

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. Payne referred to the new Local Plan for Breckland which has recently been issued. This provides for an additional 91 houses for North Elmham, of which 36 are either completed or committed, over the plan period to 2036. This is a significant increase in the Parish Council's recommendation in February 2016 of 40 to 50 houses. Concern was specifically expressed with plans for 40 new houses in Eastgate Street (LP(070)008). The road is narrow and used by a large number of parents taking their children to and from school. Many vehicles are parked in the street as the owners do not have the benefit of off street parking. As a result, public service vehicles often find that their passage is blocked. In addition, this area already suffers from street flooding and the construction of 40 dwellings at a higher level than the existing properties would make the problem worse. Mrs. Brown supported Mrs. Payne's comments and reiterated the infrastructure issues and traffic problems. She also asked when the meeting regarding Millennium Wood, agreed at the last meeting, was to be held. Arrangements would be put in place for this to happen as the work needs to be completed by the spring. Mr. Fletcher said that the Elmham News website is to be discontinued due to the cost of running it and the amount of work required by volunteers to keep it up to date. There was also a feeling that not many people used it. Dr. Wade-Martins asked if there was to be a period of consultation before this action was taken. It was confirmed that there would be. Mr. MacEwan suggested that the matter be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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**184 Those Councillors Present Were:**

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

**Also in Attendance:** Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor), Mrs. M. White (Elmham News + Dereham and Fakenham Times) and 14 parishioners.

**185 To Consider Apologies for Absence:**

None

**186 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.

**187 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016:**

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record with the following amendment:-

Item 161 – the allotment rents are to be collected on 11<sup>th</sup> October, not 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Agreed by all.

**UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING**

**188 Land Management Matters (item 155)**

- (a) Village Green Nothing to report
- (b) Cathedral Ruins Dr. Wade-Martins has established that English Heritage, having not appointed a contractor all summer, has recently given the order for the urgent repairs to the high section of wall to S.M. Masonry Ltd who are due to start work on site very soon.
- (c) Cathedral Meadows Nothing to report
- (d) Broom Green Work on the pond has been completed.
- (e) Millennium Wood The sign for the jubilee oak is in place. A meeting with Mr. Saunders and parishioners is to be arranged (see Public Participation)
- (f) Bridleway on disused railway line Nothing to report.
- (g) Prince William Wood The wood is to be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Brown said that the gate is too heavy to open.

**189 Street Lights (item 156)**

Mr. Fitzalan Howard said that the identity of the driver who demolished street light number 96 has been established together with her insurance details. The Clerk has passed this information to our insurance company's assessors who have asked for copies of all invoices when available so that payment can be made.

**190 Highway Matters (item 157)**

Dr Wade-Martins reported that:

- (a) *Slow down signs* These have been satisfactorily moved from the Kings Head crossroads to either side of the build out.
- (b) *Potholes and washing of highways signs* This work still has to be done, but we have been told that it will not be done by the Highway Rangers.
- (c) *Muddy areas on the Safe Route to School* No progress.
- (d) *Weed control on the church bend* As Highways can't manage it, Tom Fitzalan Howard agreed to take on this role from next year.

(e) *Overhanging hedge in Eastgate Street* The job has been done and child minders who use the pavement regularly are delighted with the result. The invoice will now be sent to Simon Thompson.

(f) *New signs to numbered houses off Eastgate Street* The signs have been ordered.

**191 Eastgate Centre (item 158)**

Nothing to report

**192 Pavilion and Playing Field – Play Area (item 159)**

Mr. Brown reported that he had experienced difficulties contacting the company who empty the clothes bank. Jackie Price, North Elmham Football Club, had complained that for the last three months she had expressed concern over molehills on the pitch but no action had been taken. As a result, if a solution could not be found, they would have to seek another venue as they would not be allowed to play at North Elmham for health and safety reasons. Mr. Brown said that he would make contact with the Parish Council's mole man. The Clerk reported that he had had a long discussion with Jackie Price regarding the arrears from last season and the arrangements proposed at the last meeting. These had been agreed with her and the first payment of £75 had already been electronically transferred to the Parish Council's Bank account. Of this, £15 had been allocated to reduce the arrears from £225 to £210. She has promised to remit additional sums as and when circumstances permit. The Clerk produced a letter detailing the agreement with the Football Club, in accordance with the decision made at the last meeting, for Mr. Brown to hand to Jackie Price. She is aware that she will be given this document in the near future in confirmation of her discussion with the Clerk. Mrs. Keeble said that Julia Srigley will not be able to deal with the weeds in the car park. Mr. MacEwan volunteered to undertake this work.

**193 Dog Fouling (item 160)**

Nothing to report

**194 Allotments (item 161)**

Mr. Phillips said that allotment rents are to be collected on 11<sup>th</sup> October (6.00 p.m.). Mr. Brown and a volunteer have cleared some plots. There are still a number available for rent.

**195 Community defibrillator (item 162)**

Mrs. Warner reported that a person has been recruited to monitor the defibrillator. A training session of two hours has been arranged which will hopefully take place in November. The first hour of the session will be for up to fifty people.

**196 Play equipment and car park proposals (item 163)**

The bar at the top of the slide has been fitted. The recent play day was very successful and raised £479.

**197 Community Farm (item 164)**

Nothing to report

- 198 Detailed information map for village/Notice and Information Boards (item 165)**  
Nothing to report
- 199 Volunteers (item 166)**  
Mr. Brown reported that some volunteers have been lost because of criticism from other parishioners.
- 200 Village Maintenance (item 167)**  
Nothing to report
- 201 Village Institute Hall (item 168)**  
Nothing to report
- 202 Village Resilience Plan (item 169)**  
Nothing to report
- 203 Bus routes (item 170)**  
Nothing to report
- 204 Refurbishment of the pump at the King's Head (item 171)**  
The work has been finished.
- 205 Speeding/traffic management (item 172)**  
Mr. Grainger has possession of the software and will coordinate future developments with Mr. Fletcher.
- 206 Discussions with the Mid-Norfolk Railway Company (item 174)**  
Dr Wade-Martins reported that the railway company now recognise that the southern gate at the station crossing is in a potentially dangerous condition and they are looking for a replacement.
- 207 Revision of responsibilities of individual members (item 176)**  
The Chairman asked if members were satisfied with their current responsibilities. She is to take on Broom Green and Millennium Wood. She will also organise the meeting with parishioners (see item 188 (e)) with Mr. Labouchere.
- 208 Report from District Councillor**  
Mr. Bambridge stressed the importance of parishioners making their views known, regarding the Local Plan, to Breckland Council. There is to be a devolution meeting at County Hall next week. The postal votes had been counted ; 80% were against the devolution proposals with 20% in favour. However, the 'phone survey recorded 20% against with 80% in favour. Mr, Bambridge had personally experienced the 'phone survey and said that it was one of the most biased and appalling pieces of work he had ever encountered. A total of 5,000 new houses are proposed for Thetford. Major licensing reviews are currently being undertaken.

Breckland Council is hoping to extend links with South Holland District Council and are particularly looking at information technology and planning departments. The Government has confirmed dualling of the A47 from North Tuddenham to Easton with work due to start in 2019. Work on the NDR continues and we are advised to monitor any changes in North Elmham traffic.

**209 Local Plan (settlement boundaries and preferred sites) (item 173)**

Three letters had been received from parishioners strongly opposing the new preferred site (LP(070)008) for 40 dwellings on land to the south of Eastgate Street. Initial discussions resulted in an agreement that it was important for the Parish Council to submit a collective view in respect of the Local Plan. Proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Dr. Wade-Martins. All in favour except Mr. Brown who abstained. Concern was expressed that the number of additional new houses in the plan period to 2036 was 91. This followed an earlier recommendation by the Parish Council, after a parish-wide survey in February 2016, of 40 to 50 houses. Mr. Fitzalan Howard said that it was disappointing that only 20% of the residents replied to the survey. The importance of Eastgate Street was also acknowledged as approximately one third of the village's population live in this area. The Chairman is to draft a response to Breckland Council regarding the Local Plan and stressing opposition to the increase in new houses. In particular, there are fundamental concerns regarding the proposed development LP(070)008 on land to the south of Eastgate Street. This is a newly advised preferred site which is outside the settlement boundary. The street is narrow and a vital part of the Safe Route to School. Any increase in the current traffic flows is likely to have serious implications for the safety of pedestrians. In addition, the existing dwellings along the eastern end of Eastgate Street already suffer from street flooding and the construction of 40 dwellings at a higher level will undoubtedly make the situation worse. It is strongly felt that there is insufficient room on this site for 40 dwellings. It was agreed to make strong objections to the District Council regarding the Local Plan as above. Proposed by Mr. MacEwan and seconded by Mr. Grainger. All in favour except Mr. Brown who abstained.

**210 Parish Council meeting dates for 2017**

It was agreed that these would be forwarded to members by the Clerk.

**211 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income**

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

5/10/16	E-on (pavilion from 16/6/16 to 13/9/16)	£195.14
5/10/16	J. Duffield (work in Cathedral Ruins)	£130.00
5/10/16	J.R.G. Fletcher (key keeping – August and September)	£62.50
5/10/16	T. D. Gardens (hedge cutting and strimming in Eastgate St)	£125.00
5/10/16	P. Wade-Martins (bag of concrete to fix plaque)	£7.18
5/10/16	Anglia Sign Casting Co (bronze plaque in M/Wood)	£265.04
5/10/16	Garrod Partnership Ltd (refurbishment of parish pump)	£2,943.16
5/10/16	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning – Sept + 2/10/16)	£86.40
5/10/16	R. Brown (items for pavilion – light bulbs and tea trays)	£20.59

5/10/16	R. Brown (items for pavilion – hand wipes and soap)	£27.19
5/10/16	Thinking Rural (payroll services for August and September)	£24.00
5/10/16	Anglian Water (playing field from 10/6/16 to 12/9/16)	£76.79
5/10/16	Anglian Water (pavilion from 10/6/16 to 13/9/16)	£21.99
5/10/16	K. Webb (Clerk’s travel expenses for July, August and Sept)	£71.10
5/10/16	K. Webb (Clerk’s pay for September)	£528.74
5/10/16	HMRC (tax on Clerk’s pay for September)	£63.80

**b) Schedule of Income:**

8/9/16	Allotment rents	£180.00
23/9/16	Rural Payments Agency (FDM reimbursement)	£10.65
27/9/16	North Elmham F.C. (3 home matches in Sept)	£75.00
29/9/16	Breckland Council (Precept – second six months)	£15,990.00
29/9/16	Breckland Council (Central Grant – second six months)	£754.00

(Expenditure approved by all members)

Mr. Phillips presented the Management Financial Report to September 2016. This was broadly in line with expectations. Members with any comments or questions are to contact Mr. Phillips.

**212 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-**

**a) Applications**

- (i) Mr. K. Owen, Back Lane, North Elmham – new access, parking areas, external works and landscaping – (3PL/2016/1180/F). Mr. Labouchere suggested a site meeting. Proposed by Dr. Wade-Martins and seconded by Mrs. Warner. All in favour. Mr. Bambridge is to request a planning meeting.
- (ii) The Garrod Partnership Ltd – land to the north of Eastgate Street (new vehicular access and erect 10 new dwellings) – (3PL/2016/0848/F) – request previously made for the open space to be transferred to the parish under a S106 agreement.

Brookside Farm development - Dr Wade-Martins reported that the solicitor acting for the Breckland Planning officer has sent a draft of the agreement for consideration, which was sent to all parish councillors. A working group consisting of himself, the vice chairman and John Labouchere, with the clerk, drafted a response which has been returned. Copies of that response have also been sent to all councillors. The covering note to Breckland’s solicitor emphasises that the Parish Council is not asking for any more community benefits from the development than were originally suggested at the time of the application.

Mr. Labouchere said that a recommendation will be made to the District Council planners as follows - the developer will be required to cause the surface water to be passed through underground “soak-away crates” before reaching the attenuation pond (or some such similar arrangement). This may alleviate the quantities of surface water reaching the pond and prevent a serious piped overflow situation into the brook. Safety of the pond (for children particularly and animals) is of paramount importance.

**b) Determinations**

- (i) Mrs. C. Coventry, Great Wood Cottage, North Elmham – conversion of barn, upgrade of office space and creation of triple garage (3PL/2016/0489/HOU) – permission granted

**213 CORRESPONDENCE –5/10/16**

- 1) Highway Rangers next visit – work identified by 6/10/16
- 2) Neighbourhood Planning Bill – letter from the Housing and Planning Minister
- 3) Barclays bank advising reduction in savings interest rate
- 4) Precept consultation regarding automatic referendums . (It was agreed to register opposition)

**214 Announcements**

None

**215 Agenda items for next meeting:**

- a) Prince William Wood (including gate)
- b) The garden near the wall in the car park near the church
- c) Police presence in the village
- d) Website
- e) Safer Neighbourhood meetings

**216 Next Meetings:**

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

This part of the meeting closed at 9.47 p.m.

**217 Confidential item: update on the evaluation of the current strategy regarding the possibility of future assets growth**

It was agreed that a further meeting will be held in the not too distant future.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date

