

Pre-Meeting Business: The Chairman stated that Mrs. White was present as a representative of the local press and was not a member of the Parish Council.

Public Participation: Mrs. Woodhouse asked about the previous request for buses to make a detour so that they could pass through Orchard Close. Mr. Brown said that he had spoken to the appropriate authority regarding this but it is very difficult to change a route. He will, however, chase again to see if there is a prospect of progress. She also asked if there will be a list of donors for the Village Green. It was confirmed that there will be a list when the sign is erected and the Play Area will be known as the Jim Heffernan Play Area.

Mr. Hodson referred to a letter that he had written to the Elmham News and which had been published. He stated that he was perturbed that the Parish Council was not taking seriously the complaints of residents to planning applications. He was also unhappy with the continued development in the village which the Parish Council was apparently permitting. It was explained that decisions with regard to planning applications are made by Breckland Council with the Parish Council merely being a statutory consultee. Mr. Bambridge offered to meet Mr. Hodson who has particular issues with the development in Larch Grove.

North Elmham Parish Council

**Minutes of the
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held at 7.30 p.m. at the Sports Pavilion on
Wednesday 7th March, 2018**

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352 Those Councillors Present Were:

Mr. M. Phillips (acting Chairman), Mr. J. Brown, Mr. M. Gower, Mr. P. Grainger, Mr. J. Labouchere and Mr. C. Smith.

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Council), Mrs. M. White (Elmham News + Dereham and Fakenham Times) and 5 parishioners.

(Mr. Phillips said that, very sadly, Mr. Robin Don had recently passed away. He had been a long serving and much respected member of the Parish Council. He had been Chairman for a number of years. Condolences were extended to Mrs. Don and all the family)

353 To Consider Apologies for Absence:

Mrs. J. Borgnis, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Dr. P. Wade-Martins and Mrs. D. Warner

354 To Receive Declarations of Interest:

The Chairman reminded the meeting that, should the occasion arise, interests should be declared by Councillors as soon as this was realised, and the interest should be minuted.

355 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 7th February, 2018:

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Mr. Labouchere and seconded by Mr. Gower. Agreed by all.

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

356 Land Management Matters (item 319)

(a) Village Green The Women's Institute have donated £300 for a new bench on the village green. Discussions are to be held to decide whether this it to be a wooden or plastic seat.

(b) Cathedral Ruins Dr Wade-Martins had forwarded the following report:- Mr. Gower and I have just taken over the management of the ruins and meadows. We have both been around with Julian Duffield and have given him a prioritised list of jobs for the spring as follows:-

Hedges The one problem we have encountered is that the hedges in the meadows have not been cut this winter and the order for the work hasn't been placed. Under the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, hedges can only be cut in January and February, so we are now too late for this winter. It will be a major job catching up with this next winter.

Wildlife survey We hope to organise a wildlife survey of the Meadows to include ground-nesting and hedgerow birds, wild flowers, butterflies, dragonflies and mammals. Mr. Gower will be asking for volunteers who may have expertise in these subjects.

Ruins The Chairman and Vice Chairman attended an English Heritage inspection of the ruins and gave Mr. Duffield ten out of ten for the way he has kept it all in good order.

Green gates English Heritage has made an additional payment for the green gates to be repaired and Toby Winterbourn has done a superb job on them. They should feature in the next Elmham News.

(c) Cathedral Meadows Nothing to report

(d) Broom Green Nothing to report

(e) Millennium Wood The Chairman has removed a number of the broken posts. She believes that a manual team would be better suited to the work required rather than mechanical means.

(f) Bridleway on disused railway line Nothing to report

(g) Prince William Wood Nothing to report.

357 Street Lights (item 320)

Nothing to report

358 Highway Matters (item 321)

The Clerk had contacted both Norfolk County Council and the police regarding the blocking of Eastgate Street by a large van for two hours some weeks ago. The proposal is to have a yellow line along the narrow part of the street (a distance of about 20 metres) with an appropriate “no parking” sign. Mr. Grainger reported on the piloting of a new automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system. This has been developed by Westcotec and is being trialled in the village with the support of the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary. In the first week, 3,000 vehicles exceeded the speed limit with the camera facing southwards in the 20 mph area where “slow-down” signage is already in place. For the next two and a half weeks, the camera will be facing the opposite direction.

Mr. Brown said that gullies in both Holt Road and Eastgate Street have been blocked. A road traffic collision had occurred at the King’s Head on 22nd February. Damage to the fence near the village pump had resulted with a subsequent quotation for removal and reinstatement having been received for £880 + VAT. This information had been passed to the driver of the car who confirmed that she would forward this information to her insurance company.

359 Eastgate Centre (item 322)

Nothing to report.

360 Pavilion and Playing Field – Play Area (item 323)

Some new cisterns and pipes for the pavilion toilets have been fitted. Work is needed on the flushing system and it was agreed by all to obtain a quotation for a new upgraded sensor system. Fakenham Cricket Club has asked to hire the cricket pitch and facilities on some Saturdays (dates to be confirmed) when North Elmham Cricket Club are playing away. Mr. Barker (Secretary/Treasurer of NECC) has been kept fully informed of the proposal.

361 Dog Fouling (item 324)

Nothing to report.

362 Allotments (item 325)

Nothing to report

363 Community defibrillator (item 326)

Nothing to report

364 Play equipment and car park proposals (item 327)

Nothing to report

365 Detailed information map for village/Notice and Information Boards (item 328)

Nothing to report

366 Volunteers (item 329)

Nothing to report

367 Village Maintenance (item 330)

Nothing to report

- 368 Village Institute Hall (item 331)**
Nothing to report
- 369 Village Resilience Plan (item 332)**
Nothing to report
- 370 Bus routes (item 333)**
Mr. Brown is to chase this matter (see Public Participation, page 1)
- 371 Discussions with the Mid-Norfolk Railway Company (item 334)**
A train had come into North Elmham on 4th March
- 372 Website (item 335)**
It was agreed that, whilst it is important for minutes, agendas and relevant pieces of supporting documentation to be placed on the website, there was a danger of “bombarding” the site with superfluous information. In particular, it would not be appropriate for all letters received to be published, not least because of Data Protection reasons. The Clerk will continue to exercise appropriate care.
- 373 Shared Access – telecommunications mast (item 336)**
The mast has been switched on.
- 374 Neighbourhood Plan (item 337)**
Nothing to report
- 375 State of the village (item 338)**
Nothing to report
- 376 Individual duties/responsibilities of members (item 339)**
Nothing to report
- 377 The new Data Protection regulations (item 340)**
Nothing to report
- 378 Proposals for the land off Back Lane, North Elmham (item 342)**
Members agreed that there is little or no support for this proposal and, if an application is submitted, it is more likely to receive strong opposition than support. A letter is to be sent to Jamie Seaman, Senior Associate of Brown and Co, advising him of this view.
- 379 Sewage flooding in Wensum Drive and adjacent areas (item 344)**
A number of parishioners had expressed concern regarding frequent incidents of sewage flooding in Wensum Drive and the surrounding areas. As a result, the Clerk had complained to Anglian Water and the following response had been received from Pat Gough, Customer Liaison Manager:-

Following our conversation yesterday, the current situation is:

We have engaged specialist Pump Contractors who are currently attempting to source better functioning, more hardy pumps for the station than are currently in there. This may take some time as we feel that they may have to be specially constructed for the site, but I hope to have an update for you before the end of the month.

In the meantime, we are monitoring this station daily to make sure that it is operating as it should, we have changed the settings on the alarm status to ensure that we can get to site, in the event of the station being overwhelmed with rainwater, in the soonest possible timescale and we have a generator on standby should it be required

Once the pumps have been installed we will put protection into the sewers (non-return valves) to reduce the risk of flooding to nearby properties, especially those on Wensum Drive.

We will also investigate the drainage on Wensum Drive as the flooding appears to be concentrated in that area.

I have spoken to our Planning Team who advise that a development on Eastgate Street (11 properties) was received in 2014 and so we advised that there wouldn't be an issue with connections to the sewer (foul only) in that instance, and also the development off Holt Road (20 properties) was received in 2016 and received the same response, unfortunately once we've commented on a development we are unable to rescind it, as legally anyone can connect to a public sewer if they are within reach of it, but they will ensure that any further requests will be advised that connection will not be possible without mitigation being put in place, but, as I advised yesterday Anglian Water are not statutory consultees for new developments and we can only offer our opinion and ultimately it is down to Building Regulations as to whether they take our comments on board or not.

As we discussed, many of the flooding issues here are as a result of surface/rainwater being connected, either directly or indirectly, to the foul only sewer. It only takes a couple of properties to have incorrect connections to the foul sewer and that will result in surcharging of the sewer and flooding to properties during times of heavy rainfall. I would be very grateful if you could put something in your Parish Newsletter to that effect and just ask people to check that their drainpipes or driveway drains are not connected to the sewer and if they are then to remove them either into water-butts or soakaways – we have found that this has had a massive impact on reducing the flooding in other villages.

Hopefully I have covered all the points we discussed yesterday, but if not, or if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me either by email or 01263 540406.

If you or any of the residents of North Elmham require urgent assistance however, please call our 24hr helpline on 03457 145145.

380 Report from District Councillor

Mr. Bambridge said that he had been fully involved with planning issues over the past few weeks. Breckland Council had increased the District Council share of the council tax by £4.99 for a Band “D” property. It is hoped that there will be an improvement in the way grants are handed out.

381 Village benches

Mr. Brown felt that it was preferable to have plastic benches than wooden ones. There are currently ten benches and it was agreed to replace two per year at a cost of about £300 per bench. Proposed by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Grainger. All in favour. Mr. Brown and the volunteers will investigate the current condition of the benches. It is proposed to site the bench, funded by the Women’s Institute, on the village green near to the Oak Avenue end.

382 Views on utilisation of monies received from Shared Access (item 345)

Mr. Grainger said that the funds received effectively cover the next 25 years and should be regarded as representing about £1.6K per year. Dr. Wade-Martins had suggested that flashing speed signs on Station Road should be considered. Mr. Labouchere said that work needed to be done on removing fencing and netting in Millennium Wood (cost about £2K). Mr. Bambridge advised that it may be possible to obtain prison labour for this work. Mr. Brown was in favour of some more streetlights to cover the dark spots. It was agreed to further discuss this matter at the next meeting.

383 Member to act as planning applications “watcher”

The Planning Group currently consists of Messrs Phillips, Labouchere and Smith. It was agreed to carry this matter forward to the next meeting.

384 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

a) Resolved to approve the following Accounts for payment:-

11/2/18	E-on (street lights – January)	£144.06
7/3/18	K. Webb (Clerk’s pay for February)	£619.16
7/3/18	HMRC (tax on Clerk’s pay)	£99.40
7/3/18	HMRC (National Insurance on Clerk’s pay)	£11.35
7/3/18	Thinking Rural (payroll for February)	£12.00
7/3/18	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for February)	£90.00
7/3/18	R. Brown (miscellaneous items for pavilion)	£143.30
7/3/18	Toby Winterbourn (repairs to chapel gates)	£350.00
7/3/18	Norfolk Parish Training and Support (annual subscription)	£188.00
7/3/18	Community Action Norfolk (annual membership)	£20.00

(Expenditure approved by all members)

b) Schedule of Income:

8/2/18	Pavilion lettings	£130.00
12/2/18	English Heritage (payment for repairs to chapel gates)	£350.00
2/3/18	North Elmham Cricket Club (rent for 2017)	£313.00

Balances (as at 19/2/18):- Current a/c - £92,979.16, Business Premium a/c £24,107.29

385 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

a) Applications

- (i) Mr. A. Avery – single storey building for use as holiday let and family use (3PL/2017/1138/F)

b) Determinations

- i) Mr. G. Redwood, Granary Buildings, Eastgate Street (3PL/2017/0361/F) – change of use from warehousing to residential. Demolition of existing storage buildings and construction of two, three bedroom and one, two bedroom terraced dwellings and five, three – four bedroom three storey houses with integral garages - (application approved)
- ii) Mr. A. Avery – single storey building for use as holiday let and family use (3PL/2017/1138/F) – (application approved)

386 CORRESPONDENCE -7/3/18

- 1) Clerks and Councils Direct magazine for March, 2018
- 2) Letter from Mr. N. Lowe re Back Lane planning application
- 3) Letter from Mr. T. Langford re Back Lane planning application
- 4) Letter from Chairman responding to a letter from Mr. N. Clarke
- 5) Norfolk Parish Training and Support – training with a finance focus
- 6) Change in e-on energy prices from 9/4/18 (initial calculations indicate an increase in costs of about £19 per month for the street lights, £228 per annum, and approximately £8 per quarter for the sports pavilion, £32 per annum)

387 Announcements

The Monday Market starts on 9th April, 2018.
Norfolk Day is on 27th July, 2018.

388 Agenda items for next meeting:

- a) Report on ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) system
- b) Views on utilisation of monies from Shared Access
- c) Member to act as planning applications “watcher”

389 Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 4th April, 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Chairman

Date

