

Minutes of Elmsett Parish Council meeting held on 18 July, 2023 at Elmsett Methodist Church Hall..

- 07.23.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Andrew Morton, Nick Bird, Andrew Woodgate, John Sones, Fiona Watt, Paul Firman, District Councillor Leigh Jamieson, County Councillor Robert Lindsay, a representative from both Whatfield PC and Aldham PC, the clerk was present and 12 members of the public.
- 07.23.01 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** John Sones declared an interest under finance – purchase of signs for Neighbourhood Watch and signed the declaration of interest book.
- 07.23.02 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 23 May, 2023 Annual Parish Council Meeting and a zoom meeting held on 27 June were signed as accurate records.
- 07.23.03 **POST OFFICE REMUNERATION:** The Parish Council invited Sasha from Elmsett Post Office to attend the meeting To better understand the current financing conditions & restrictions imposed by Post Office Ltd on sub postmasters as they effect or may affect opening hours & discuss what practical assistance the local PC's may be able to bring to bear. Sasha presented her case. She took a number of questions from the floor from residents who were anxious that the services of the Post Office were retained. It was felt that perhaps not all residents were aware of the likelihood that the Post Office may have to shut and that communication was key. There was discussion around a “Use It or Lose It Campaign” and to “shop local” and perhaps getting the local press involved. The representative from Whatfield was prepared to put an article in their local newsletter. Sasha was keen to state that the shop is not threatened at present. It was decided to have a further meeting on 1 August specifically to discuss actions the joint parish councils might be able to take in order to support the Post Office.
- 07.23.04 **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** Whatfield Road footpath – the comments made during the consultation process had been submitted to the County Council. In particular a comment regarding the kerbing was thought to be relevant. The County Council agreed to a revised plan instead of a full kerb a 1” upstand would be provided. It was also reported that the next step was to complete the legal agreement with the County Council before submitting the documentation to the Planning Inspectorate for formal consultation. Andrew Morton updated the meeting on the seat to be installed around the tree on The Green. He confirmed that Tom Hitchcock would be doing the work during the second week of August. He has still to order the plaque. He also reported on the Speed Survey which has been undertaken so that the council has accurate base data to work on. He said that the survey would be complete at the end of the day and results should be received next week. Andrew Morton also said that he was disappointed that the work that was started by Babergh to clear up the area adjacent Garrards Road and Newlands still has to be completed. He is in discussion with Babergh to get this resolved.

07.23.05 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Grass cutting was discussed. There are a number of areas within the village that are cut by different agencies and a request had been made of Babergh requesting areas they were responsible for. A map had been received but no indication as to frequency of cut. Members of the village hall committee said that they had requested the area under the hedge along the Rectory Meadow to be cut but thought that this was County Council responsibility.

Garrards Road – the parish council were very disappointed that signs had been erected on the grass verges threatening prosecution to residents who parked on the verges. Leigh Jamieson said that no prosecutions had been made and that residents had been advised before the signs were erected. The parish council felt that this was very controversial especially as discussion with Babergh had been opened with regard to providing a solution. We reiterated our request that the signs be removed as soon as possible. Leigh then said that material had been purchased to put on the verges to allow parking and ear marked for Garrards Road but there was a problem funding the installation. Leigh would reopen discussions with Babergh and the Parish Council when he returns from annual leave.

07.23.06 **CORRESPONDENCE:** The Clerk advised that a request from Rose builders had been received for the parish council to suggest names for the road on the new development on Whatfield Road. As the development is on the site that was once Maltings Farm it was agreed that Maltings Close would be very relevant. Clerk to forward to Rose.

07.23.08 **FINANCE:** The following invoices were verified and cheques signed. It was agreed to donate £100 to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

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| Elmsett VHMC (r) | 1030 | Defibrillator Battery pack | 240.00 | LGA 1972 Open Space |
| T Hitchcock | 1031 | Grass cutting | 300.00 | Act 1906 |
| SALC | 1032 | Annual Int Audit fee | 255.60 | LGA 1972 |
| Methodist Church | 1033 | Hire 18/7/23 | 19.50 | LGA 1972 |
| SARS | 1034 | Donation | 100.00 | S 137 |

Internal Audit – the report from Internal Auditors had been circulated to all members of the council. Asset register – the clerk reported that the purchase date would be included in future and to record when the asset register is reviewed.

Bank reconciliations were submitted and verified and signed by a councillor at the meeting.

Defibrillator located at The Village Hall. It was agreed that the village hall management committee would oversee the defibrillator and any expense to be met by the Parish Council. Village Hall to submit invoices when required.

Purchase of Neighbourhood Watch Sticker Signs. John Sones declared an interest and signed the Interest Book. It was agreed that 8 sticker signs be purchased at a cost of £3.00 each.

07.23.09 **PLANNING:-** National Grid (Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement) – it was felt that there were no further comments to add to those previously submitted.

07.23.10 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 12 September, 31 October and 12 December..

The meeting closed.

Signed:-..... Dated:-.....
Chairman