

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ELTISLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025 AT 6.30PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr D Stevenson (Chairman)  
5 Parish Councillors  
1 member of the public  
County Councillor C Poulton  
SCDC Cllr Sandford  
Mrs A Jackson (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence.  
Mr D Preston - Police and Crime Commissioner  
Mrs P Pinner  
Mr M Welland
2. Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.  
**Resolved:** That the minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting be signed as a true and correct record. (Prop Cllr R Pinner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr J Francis) All in favour
3. Report of the Council.  
Cllr D Stevenson read out the report of the Council. No questions were raised.  
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.  
Sandra Sills, Chair of the Cade Management Committee read out the Cade Management Committee Report.  
See Appendix C  
Cllr R Pinner congratulated the Cade Committee on the work they have done.
7. Newton Primary School Report.  
None received
8. Report from District Councillor.  
SCDC P Sandford reported:
  - most of his time last year was spent dealing with planning issues. There was panic just before Christmas last year when Cambridgeshire appeared to be below their 5-year land supply but are now back to the required 5-year land supply. An updated Local Plan is expected in the next few months. There are expansion plans for Cambourne North around the new station area, suggestions of 3 villages north of the old A428. However nothing can be built until the water supply is addressed.
  - EW Rail have not seen the results of the consultation. Attended a meeting with Elsworth, Knapwell and Boxworth Councils with the MP to discuss EW Rail.

- 4 day working week trial will be presented at the July Full Council meeting, if approved will go to the Employment Committee.
- Grants – Eltisley Parish Council have recently had 2 grants approved – one for wildflower seeds and one for a duckhouse.
- Have received an invite to the official opening of the affordable homes in Eltisley.

Cllr D Stevenson queried whether there was any movement on the frequency of buses through Eltisley, adding there have recently been families that have moved into Eltisley that do not have a car.

SCDC P Sanford commented that the review of the bus service will possibly not happen until the road reopens but suggested using the Tiger Service.

Cllr R Pinner queried whether neighbouring communities could draw on surplus S106 monies in neighbouring parishes. SCDC P Sanford was not aware this was allowable.

9. Report from County Councillor.

CCC C Poulton introduced himself and advised he is new to politics; his background is in business.

He further reported:

- Liberal Democrats have an overall majority of the CCC having secured 31 seats out of 61. With 10 new Reform Councillors, 10 Conservative and a few Labour, Green Party and Independents.
- Local Government Reorganisation – 3/4 options are being pursued.
- School places – 94.5% were offered their first preference for primary school this year, above the national proportion of 93.2%.
- Aware that the Parish Council has had a long-standing relationship with ex CCC M Smith and commented that there will be various ongoing projects. As there is no handover period suggests a meeting to discuss any Parish issues.

Cllr S Ellis advised the main issues are the A428 – facilitating meetings between Parish Council, CCC Highways, Highways England and contractors. Also, drainage issues and the relationship with the Drainage Officer. CCC C Poulton will contact Cllr D Stevenson to organise a meeting.

10. Report from the local Police.

None received

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

None

12. **PUBLIC OPEN FORUM.**

None

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20pm

Date

Chairman

## **APPENDIX A**

Thank you all for attending the Annual Parish Meeting for our village. I have the pleasure of introducing Mark Welland as our new parish councillor.

We have had several major items that are and will be affecting our village, mainly the A428 and now the announcement of the East West Rail project that is planned for the other side of the new A428 dual carriageway. The East West Railway which has now been given the go ahead will pass between Eltisley and Papworth. We still continue to have meetings with Highways England and Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the potential continuation of rat running and speeding after the project has been completed. I'm sure you will have all noticed the new junction and soon to be roundabout when leaving the village, projected for completion July/August. The Cambridge Road junction will be opened at this time but only in an outward direction until the opening of the dual carriageway in 2027.

As you may be aware, we have a new councillor following the elections earlier this month. Chris Poulton takes over from Mandy Smith, who was a great help to us, and welcome Chris to our village meetings.

Work is now completed on the new affordable housing development on West Farm Close and all but 2 of the homes have been occupied. I believe the 2 outstanding are shared ownership which Hastoe have offered to any one in the village, but there have not been any takers.

I have been attending workshops in Cambourne regarding the expansion of the town which is currently 3/4 villages joined together and which is projected to double over the next 10 years. There have still not been any confirmed outlines of the expansion, other than it will go North (other side of the A428) and encompass the new railway station. They have asked for members from surrounding villages to attend to give their opinion and offer ideas on how to provide facilities for the area not just for Cambourne itself.

We have been busy planting several new trees which have been donated to us over the year, these are beginning to flourish, which we can thank the other members of the Parish Council for planting.

The Peace tree lights were re-instated this year and following some teething troubles were a great re-introduction to the village Christmas festivities. We hope to provide even more illuminations this Christmas.

Thanks to everyone who participates in the Speedwatch initiative. It really does make a difference to the speeds of the people who travel through the village.

Finally, a list of people who help maintain our community and make my life somewhat easier:

The 6 villages team, Richard Rogers for helping with our IT and everyone who helps with the village working parties. The parish council. Steve Ellis for writing the Chairmen's article in the 6 villages newsletter. Mandy Smith & Peter Sandford our councillors.

Darren Stevenson, Chairman Eltisley Parish Council

## **APPENDIX B**

## FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

Mrs Alison Jackson – the Clerk and RFO – presented the report based on year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### Financial Report

Figures for 2023/24

Income £34104.63 of which Precept £24163

Expenditure £30865.12

£54543.70 retained at end of year

Internal audit carried out by CAPALC

Gibbs Denley long term investment value as at 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 - £115,793.09

### Draft figures for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

These have not yet been approved by council or audited.

Income £35351.06 of which Precept for 2024/25 £25015

Expenditure £26698.42

£63196.34 closing balance.

Internal audit carried out by CAPALC – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

Progeny Wealth Limited long term investment value as at 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - £127,572.29

### 6. Eltisley Village Green Trust report

Year ending 31/3/25

Opening balance 1/04/24      £7043.83

Receipts                              £3728.30

Payments                             £6034.72

Balance 31/3/25                    £4737.41

There is a cheque of £3300.00 that remains unrepresented at year end.

Net bank balance £1437.41

#### Investments with M & G as at 31/03/25

Charibond 31058.600units @ 107.75 = £33465.64

Charifund 2330.145units @ 1518.30 = £35378.59

Total    £68844.23

#### Trustees:

Eltisley Parish Council

Alison Jackson (administrator)

#### Allotments:

31/03/25

Bal as at 1/4/24                    £67.38

Receipts                                £232.00

Payments                              £224.98

Balance 31/3/25                    £74.40

## APPENDIX C

### The Cade

## Chairman's Report 2025

This is my second report to you as Chair of the Cade Committee and the first I have been able to present in person. Many thanks for your invitation to attend today and for the opportunity to thank you and the village for their support over the past year.

We have continued to maintain the building and since my last report, I'm pleased to confirm that the longstanding, outstanding repair to the outside render has been completed. We also engaged with a local building contractor to get on top of other minor repairs such as to the balustrade, outside fencing and internal walls and doors.

As you can see, we have replaced both sets of front doors as new fire regulations forced us to switch the doors to open outwards rather than inwards, in order to maintain our full capacity. We had hoped to recover some of the cost via a Community Chest application but unfortunately, we were not able to submit the application under the banner of The Cade.

You will notice that the doors are not yet quite perfect. The bars used to open the doors were not delivered to the specification they were ordered against. We are hopeful that a change of the locking mechanism will help us provide a more sturdy, longer term solution. Once that is in place, we'll look to seal the door surround in a more appealing fashion than you see them today. Please note that the contractor has not yet been paid for the work, pending the completion of the replacement lock and surround.

The ever approaching significant piece of building work will be on the thatch. We are pending a repair which will be required in the next 18 months. We initially received two quotes but the PC has asked that we get more and so this remains an ongoing item.

**As regards ongoing management:** As I mentioned, this is my second year as Chair having spent the previous 6 years as Secretary. Julie Herring has thankfully retained the Secretary role for a second year. And as reported last year, although Andy Howell remains an active member of the committee, he fulfilled his aim and finally managed to step down from the Treasurer role and has handed over to John MacBrayne. John joined the committee in order to take on this important role for us and we thank him for stepping forward. Carole MacBrayne decided to step down from the committee at the same time, to focus on other volunteering activities and I'd like to thank Andy, Carole and John for their time and efforts past, present and future.

I updated you last year that we had been forced to switch banks after Barclays closed our account without adequate notice. Just to advise that we remain with Metro bank.

**As regards sustainability:** Much the same as last year, lettings remain an important aspect of keeping The Cade sustainable and they remain buoyant. Adhoc bookings are more the standard now rather than having regular bookings as we did see pre pandemic. Considering our recent and planned capital outlays, our finances remain in good shape and the past years income versus outlay, evened themselves out again.

**As regards, village support and active involvement:** Our Sunday Lunches over the winter months remained well attended and again, our heartfelt thanks go to those that provide such amazing dishes for such a low budget. The 'anchor' events we alluded to in last year's report had a mixed reception, such as our initial pool competition, when repeated did not see so many return for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year – however we persevere.

The Christmas lights event again suffered from a mixed reception and despite brave Jim Booth's multiple high level attempts to tame the wiring, the 40mph winds we suffered did affect the big switch on and the final Christmas display. Having said that, 'he who dares wins' and we will endeavour to stabilise the lights over the coming few months as cost effectively as we can and where funds are required, we'll actively fundraise. I think most villagers would agree that even the uneven display we had last Christmas was better than no display at all.

The monthly quiz has returned to The Cade following a loan period to The Eltisle pub to help them out when the road closed. The quiz remains a reliable and well supported event and I would like to very much thank Chris & Mary Flinders and Chris & Steve Ellis as well as the other quiz masters for their time, efforts and imaginations!

We have some strong and loyal supporters in the village, but the committee view remains the same as reported last year where we feel it can be difficult to make an impression to widen The Cade's appeal within the village population. With this in mind, the committee intend to undertake an internal refresh of The Cade. We hope to attract more villagers to use the Cade regularly following a repaint, change of lighting, removal of the old changing room dividers and blocking up of the redundant changing room doorways – which would allow us to make better use of the space within the main hall. We also intend to refresh the furniture to a more up to date café bar style (inspired by Waresley Park's 'Bean Theory' coffee shop) and improve the sound absorption by installing new wall panels beneath the existing dado rail. After retaining c£40k in the Cade bank, mainly raised through Covid grants, we think it's time we spent some of that that money on an internal refresh. We will take the villagers through our plans at our June AGM meeting on Fri 27<sup>th</sup> June. We have applied for funding also to support this program from the A428 Social Value Fund. We have been successful with our Expression of Interest and been asked to provide a Full Application by the end of July. Applications will be assessed in September where we may be asked to present our business case to the deciding panel. We should know whether we have secured funding by the end of September but should we be unsuccessful, we intend to make a start anyway.

We hope to have a good program of events for the 2025 Feast Week, with bingo from our new and enthusiastic caller, Lisa Johnson, the usual and reliable quiz and we're hopeful of hosting a History Society led event, showcasing some of the items found at West Farm Close and a ceilidh on the Friday ahead of the village fete on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Our bar volunteers are the core component of what makes The Cade work. So again, I would like to thank them for their consistency and mostly for sparing their valuable time to service their thankful community with their enthusiasm. Again, to reiterate, we could always do with more volunteers to provide support and cover.

Best regards, Sandra Sills, Chair of The Cade Management Committee