. The Festival of Motorcycling at the Showground caused some disturbance through the village during the weekend of 14/15 May. It was considered that this was a once a year event and residents would have to tolerate the noise and disruption for this short period. 4. The Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) have contacted the Parish Council as we qualify for funding to restore old ponds or dig new ones in strategic areas for great crested newts. The parish is deemed especially suitable habitat and FWAG are seeking all types of landowners to take part. A meeting is to be set up with Elton Estates to discuss further. | **ALL**  RD |
|  | **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AND CLERK:**   1. **LHI**   **Wansford Road Gateway (2022 - 2023)**  The funding bid to provide a road narrowing/priority feature on Wansford Road and MVAS was unsuccessful. As part of the 3-year plan priorities for expenditure will be reviewed. There will be a further opportunity to bid for Local Highways Initiative funding in September 2022.   1. **Speed Watch & MVAS update**   Cllr Ross circulated a report on recent volunteer group activity and reiterated its limitations. Considering the failed LHI bid, it was agreed to purchase a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign, which will record traffic data and can be moved around the village to monitor traffic movements at all points. This was deemed essential to provide accurate information to support future LHI and CIL bids. Clerk and Cllr Ross in the process of obtaining information from other parishes with equipment and comparative quotes from suppliers. Cost approximately £3000. To report final recommendations on 14th June. ALL IN FAVOUR – RESOLVED.   1. **CIL**   Application to be submitted for balance of Overend traffic calming cost though still awaiting agreement from Cambridgeshire Highways as to an acceptable plan.   1. **PC consultations with neighbouring parishes**   Cllr Smith reported from STAUNCH that the Newlands application at Titchmarsh/Thrapston has also been delayed by Highways issues.   1. **Trees, verges, footpaths**   Cllr Willson to send the walkabout report to Les Middleton, who is caretaking the role vacated by Phil Harty. Cllr Willson to update status of report noting that Chapel Lane potholes have not been filled and any other omissions pending a check.  Cllr Ranford reported that crushed limestone has been added to the approaches at either end of the bridge in Berry Leas field as requested.  A resident reported that the footpath alongside the river towards Warmington is once again overgrown with nettles and brambles. Maintenance responsibility is with North Northants. To be reported.   1. **Grass cutting**   It was acknowledged that SMV Contract Services have been doing a very good job since taking over the contract, though there has been confusion regarding the protection of wildflowers. Some residents are requesting that verges are not cut, whilst others feel it is unsightly. Cllr Ranford to review and clarify with the contractor. Cllr McCann was unable to source signs to indicate protected verges where there are wildflowers. Cllr Beuttell to provide.   1. **Neighbourhood Plan**   Deemed essential as part of the Parish Council strategy going forward. To be discussed further as part of the 3-year business plan at the Parish Council meeting on 14th June.   1. **Other reports**   Cllr McCann reported that the old tyres have now been removed from the turning area at the end of Greenhill Road. A catch has been fitted to the gate. A request was made for a waste bin in the area.  It was noted that additional bins had also been requested by a resident at the recent annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Ranford to investigate costs to replace the stolen bin from St Botolph’s green, plus new bins at additional sites. Cllr Ranford to liaise with Cllr Beuttell regarding additional waste collection for which there will be a cost.   1. **Gigaclear project**   The project is no longer confidential, some residents having already received letters from the company outlining the proposed fibre broadband connection. Cllrs Cummins, Ross, and Taylor put together a comprehensive report on the company and project which was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting for review. The Parish Council approve in principle the upgrading of the IT infrastructure by Gigaclear and will be party to agreements authorising access over and under PC owned or controlled land. The PC will require Gigaclear to reinstate all tarmac/grass verges to the Council’s satisfaction. This resolution does not imply formal endorsement of the business activities of Gigaclear. ALL IN FAVOUR – RESOLVED  Detailed findings of the working party will be furnished to residents for information via the village email, and the website, or by contacting the Clerk.   1. **Defibrillator project**   Dr H Mistry provided an update. Training took place recently at Elton Estates for 18 people; the W I are holding a fundraising coffee morning; the Elton Society will be fundraising at the Jubilee lunch; donations have already been received for £2800 including a large sum from the defunct Village Magazine account. An installation costs approximately £1600 so it is expected to be able to install 2 very shortly (ideally at The Crown and The Black Horse if agreement is forthcoming) giving coverage at either end of the village and where there is greatest density. A total of 10 to 12 defibrillators would be required to cover the whole village so there will be a 3 – 4-year plan to fund raise and roll out. Dr Mistry to continue to provide regular updates.   1. **Insurance**   The Parish Council insurance expires on 30th June. Clerk and Cllr Ross to review cover and Cllr Ross to obtain quotes from other providers by way of comparison before renewing. To be agreed at the next Parish Council meeting on 14th June. | **ALL**  CLERK/IR  PW  CLERK  SR  MB  **ALL**  SR  CLERK  CLERK/IR |
|  | **DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**  Tuesday, 14th June 2022  The meeting closed at 21:14 |  |