

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ELTISLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2023 AT 6.30PM**

PRESENT:

Cllr R Pinner (Chairman)
4 Parish Councillors
8 members of the public
County Councillor M Smith
SCDC Cllr Sandford
Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence.
Cllr M Lines – personal
Cllr M Cropley - personal
2. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting.
Resolved: That they be signed as a true and correct record. (Prop Cllr Weldon, 2nd Cllr Ellis) All in favour
3. Report of the Council.
Cllr Pinner read out the report of the Council. No questions were raised.
Cllr Pinner also showed those present the plaque marking the renovation of the bus shelter which will be put up once the project is complete.
See Appendix A
Resolved: That the report be accepted. All in favour
4. Financial Report of the Council.
Clerk read out a report on behalf of the Council – See Appendix B.
Resolved: That the report be accepted. All in favour
5. Eltisley Village Green Trust Report.
Clerk read out a report on behalf of the Eltisley Village Green Trust – See Appendix B
6. Cade Management Committee Report.
Mrs J Herring read out the report as attached.
See Appendix C
7. Newton Primary School Report.
The attached report was handed out.
See Appendix D.
8. Report from District Councillor.
Cllr Sandford gave an overview of District Councillor position. In particular he commented that with effect from July 2023 waste collection staff at SCDC will be working a 4-day week this will mean some changes to times and collection dates which are yet to be confirmed. Following a directive from central government a food waste caddy will also be introduced.
He advised that climate change grants are available.
SCDC have homed 700 Ukrainian refugee families and are now looking at more permanent homes.
He commented that the support received from CCC Cllr Smith was appreciated particularly with highways.

A resident asked what the situation was regarding sustainable travel zone into Cambridge, he asked if SCDC are trying to kill trade in Cambridge.

A second resident asked if there was any way of improving communication with planning department as she was still awaiting response on an application which went in 6m ago.

Cllr Sandford said he would look into turnaround times.

9. Report from County Councillor.

CCC Cllr M Smith advised that the Council is now a joint administration operating on the committee scheme.

Potholes are a major concern, and a new "man" is in post and Council are looking at finances to get repair work done.

CCC are promoting armed forces covenant which gives assistance to ex-service families.

A428 improvements coming up. Lessons have been learnt from A14 & Busway but still email in any concerns. There will be a legacy fund, but it is not yet open for applications.

A residents asked if TING buses are still operating. Apparently, they have been rebranded and a new service provider now delivers the service.

Cllr Ellis spoke to say that the Parish Council have been working hard to deal with the proposed configuration of A428 and potential rat running through the village.

Cllr Smith agreed to get dates for a joint meeting with highways England.

10. Report from the local Police.

None Received

Cllr Pinner asked for any information relating to the anti-social behaviour around the village so that the PCSO can assist.

11. To receive questions relating to reports from the following local organisations / bodies

None

12. **PUBLIC OPEN FORUM.**

A resident asked if the bus shelter renovation is complete. Cllr Pinner replied that the work does need completing but it is about 90% finished. Cllr Pinner asked if residents would prefer sloping or flat seats. Consensus is that flat seats would be preferable.

Cllr Pinner thanked everyone for attending. The bylaws sign needs to be replaced.

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.25 pm

Date

Chairman

APPENDIX A

Eltisley Parish Council Annual Report 2022 – 23

This has been the first near normal year – if there is such a thing – for 3 years and, although Covid has not gone away, hopefully the vaccines will protect us from the severest symptoms. We began the year with the Village celebrating our late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. This was done in true 'Eltisley' style, and we enjoyed a wonderful weekend. Thanks to those who organised and helped make it such a success, and that is typical of our super Village, and I know that we are envied by our neighbours for our achievements and the great community spirit we enjoy here.

We are indeed indebted to the many volunteers who help, often behind the scenes, to keep our great Village great. Whether it is maintaining the Pocket Park and Woodland Walk, sweeping out the Bus Shelter, clearing the watercourses, Speedwatch, Litter Picking or the many other jobs that other Councils often have to pay for.

Your Council instigated the fourth Village Survey, which indicated a high level of satisfaction within the Parish, and indeed, with the Affordable Housing now going ahead and the promise of the new A428, the work of the Parish Plan Steering Group is almost done.

I believe that the maintenance of the Village has again been carried out satisfactorily. We commissioned a survey of our trees and carried out the required remedial work. The Green has looked great with its ongoing ability to transform from dry brown to lush green, and we took over the cutting of our internal verges, which now look much better.

We gathered together again, this time to recognise the sad passing of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to toast the success of our new King Charles III, whose Coronation celebration we enjoyed only last weekend, giving us an opportunity to re-open the recently re-furbished Bus Shelter and raise our new Union Flag.

In my opinion you currently have a strong and dedicated Council and I thank them for their support, along with our helpful and knowledgeable clerk, Jane. (*and her assistant Alison?*) We also benefit from the help and information provided by our County Councillor, Mandy Smith, and our District Councillors Peter Sandford and Mark Howell. Similarly, we need to thank Richard Rodgers for hosting the Parish Website, and the Newsletter girls for the fantastic magazine they produce monthly.

Finally, but by no means least, I thank my long-suffering wife Pat who does so much, again often behind the scenes.

I consider it an honour and privilege to serve the many wonderful people who make our Community special.

APPENDIX B

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

Miss Jane Bowd – the Clerk and RFO – presented the report based on year ending 31st March 2023.

Financial Report

Figures for 2021/22 financial year now ratified.

Income £28672.90 of which Precept £19367

Expenditure – £50250.12

£45891 retained at end of year.

£100,000 invested from Eltisley village institute funds into medium- & long-term investment

this is now included in fixed assets and long term investments for accounting purposes

Internal audit carried out by Mr M Williamson MiJan Ltd

Draft figures for year ending 31st March 2023.

These have not yet been approved by council or audited.

Income £32814 of which Precept for 2022/23. £ 23191

Expenditure £27400

£51304 closing balance.

Internal audit carried to be carried out by CAPALC - 23RD April 2023

6. Eltisley village green trust report

Year ending 31/3/23

Opening balance 1/04/22 £3623.33

Receipts £3349.94

Payments £2762.65

Balance 31/3/22 £4210.62

Investments with M & G as at 31/12/22

Charibond 31058.600units @ 108.31 = £32131.28

Charifund 2186.515 units @ 1469.52 = £32131.28

Total £65990.85

Trustees:

Eltisley Parish Council Jane Bowd (administrator)

Allotments:

31/03/23

Bal as at 31/3/22 £549.21

Receipts £224.01

Payments £593.47

Balance 31/3/23 £179.75

APPENDIX C

The Cade Pavilion

Parish Council APM Report 2023

Again, the committee would like to thank the Parish Council for another year of support. We have continued to maintain the building and bookings have started to increase following the Covid Pandemic.

Ongoing Management: We still have no Chair for the committee, this has been the case for over 12 months. The committee members continue to take on the meeting chair role on a rotational basis, but this is not ideal. Sandra Sills has remained as Secretary and Andy Howell is still Treasurer but is keen to pass on this role due to other commitments. We need to be mindful of our constitution and the length of time officers should hold a role without change. So we are actively trying to find volunteers to join the committee and maybe take on an officer role. Please do get in touch if you are interested.

Sustainability: The lettings are an important aspect of keeping The Cade sustainable and although they have not fully resumed following Covid, the bookings are steadily increasing with the Sunday lunches and the monthly quiz making a welcome return. The online booking system has now been in place for nearly 2 years and is working well. We regularly review how it is working and continue to think about what more the system can offer.

We continue to be in a strong financial position, and the increased use of The Cade is helping us maintain this and allowed us to upgrade some items. The increased patio area and outdoor furniture has now been enjoyed for just over a year. We have just upgraded the audio system and projector which allowed us to fully enjoy recent events. Next on the list is looking at how to stream live TV without it stopping after about 2 hours. (Can cause for some anxiety during football matches and coronations).

We are looking at a variety of building maintenance jobs that need to be done and hope to have those completed over the next few months.

Village Support and active Involvement: We held a volunteer thank you event in November which was well attended and enjoyed by all. It gave the committee the opportunity to show we really appreciate their support and commitment to The Cade. We have recruited a few new faces to the bar rota, but we always welcome more as it makes it less onerous for all.

The Cade Committee were proud to host, along with the Parish Council, celebrations for national events since we last met and the feedback has been much appreciated. Both events provided the opportunity for new and old villagers to meet up after such a long time not being able to mix at such events.

APPENDIX D

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS/EVENTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

A snapshot of the term with indicators of upcoming plans

April 2023

It has been another busy term/year at the Newton this year. Much of the detail of what we have been doing is included in my Six Villages article each month. I tend to talk more about the extra-curricular focuses of the school in this context, so I will include some outlines of what has taken place behind the scenes in terms of both curricular and extra-curricular developments. I have written this in sections for ease of reading (and understanding) – I hope this works for you all.

Headlines

Mrs. Rachel Stephens, who has been interim Head of School since September, has now become Head of School on a permanent basis. Mr. James Singleterry remains as Executive Headteacher.

Mrs. Sarah Card, formerly Deputy Headteacher, has taken voluntary redundancy and her time at the school ended on April 30th. We as a school are hugely grateful for her long and faithful service.

L.A. Updates

We have had a number of supportive visits from the Local authority across the year so far. This has focused on English, Maths and our Early Years provision. Our School Improvement Partner (LA advisor) has been assisting me in terms of developing plans for the school, as I am new in post.

Governor/External Visits

- Anthony Browne (MP for South Cambs) visiting created a bit of Twitter publicity for school!
- Representatives from the Trotter Foundation (charitable funds given to school by virtue of the fact we educated children from Graveley and Toseland) came in and gave us the green light on future applications for funding.
- Governors continue to make monitoring visits to ensure that the school is held to account and our work is properly scrutinised.

Teaching and Learning/Curriculum

Staff are spending time together to scrutinise our curriculum provision – looking at lessons, books, talking to children and evaluating the quality of what we provide. Following on from LA advice, school has bought into a new scheme for the teaching of Phonics and training for all staff will ensue during the course of the term. We are also looking at signing up to a new curriculum scheme that we believe will enliven and enhance our current provision. It will also support us in ensuring that each subject is taught in a logical sequence with progression built in so that the learning is even more effective. As we are a very small school, we simply cannot have expertise on all 13 subjects that make up the National Curriculum and so we look to schemes such as these to support us to do the best we can do as well as to relieve the immense workload of teachers teaching in a small school.

Each term, class teachers sit with me as Head of School to discuss each child individually and in particular, how that child's learning is going. We identify learning barriers where they exist and devise plans to tackle those barriers so that progress can be made – typically, this will involve bespoke interventions and adaptations to teaching and learning.

Premises

We currently have a lovely skip on the premises as we embark upon another phase of de-cluttering across school. Our aim is to really clear the decks so that we can take a proper look not only at the resources and equipment we have been hanging on to (and probably shouldn't have as they are no longer useful or relevant), but also look at the stripped back fabric of the school so that we can see where we need to spend money in terms of premises and how we can make the most of what we have got.

Creating flexi-spaces around school is also a must. We have zoned what was once a library/corridor space in order that it gives us three distinct spaces (two library areas) that can be used for different purposes. We need to do more of this in other areas of the school in order to maximise our space efficiently.

Funding

As you will have heard in the news, funding is a real challenge in schools right now. We were able to give all staff a pay rise as per national directions, in September – but this has left budgets with no “cushion” going forward. We have had to look at how to make limited funds stretch even further as we go into this new financial year.

The school does not have a PTA currently, myself as Head of School and James Singletery, the Executive Headteacher have taken on the role of fundraising and events organising. We have raised in the region of £500 this calendar year – most of which has already been allocated.

We are grateful to the Trotter Foundation for their ongoing support as this gives us very much appreciated additional funds for extra projects eg. replacing our iPads.

Summer Term Activities

We have a busy time ahead this term – here are just some of the plans:

- Continuation of clubs
- Fathers Day breakfasts
- Farewell event for Mrs. Card
- Sports Day
- Class and School Trips planned
- Fundraising events scheduled eg. Film Night
- Family Grounds morning
- Gardening club to be relaunched (RS)
- Al fresco dining to be relaunched subject to sunny weather!
- Coronation events planned
- School council led cake sale planned

Rachel Stephens