

ELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Clerk to the Council: Deb Hotson

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 20th April, 2021 at 6.30pm via a Zoom platform.

Present: Cllr Guest, Cllr Hill, Cllr Van Oosterhout (Chair), Cllr Ousby, Cllr Moir & Cllr Wood

Also Present: Cllr N Sherwood & Clerk to the Council – Deb Hotson

Apologies: Cllr Horner

1. **Chairman's Report**

Even this time last year, I don't think we would have predicted the year we have just had. Residents have had to cope with being forced to stay at home during lockdowns, social distancing, grief and isolation from loved ones. I think many in Elsham have appreciated the sense of community in the village and the knowledge that there is always someone to help. So, this year, we thank not just parish councillors and ward councillors for their hard work in difficult circumstances, but the whole village for pulling together and keeping our community spirit alive.

Year Highlights

Nature Reserve

North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) started work under the management plan. A section of the north slope has been cleared to provide an open area for flowers and a viewpoint down into the middle dip. The same has been done on the flat area inside the Middlegate Lane gate. In the dip, wider areas were cleared in the autumn to allow more flowers to seed – we look forward to this year's display. The installation of the information board has been delayed due to COVID-19 and will be installed soon.

Play Park

The play park had to be closed at times due to lockdown, and the adult gym equipment remains cordoned off. Repairs have been carried out by Sovereign where necessary. Mole deterrent has been put down and is somewhat effective. New volunteers have joined existing ones for the opening and closing rota – thank you to all of you, Cllr Ousby for organising, and Cllr Guest for safety inspections.

Highways

Work was successfully completed on Front Street to stop the leak emerging through the road. This is being monitored. The top of Church Street has been a real hazard, particularly during icy weather. A new salt bin has been installed and talks will be held with NLC on how to stop the leak here before the road is resurfaced later in the year. Work has been carried out on the New Street/B1206 junction to provide a soakaway for water running down off the hill. The verge cutting, now managed by the PC, has been effectively carried out.

Planning

Planning applications in the village have been light. Permission was granted for a dwelling on land at the south end of Church Street. Applications still to be determined for the Old Cottage on Church Street and the Vicarage.

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Crime and Neighbourhood Watch

Most serious incident was a break-in during daylight hours down Hall Lane. Fortunately, the resident was unharmed. Thank you to Diana Connolly for being our NHW coordinator and keeping everyone informed of alerts and events. The Speed watch initiative is ongoing and one speed survey has taken place in the village but it has been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions, hopefully soon to start again.

Best Kept Village

Elsham achieved joint second in 2020 and a big thank you to Lorraine Guest, the Elsham Elves, Martyn Clark and all those who litter pick and generally help to keep the village tidy and attractive. Thank you, Jane Leach, for advising on wildlife planting.

COVID-19

Not a highlight exactly but it has affected our lives in many ways. Most classes in the village hall have been cancelled for the past year and many people have been shielding. The PC twice sent out information to every household with the name of a volunteer they could contact if they needed help with shopping, banking etc. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help in that way, it was much appreciated. We are blessed to be living in a place where we have access to open spaces such as the quarry on our doorstep and it has been well used during the pandemic.

Current Projects

Nature Reserve – Work has been contracted to make amendments to gate on Middlegate Lane so that it can be secured open. We are looking at the possibility of amending the Front St gate to allow vehicular and disabled access. New bench will be installed to look over new viewpoint.

Enhancements of planting at phone box and village hall are taking place, and new planters will be placed around the village this summer.

Re-evaluating village signs.

Council members

Cllr Busby resigned, and we thank her for her years of service on the PC. In February we were pleased to welcome Cllr Hill and Cllr Moir, meaning that we now have a full seven members.

Finally, with regret we said goodbye to two longstanding residents this year, John Tomlinson and Ralph Bellamy. Both were well respected and liked members of the community and they will be missed. We send our sincere condolences to their families, and to those whose loved ones have passed away at Holme Farm this year.

- 2. To receive and approve the minutes for the APM held on 20th May 2019.**
The minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

- 3. Report on the progress of parish projects.**

Nature Reserve – works on the top gate are still to be completed. A quote is to be provided for the bottom gate.

Planting – Cllr Guest stated that there are 6 new planters to be distributed around the village and 35 bags of compost are on order. Metal trellis is to be installed at the kiosk.

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Planting has taken place to the rear of the village hall and planting up of the village will take place mid-May.

Plough – Cllr Wood is awaiting a second quote, Cllr Van Oosterhout to obtain a 3rd. Cllr Moir offered to deliver and collect the plough to the selected contractor and will also obtain further quotes. All quotes to be provided to the Clerk for circulation prior to the next meeting.

Nature Reserve bench – this is pending, waiting for the works on the slope to be completed by NLC. Clerk to ascertain when this will be completed.

Village signs – agenda item at the next full council meeting.

4. To receive the Parish Council Accounts for 2020/21.

The Clerk had provided the accounts prior to the meeting for the year ending 31st March 2021. These will be placed on to the website once approved.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation

No public comment.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.