

## ELSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Elsing Parish Council meeting held in Elsing Village Hall, Church Street on Monday January 15th at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councilors Laws, Horncastle, Butler, Brailsford and Chaplin

Other Members Present: - 1 Elector and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

### OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**1. To appoint the Chairman for the meeting.**

Cllr Horncastle proposed Cllr Laws, seconded by Cllr Chaplin and carried. The Clerk received the signed Declaration of Acceptance Form.

**2. Welcome by the Chair and to consider accepting apologies for absence.**

Cllr Laws welcomed those present. There were apologies for absence received from Cllr Palmer, due to ill health and these were accepted. There were apologies for absence received from Cllr Adams, due to transport issues and these were accepted. Cllr Bambridge had also sent apologies for non-attendance.

**3. To declare any Interests re items on the agenda.**

Cllr Horncastle declared a Personal Interest in item no. 11.

**4. To confirm and accept minutes of the meeting held on November 20<sup>th</sup>.**

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Laws proposed the minutes of November 20th be accepted as true and accurate records of the meetings, seconded by Cllr Chaplin and carried.

**5. To discuss any matters arising from these minutes (not on the agenda).**

There were no matters arising to discuss.

**6. To discuss any necessary Correspondence.**

Norfolk County Council sent a letter to Cllr Horncastle regarding flooding. There is someone at Breckland Council who is also responsible for flooding. Cllr Horncastle will liaise with Breckland Council to find out more information.

**7. To discuss any Planning Issues**

There were no planning issues to debate or receive notification of.

**8. To receive an update on the Borehole, Allotment**

The tank has been drained so it is ready for the spring. All the allotments are let and someone is on the waiting list

**9. To discuss any update re the proposed New Town Development**

The Parish Councilors had not read all the documents and could not agree on what comments to make, so no decision was made at the meeting. It seems the idea of The New Town Development is unlikely to proceed imminently.



**10. To discuss the idea of Holiday Activities for children in the Hundred Year Wood**  
Mr Andrew Doubleday spoke to the Parish Council about the situation. The Parish Council supported his initiative to organize some activities for children in The Hundred Year Wood.

The tree nursery is going well. Thirty five trees have been planted within the boundary. There is a plan to put some around the village car parking area near the Church. Also to plant some on private land and some in private gardens. There are some wild cherries and hazel nuts that can go into the 100 Year Wood. Mr Doubleday has helped Gressenhall with their Tree Project and he will organize a tree nursery project day work shop in March. There are plans for restocking some open groundwork. He is the Tree Warden for Harnser Wood.

**11. To discuss the dead tree on Highway Surveyor's Land**

This is on the Highway Surveyor's land where children play on Heath Road. If the dead tree fell, it would land in the garden of Mr Fox. The Parish Council has, in the past, paid for trees to be felled but Mr Fox wishes to pay for the tree to be felled because he wants the wood for himself for fire wood and another reason. Cllr Horncastle thought it would be acceptable to allow him to pay in this instance. Cllr Horncastle will send him an email to that effect and the Clerk will file the email.

**12. To discuss Defibrillator signs**

Cllr Horncastle has the signs and they will soon go up.

**13. To discuss wassailing**

This is not strictly a Parish Council enterprise but it does bring the community together. Cllr Horncastle compiles the Risk Assessment for it and he has everything that is necessary. This time there were many people carrying their own flares. There were no problems with the increase of flares. The rule could be that if a person has a flare, that they use it to light the bonfire and then do not use it anymore. This new rule will be announced.

**14. To discuss further the idea of a permissive path**

Cllr Laws wrote to the land owner and the reply he received was in a negative fashion, but he did say that if he changed his mind, he would inform Cllr Laws of this fact.

**15. To discuss the Fly Tipping and Dog Fouling signs from Breckland**

Two signs have been ordered and paid for and the Clerk will let Cllr Horncastle know when they arrive.

**15. To receive a Financial Update from the Clerk**

This had been circulated and no-one had any questions regarding it.

**16. To authorise any necessary payments**

Cllr Laws proposed the following financial payments be authorized, seconded by Cllr Butler and carried.

Clerk's net salary for December/January £337.87 HMRC Tax December/January £72.80  
Clerk's exp. for December/January £27.50 Cllr Horncastle reimburse. for 2 signs £24.00



**17. To discuss donations to the Village Hall and Churchyard and authorize**

Cllr Horncastle proposed a £400.00, which is the usual donation, be given to the Village Hall and the Church, seconded by Cllr Laws and carried.

**18. To discuss the Budget**

The budget document produced by Cllr Horncastle and the Clerk had been circulated and was discussed at great length. Cllr Laws had a laptop at the meeting and was able to input some figures into the document in order for the Councillors to see totals and discuss them. The Councillors were content with the outcome.

**19. To discuss setting the Precept for 2024 – 2025**

After having the discussions under item 18, Cllr Horncastle proposed the precept be set at £4,775.00. This was seconded by Cllr Brailsford and carried.

**20. To discuss letter from Barclays regarding the Community Account**

The Clerk had received a letter from Barclays Bank stating that unless the bank saw activity in the Community account, it was going to close the account in March. As Cllr Horncastle does not wish for this to happen, he decided to visit the bank in a few days' time and sort out the situation.

**21. To set the meeting dates for the rest of 2024**

The dates for the Full Parish Council Meetings for the remainder of 2024 are as follows:-

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May Annual Parish Council Meeting (this meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

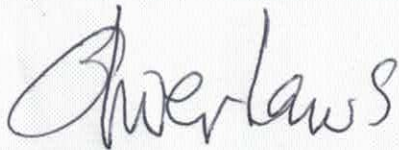
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November

**22. To receive items for the March agenda**

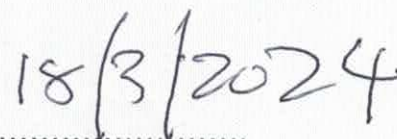
To discuss carrying out a village litter pick

**23. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council meeting in March**

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. As there was no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.



Chairman



Date