

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

Public Participation: Mrs. Janet Woodhouse had a number of comments:- a) She felt that the Pound needed attention and would benefit from some trimming. In addition, there are problems with the gate and brickwork. The Chairman and Mr. Labouchere will inspect and report back to the next meeting. b) Could something be done with the pump at the top of the village? Mr. Fitzalan Howard said that it is the property of Mr. Don and new casing was needed. He and Mr. Phillips would investigate the options available. c) She felt that the village was scruffy and wondered if action could be taken to make it more attractive. Mr. Labouchere was of the opinion that North Elmham is tidier than a lot of villages. It was agreed that members would identify any areas of specific concern for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Bambridge said that the District sweeper could visit more frequently but it has to be requested. Mr. MacEwan felt that momentum needed to be created within the village with residents who want to do things to produce improvements. An article is to be placed in Elmham News. Mr. Fitzalan Howard said that a useful start would be for parishioners to look after their own property frontages. There would be an agenda item of “Beautiful Elmham” for the next meeting.

North Elmham Parish Council

**Minutes of the
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held at 7.30 p.m. at the Sports Pavilion on
Wednesday 4th January 2017**

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291 Those Councillors Present Were:

Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips (Vice Chairman), Mr. J. Brown, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. C. MacEwan and Dr. P. Wade-Martins.

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor), Mr. M. Wyatt (Elmham News + Dereham and Fakenham Times) and one parishioner

292 To Consider Apologies for Absence:

Mr. P. Grainger, Mr. C. Smith and Mrs. D. Warner

293 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.

294 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2016:

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Dr. Wade-Martins. Agreed by all.

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

295 Land Management Matters (item 258)

- (a) Village Green Four new signs in respect of dog fouling have been received. Dr. Wade-Martins and Mr. Phillips will arrange for the play equipment sign to be installed.
- (b) Cathedral Ruins Mrs. Keeble reported that there may well be a newly arrived mole.
- (c) Cathedral Meadows Nothing to report
- (d) Broom Green Nothing to report
- (e) Millennium Wood Thinning of the trees has finished. A few ash trees remain but all those with chalara have been removed. Mr. Saunders advises that the brash should be left for wildlife. The timber is to be sold to a merchant with three bids to be obtained. Mr. Labouchere said that the outer hedges require trimming and he will speak to Mr. Crisp regarding this. It is estimated that the cost will be approximately £100. Dr Wade-Martins reported that the new information panel for the Millennium and Jubilee Woods and the plaque for the Jubilee oak from Sandringham have both been installed.
- (f) Bridleway on disused railway line Nothing to report.
- (g) Prince William Wood Nothing to report

296 Street Lights (item 259)

Mr. Fitzalan Howard reported that U.K. Power Networks are due to visit in the week commencing 23rd January to reconnect street light number 96. Light number 39 needs to be re-aligned.

297 Highway Matters (item 260) Dr Wade-Martins reported that:

- (a) *Safe Route to School* North Elmham highways remain in good condition except for the muddy areas on the Safe Route to School on the green. He will continue to press County Highways to carry out these surface improvements.
- (b) *The Post Office bend* Discussions with County Highways continue about traffic speeds on the post office bend. There has been a second meeting with the Highways engineer, Jon Winnett. He has now undertaken to send to the clerk in advance of our February meeting the details of a fully costed feasibility study for building two more build-outs and for raising the surface within the existing one.
The police have responded to our enquiry about having a safety camera on the bend, and their response suggests that it is unlikely that we would meet their criteria for locating cameras.

(c) *Overhanging hedge in Eastgate Street* Mr. Thompson has forwarded a letter in which he says that he is not prepared to cover the cost of cutting his hedge which was effectively forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. We will, therefore, resort to legal action to recover these funds (£233). This response, from a respected member of the local community is very disappointing, especially as Mr. Thompson was originally notified of the problem on 3rd July, 2016 and again on a number of subsequent occasions.

- 298 Eastgate Centre (item 261)**
Nothing to report
- 299 Pavilion and Playing Field – Play Area (item 262)**
Mr. Brown said that two sets of mole traps had been placed at a cost of £160. Most of the moles have been removed but some remain. The bottle banks have been emptied.
- 300 Dog Fouling (item 263)**
Nothing to report
- 301 Allotments (item 264)**
Nothing to report
- 302 Community defibrillator (item 265)**
The battery needs to be replaced
- 303 Play equipment and car park proposals (item 266)**
Nothing to report
- 304 Community Farm (item 267)**
Nothing to report
- 305 Detailed information map for village/Notice and Information Boards (item 268)**
Nothing to report
- 306 Volunteers (item 269)**
Nothing to report
- 307 Village Maintenance (item 270)**
Nothing to report
- 308 Village Institute Hall (item 271)**
Nothing to report
- 309 Village Resilience Plan (item 272)**
Nothing to report
- 310 Bus routes (item 273)**
Nothing to report

- 311 Discussions with the Mid-Norfolk Railway Company (item 275)**
Dr. Wade-Martins is to chase up the provision of the new gate
- 312 Prince William Wood (including gate) (item 280)**
Nothing to report
- 313 Website (item 281)** The chairman reported that just after Sue and Ivan Ball had started work over Christmas on their new community website they had heard that the Elmham News website would not be closing down after all, but no further details were then available. After considerable discussion, Dr Wade-Martins proposed that they would be advised not to spend more time on the project until the Parish Council had received in writing the outcome of the next Elmham News committee meeting which is to be held within the next few days. Seconded by Mr. Fitzalan Howard. Four members in favour with three abstentions.
- 314 Report from District Councillor**
Mr. Bambridge said that work on the Local Plan is continuing with a decision to be made in the first week of February. Breckland is changing funding arrangements and this will be done with the budget report in February. The planning application (Garrod Partnership) for 11 houses in Eastgate Street was passed.
- 315 George Freeman's letter – a town plan for Dereham and surrounding villages**
Mr. Bambridge stated that he was most unimpressed with the M.P.'s letter and considered his suggestions for Dereham to be impractical. Mr. Labouchere was very disappointed with the letter. Mr. MacEwan proposed that the letter should be ignored with no response to be made and this was seconded by Dr. Wade-Martins. All in favour.
- 316 Neighbourhood Plan**
Mr. Bambridge recommends that the parish should have a Neighbourhood Plan. The cost would be in the region of £10K but grants are available from Breckland Council and Central Government. Dr. Wade-Martins proposed that Susan Heinrich (Neighbourhood Planning Co-ordinator, Breckland Council) be invited to a meeting to discuss this. Seconded by Mr. MacEwan. All in favour.
- 317 Village Green – entrances and exits**
Mr. Brown said it was very difficult for mobility scooters and double buggies for children to get on to and off the green. Dr. Wade-Martins explained that the chicanes were originally constructed to stop children from running straight out onto the road at the Eastgate Street end and to prevent joy riding. It was acknowledged that a bit more width is required for the exits/entrances.. Mr. Phillips is to speak to Games and Frames to see if they can assist.

318 Oak tree on the village green near 7 Cedar Close

A letter had been received from Mrs. Weston regarding work required on an oak tree situated between her garden and the village green. The tree does not have an owner and is covered by a Tree Preservation Order. A quotation has been obtained, for £525 + VAT, to undertake maintenance and remedial work, remove dead wood and to reduce an overextended limb which is growing towards a power line on the green. Mr. Labouchere proposed that the Parish Council would pay half the cost of the work + VAT, i.e. £315, and this was seconded by Mr. Phillips. All in favour. A copy of the report regarding the work needed is to be obtained.

319 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

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

4/1/17	E-on (Pavilion -13/9/16 to 19/12/16)	£326.94
4/1/17	Hudson Signs (four dog signs)	£48.00
4/1/17	Signs Express (Norwich) – manufacture of M/Wood sign	£1,009.87
4/1/17	R. Murray (design of Millennium Wood sign)	£630.00
4/1/17	The Community Heartbeat Trust (defibrillation electrodes)	£39.60
4/1/17	Anglian Water (Playing Field – 13/9/16 to 13/12/16)	£139.35
4/1/17	Anglian Water (Pavilion – 14/9/16 to 13/12/16)	£29.37
4/1/17	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning – 3 weeks Dec and one week Jan)	£86.40
4/1/17	R. Brown (mole control – S. Drewell)	£160.00
4/1/17	K. Webb (Clerk’s pay for December)	£528.74
4/1/17	HMRC (tax on Clerk’s pay for December)	£63.80
4/1/17	Cash (Petty Cash)	£200.00
4/1/17	K. Webb (expenses for Oct, Nov and Dec)	£77.40
4/1/17	Norfolk Woods and Hedges Ltd (thinning in M/Wood)	£3,510.00

b) Schedule of Income:

9/12/16	Pavilion hire	£170.00
29/12/16	Rural Payments Agency (Basic Payment Scheme)	£2,698.64

(Expenditure approved by all members)

320 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

a) Applications

- (i) Mr. M. O’Donnell, Park House, Brisley Road – 3PL/2016/1495/VAR – change B&B restriction to residential
- (ii) Wensum Valley Hotel, Billingford Lakes, Elmham Road, Billingford – 3PL/2016/0533/H – erection of visitor centre and change of use of land for campsite, outdoor recreation and associated works and outline permission for 8 holiday lodges. (As on previous occasions, it was agreed that members would make their own personal comments, direct to the District Council, should they so wish)
- (iii) Request from Middleton Homes regarding the connection of 13 and 15 Larch Grove to the sewer. (Agreed by all. Developers are to be asked to ensure that manhole covers are flush to the grass).

b) Determinations

None

321 CORRESPONDENCE –4/1/17

- 1) Highway Rangers visit due in next three months
- 2) Request for donation from Age UK Norfolk **
- 3) Norfolk County Farms newsletter for tenants of the Estate
- 4) Details of Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm development
- 5) Letter from S. Thompson regarding the cutting of the hedge ++
- 6) Invite to attend an evening with Breckland Police in Watton on 19/1/17
- 7) Breckland Local Plan – Site Allocations meeting to take place on 9/1/17

** 2) Mr. Labouchere proposed a donation of £100, seconded by Dr. Wade-Martins. All in favour except Mrs. Keeble who abstained.

++ 5) Please refer to item 297 (c)

322 Announcements

None

323 Agenda items for next meeting:

- a) Website
- b) “Beautiful Elmham”
- c) Village Green entrances and exits

324 Next Meetings:

Wednesday, 1st February 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Chairman

Date

