

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

Public Participation: Mrs. Woodhouse said that the Elmham News had been in existence for 40 years. The Chairman expressed appreciation and thanks to all those concerned. Mrs. Payne referred to the proposal for a development at Back Lane and said that there was a discrepancy in the number of trees that would need to be removed. Mr. Labouchere confirmed that at least 60 trees would have to be cut down if this project was to happen. Mrs. Payne again queried the number of properties allocated to the village in the Local Plan. Breckland Council have given a figure of 91 for North Elmham for the period 2011 to 2036, (the total currently stands at 74), with another 18 years to go. George Freeman M.P., has recently expressed concerns over lack of infrastructure. To reinforce this point, Wensum Drive and the surrounding area have major sewage and water problems which are long standing issues. A resident of Wensum Drive said that there had been six floods involving raw sewage since Christmas. The building of more houses will cause even greater problems as the current infrastructure cannot cope with the existing number of properties. Mr. Clarke stated that he was unhappy with the District planning policy. A resident said that Prince William Wood had been transferred to the Parish Council by the District Council by a deed dated 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2004. There were conditions in this document that prevented any development of the wood, the condition of which he felt was generally poor. Mr. Wyatt mentioned a van that had been parked in Eastgate Street, preventing buses from passing. This clearly has potential serious safety issues if emergency vehicles cannot reach intended destinations. Mr. Wyatt asked if it would be possible to have a single yellow line with appropriate parking restrictions.

## **North Elmham Parish Council**

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**Minutes of the  
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
held at 7.30 p.m. at the Sports Pavilion on  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

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**314 Those Councillors Present Were:**

Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips, Mr. J. Brown, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. M. Gower, Mr. P. Grainger, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. C. Smith, Dr. P. Wade-Martins and Mrs. D. Warner.

**Also in Attendance:** Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Council), Mrs. M. White (Elmham News + Dereham and Fakenham Times), A. Chrusciak (Director of Planning and Building Control, Breckland Council), J. Berry (Head of Development Management, Breckland Council) and 18 parishioners.

**315 To Consider Apologies for Absence:**

None. Since the last meeting, Mrs. A. Keeble had resigned. The Chairman said that members thanked her and very much appreciated all her hard work as a Parish Councillor.

**316 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. Mrs. Warner declared an interest in respect of the Larch Grove planning application.

**317 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018:**

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Labouchere. Agreed by all.

**318 Mr. Alex Chrusciak, Director of Planning and Building Control, Breckland Council**

Mr. Chrusciak, accompanied by Mr. Berry, Head of Development Management, had been invited to the meeting primarily due to considerable frustration resulting from the way in which the Station Yard application had been handled. It was also viewed as an opportunity to explore ways in which members could play a more meaningful part in planning matters affecting the village. Mr. Chrusciak said that he had responsibility for Breckland's Local Plan and it his desire for the majority of the growth to be taken by the larger settlements such as Thetford and Attleborough where infrastructure is already in place. The emerging Local Plan was submitted in December, 2017 but it has been difficult to achieve the five year land supply. Permissions have been granted but houses are not being built at the required rate. Mr. Grainger expressed a view shared by others that, when representations are made by the Parish Council, they are either not acknowledged or are completely ignored. It appeared that no notice is taken of local concerns. In particular, a number of requests were made for a meeting to discuss the Station Yard application but a positive response was not forthcoming. Mr. Chrusciak stated that the points raised by the Parish Council were addressed but he conceded that the Parish Council was not informed of the decisions made or the action taken. It was his intention to have more consultation on amended plans in the future. Dr Wade-Martins said that the village infrastructure - school, sewage, surgery - is under great pressure. There is real concern that the proposed Station Yard development will greatly add to the problems. Mr. Chrusciak informed members that Anglian Water had advised Breckland Council that there were no service problems in the area. In view of the frequent difficulties seen with sewage flooding in the nearby Wensum Drive and surrounding area, this statement caused surprise. Mr. Labouchere queried the enforcement policy and Mrs. Warner asked how much importance was actually placed on a Neighbourhood Plan.

**UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING**

**319 Land Management Matters (item 280)**

- (a) Village Green The Women's Institute have donated some money for play equipment and Mrs. Warner said that there is a desire to have a new bench on the village green, at the Oak Avenue end. The cost of installation is to be established. Dr. Wade-Martins said that the existing five benches need some maintenance work done on them. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

(b) Cathedral Ruins Dr Wade-Martins reported that English Heritage had agreed to pay an additional £350 to have the green gates at the entrance repaired. The brick and flint wall which retains the medieval bank at the rear of Bob Fletcher's garden is close to collapse and English Heritage have been urged to install more buttresses as a matter of urgency. There has been a useful site meeting with English Heritage to review the terms of the management agreement; matters such as the timing and frequency of grass and hedge cutting were discussed and ways of disposing of grass cuttings and leaves were agreed. We are now waiting for English Heritage to produce a revised version of the agreement which will need to be signed by both sides. English Heritage have also offered to pay for materials to plant a new mixed hedge along the north side of the property.

(c) Cathedral Meadows Nothing to report

(d) Broom Green Nothing to report

(e) Millennium Wood Hedges are not to be cut as the ground is still too wet.

(f) Bridleway on disused railway line Nothing to report

(g) Prince William Wood Nothing to report.

**320 Street Lights (item 281)**

Nothing to report

**321 Highway Matters (item 282)**

Dr Wade-Martins reported that Eastgate Street had been blocked for two hours the previous week. He would like to come forward at the next meeting with ideas for improving parking in this part of the street and will also press for double yellow lines where appropriate. The double yellow lines at the Post Office corner are due to be repainted in the summer when the weather is warm enough for the paint to dry. He is still waiting for the next Highways Rangers visit when the Safe Route to School across the green is scheduled for repair.

**322 Eastgate Centre (item 283)**

Nothing to report.

**323 Pavilion and Playing Field – Play Area (item 284)**

Eleven moles have been caught but there are a few that are still active.

**324 Dog Fouling (item 285)**

There have been a number of occasions recently where dog fouling has been apparent in Great Heath Road. This, of course, demonstrates despicable behaviour on behalf of the owners and they are requested, in future, to clear up after their animals with a view to ending this disgusting practice. Anyone caught contravening the regulations is to be reported to the appropriate authorities.

**325 Allotments (item 286)**

Nothing to report

- 326 Community defibrillator (item 287)**  
Nothing to report
- 327 Play equipment and car park proposals (item 288)**  
Nothing to report
- 328 Detailed information map for village/Notice and Information Boards (item 289)**  
Nothing to report
- 329 Volunteers (item 290)**  
Nothing to report
- 330 Village Maintenance (item 291)**  
Nothing to report
- 331 Village Institute Hall (item 292)**  
Nothing to report
- 332 Village Resilience Plan (item 293)**  
Nothing to report
- 333 Bus routes (item 294)**  
Nothing to report
- 334 Discussions with the Mid-Norfolk Railway Company (item 295)**  
Nothing to report
- 335 Website (item 296)**  
Nothing to report
- 336 Shared Access – telecommunications mast (item 297)**  
The mast is to be connected on 8<sup>th</sup> February. A completion certificate has been received.
- 337 Neighbourhood Plan (item 298)**  
Nothing to report
- 338 State of the village (item 299)**  
Nothing to report
- 339 Individual duties/responsibilities of members (item 302)**  
These will be updated following Mrs. Keeble’s resignation. In the meantime, Dr. Wade-Martins and Mr. Gower will have responsibility for Cathedral Meadows and Ruins.

- 340 The new Data Protection regulations (item 303)**  
Further action will be taken when the Government provides appropriate guidance following the legislation's journey through Parliament.
- 341 Clubs and societies in the village (item 305)**  
Elmham News will be running a piece on this topic
- 342 Proposals for the land off Back Lane, North Elmham (item 307)**  
A letter has been sent to Jamie Seaman, Senior Associate of Brown and Co, asking for details of the perceived benefits to the village of the proposed development. No further action will be taken until a response is received.
- 343 Report from District Councillor**  
Mr. Bambridge said that he had noted what had been said in the discussion with Messrs Chrusciak and Berry. He had also had talks regarding planning with George Freeman, M.P. Mr. Bambridge suggested that a nominated member of the Parish Council should regularly monitor the planning pages of the Breckland Council website, in addition to the notifications which are frequently received. This matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- 344 Sewage flooding in Wensum Drive and adjacent areas**  
A number of parishioners had expressed concern regarding frequent incidents of sewage flooding in Wensum Drive and the surrounding areas. The pumping station had been shut down for three days after Christmas and apparently it was several hours before it was realised that the pumps were not working. The properties in Wensum Drive are close to the flood plain of the River Wensum. The proposed new development at Station Yard is about 500 yards away and there is a feeling that the new properties may well be in danger of flooding. In addition, they could make the flooding risk even worse. The Clerk is to contact Anglian Water (Pat Gough) to discuss this very unsatisfactory situation.
- 345 Views on utilisation of monies received from Shared Access**  
It had previously been agreed to commence initial discussions regarding possible ways in monies in respect of the mast installation could be utilised for the benefit of the community. A letter had been received from North Elmham Tennis Club who are investigating the possibility of installing some new LED lights on their tennis courts to reduce light pollution. They had, to date, received one quotation. Mr. Smith said that he would like to see some assistance given to the Institute Hall. Mr. Labouchere mentioned the 100 years commemoration of the First World war later this year and wondered if a street party could be funded. Dr. Wade-Martins referred to a recent incident in Eastgate Street where the road was effectively blocked to larger vehicles for some time. Additional car parking is needed. It was also felt that additional speed cameras would be of benefit. The matter will be subject to further discussion at the next meeting.

### **346 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income**

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

12/1/18	E-on (street lights – December)	£144.06
7/2/18	Anglian Water (playing field – 7/10/17 to 7/1/18)	£106.43
7/2/18	Anglian Water (pavilion 7/10/17 to 7/1/18)	£29.62
3/1/18	K. Webb (Clerk’s pay for December)	£619.16
3/1/18	HMRC (tax on Clerk’s pay)	£99.40
3/1/18	HMRC (National Insurance on Clerk’s pay)	£11.35
7/2/18	Thinking Rural (payroll for January)	£12.00
7/2/18	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for January)	£90.00
7/2/18	R. Brown (miscellaneous items for pavilion)	£25.00
7/2/18	J. R. G. Fletcher (key keeping – December and January)	£62.50
7/2/18	J. Duffield (work in Cathedral ruins and car park)	£100.00
7/2/18	R. P. Environmental Services (11 moles caught)	£140.00

(Expenditure approved by all members)

#### **b) Schedule of Income:**

4/1/18	Pavilion lettings	£110.00
4/12/18	Bank interest (4/9/17 to 3/12/17)	£4.10

Balances (as at 19/1/18):- Current a/c - £94,356.68, Business Premium a/c £23,857.29

### **347 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-**

#### **a) Applications**

- (i) Mr. Howlett and Mrs. Braybrook – proposed development of four new bungalows at 36 Station Road (3PL/2018/0030/O) – outline. The members objected to this application which would increase additional pressure on the water system which clearly cannot cope with current demands. Proposed by Mr. Fitzalan Howard and seconded by Mr. Grainger. All in favour.
- (ii) Mr. R. Bodimeade, land adjacent Caberfeidh, Pump Street (3PL/2018/0040/F) – new bungalow and garage. It was agreed to support this application but with the condition that the new property remains ancillary to the existing property. Proposed by Mr. Grainger and seconded by Mr. Smith. All in favour except Mr. Brown who opposed and Mr. Labouchere who abstained.
- (iii) Mr. G. Redwood, Granary Buildings, Eastgate Street (3PL/2017/0361/F) – change of use from warehousing to residential. Demolition of existing storage buildings and construction of two, three bedroom and one, two bedroom terraced dwellings and five, three – four bedroom three storey houses with integral garages.
- (iv) Garrod New Homes Ltd (3PL/2018/0057/VAR) – variation (new vehicle access and erection of 11 dwellings). Request to be made for street lighting to be provided on this development.
- (v) Garrod Developments (3PL/2018/0058/VAR) – variation (site adjacent to 10-12 Larch Grove)
- (vi) Wensum Valley Hotel, Golf and Country Club (3PL/2016/0533/H) – re-consultation following quashing of previous decision by the High Court.

**b) Determinations**

- i) Mr. Heaton, Mulberry Barn, Heath Road (3PL/2017/1543/HOU) – conservatory to front (application approved)
- ii) Heritage Developments Ltd, land at Station Yard, Station Road (3PL/2017/0863/D) – application for reserved matters of the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of 19 residential dwellings and the access routes within the site (application approved)

**348 CORRESPONDENCE –7/2/18**

- 1) Clerks and Councils Direct magazine for January, 2018
- 2) Shared Access completion certificate
- 3) Police crime updates for January, 2018
- 4) Norfolk PFA certificate of membership
- 5) Breckland Council expanding the community litter pick scheme
- 6) Brain tumours research – details of fundraising events
- 7) Quotation for new LED lighting for tennis courts
- 8) Meet the Leader of Norfolk County Council – two further events

**349 Announcements**

All members wished to place on record their appreciation of Elmham News over the past 40 years and the fantastic work done by all those involved during that time.

**350 Agenda items for next meeting:**

- a) Village benches
- b) Views on utilisation of monies from Shared Access
- c) Member to act as planning applications “watcher”

**351 Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.14 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date

