

Meeting Minutes of Emneth Parish Council

Tuesday 22nd February 2022 at 6.30pm held at Emneth Central Hall (draft)

Parish Councillors present: Michael Pearson, Roland Fry, Mike Wiles, Mark Purchase, Steve Curtis (Chairman), Julian McCourt and Yvonne Howard. Also present: Kate Bennett (Parish Clerk), Chris Crofts (Borough Council) Harry Humphrey (Norfolk County Council) and two members of the public

Apologies: Lloyd Groves, Brenda Poole and Chris Dawson

1 Welcome

In Councillor Groves' absence, Councillor Curtis was voted in as Chairman for the meeting and Councillor McCourt as Vice Chairman.

2 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for this month's meeting were received as listed above.

3 Members' Declarations of Interests in items on the agenda and any dispensations required considered

No declarations of interests were given and no dispensations were required for any Member attending this month's meeting.

4 Open Forum for Public Participation: 15 minutes

Member of Public 1: a resident of Chapel Lane reported her concerns with an alleged breach of planning permission at the Old Jam Factory, Chapel Lane, Emneth. She advised that she was in correspondence with the Borough Council's Enforcement Department in King's Lynn and that the Building Inspector had in fact visited this week; the parish council advised her to continue to maintain regular contact with them about her concerns and the parish council will consider the matter if and when a further planning application is submitted for comment; the previous retrospective planning application which had been *objected* to by the parish council has since been *withdrawn*.

Member of Public 2: a resident reported a slippery surface in the cemetery. This was noted and will be inspected but is believed to be as a result of Storm Eunice last weekend; it was noted that the ground almost everywhere is very wet and slippery right now.

The two members of public left the meeting.

5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2022

It was resolved to accept the Minutes of the last meeting as a true record and these were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

6 Clerk to provide an update on matters not included on this month's Agenda

a) Paperwork requested by the Diocese of Ely confirming the approval of tree work in the churchyard from St. Edmund's Parochial Church Council is awaited; payment of the petition fee of £305.40 is included in this month's payments for the works required to T10 (sycamore) and G4 (mixed species); ongoing.

7 Finance

- a) It was resolved to approve all outstanding payments per the February Payments List prepared by the Clerk.
- b) Income since the last meeting was noted at £560.00 from the cemetery.

- c) It was noted that just one quote to date had been received from ground contractors for the piping of the the dyke in the cemetery; Clerk to provide an update with hopefully further quotes at the March meeting; ongoing.
- d) A quote from CGM Group for the coppicing/felling of T10 & G4 in the churchyard was noted; this to be revisited once the faculty from the Diocese has been approved and received.
- e) It was resolved to allocate £8,000.00 from general reserves to village Platinum Jubilee celebrations. There is a street party planned from 2pm-5pm on Friday 3rd June 2022 in the village square from Hungate Road to The Gaultree Inn (this section of road will be closed to traffic all day) with stalls in the hall car park and activities and refreshments in the hall. There is another event planned at the Playing Field for Saturday 4th June 2022 including a BBQ, tug of war etc. in the afternoon and a band & disco playing from 7pm followed by fireworks.

Current anticipated expenditure is marquee hire (£1895.00), band & disco (£650.00), fireworks (£2,000), the purchase of bespoke to Emneth Village Jubilee Mugs (£2.50 each) for the children of the village, road closure costs (£22.00), temporary event notice costs (£21.00), advertising costs (£60.00), possible toilet hire, a donation to St. John's Ambulance if they attend the event and any further associated insurance costs.

- f) It was noted that Elm Parish Council has recently had a parish-wide tree survey carried out including the former canal land which is jointly owned by both parish councils. It was resolved for both parish councils to tender for the works required along the towpath and consider the quotes received; all costs for works to the trees along the towpath to be split 50/50 as the land is jointly owned: ongoing.

For the purpose of the Minutes it should be noted that two sections of land known locally as Pocket Parks in Elm are listed as *Community Assets* on Elm Parish Council website; this land is their responsibility and is maintained by them and any associated tree management costs to be paid by Elm Parish Council. It is noted that the County boundary runs directly through the middle of Pocket Park at Chapel Lane so a section of this land falls within the parish of Emneth but Emneth Parish Council is not responsible for it; this is the responsibility of Elm Parish.

- g) The parish council's bank balances at 22nd February 2022 were noted at: Community Account £53,309.46 and the Savings Account at £35,390.80.

8 Planning

- a) To consider planning applications since last meeting;

Planning Application 1: 21/02327/F retrospective change of use from shared agricultural/commercial fireworks business land to dog training area and polytunnel to be used as an indoor dog training area at Whiteacres, 54 Elmside, Emneth; it was resolved with all in favour to *support* this application.

Planning Application 2: 22/00093/F proposed new dwelling at land south of 37 to 39 and north east of 33 Gaultree Square, Emneth; it was resolved with all in favour to *support* this application but to suggest that the roof line is subservient or at least no higher than the adjacent property.

Planning Application 3: 22/00112/F mobile home/static caravan in garden at 49 Fendyke Road, Emneth; it was resolved to *support* this application.

- b) To note any planning decisions/appeal notifications since last meeting;

Planning application 21/01306/F 48 Elm High Road, Emneth; application *refused* for the erection of a single storey granny annexe for ancillary use to the main dwelling.

Planning application 21/01688/F College of West Anglia, Meadowgate Lane, Emneth; application *refused* for change of use and conversion of former teaching block to five dwellings.

- c) All planning applications can be viewed on the Borough Council's planning portal by visiting <https://online.west-norfolk.gov.uk/online-applications/>
- d) Correspondence from the Borough Council relating to the 2022 Mayor's Design Awards was noted. It was resolved to nominate the development on the corner of Chapel Lane, Emneth with the A1101 where a chapel used to be sited. It was felt that this property has been designed sympathetically to reflect its previous use by incorporating bow top windows.

9 To discuss Parish matters

- a) The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th April 2022 commencing at 6.30pm and being immediately followed by the monthly parish council meeting. Clerk to endeavour to book the main hall at Central Hall for these two meetings.
- b) It was resolved in principle to support and offer financial assistance towards a tram memento for Emneth as part of the Wisbech to Upwell Tram Memento Project. For the purpose of the Minutes, the proposal would be to install an information board type memento bespoke to the area of Emneth to illustrate how the area looked when the tram was fully functional. Location to be agreed; in the vicinity of the church was suggested but the old Boyce's Bridge Substation was important to Emneth and particularly to the farmers so this would possibly be a preferred location and the landowner has reportedly given his permission for a memento to be placed here. Funding in the region of £1,500.00 would be required to complete the project.
- c) A community tree planting proposal for the former canal land on the Emneth/Elm border drawn up by *Groundwork East* in conjunction with Elm Parish Council was considered and it was resolved to confirm Emneth's approval of the project, with planting to commence mid-March. This project is entirely funded through Fenland District with zero financial commitment from the parish of Emneth.. Over 400+ trees and shrubs will be planted along the length of the towpath in a bid to help with climate change and encourage biodiversity. This is an Elm Parish Council initiative supported by Emneth.

10 To note general correspondence

- a) It was resolved to approve a poster design (with just one amendment) prepared by the Central Hall Committee advertising village Jubilee celebrations planned for June 2022.

11 Cemetery Issues; no report.

12 Allotment Land issues; no report.

13 To discuss Central Hall issues

- a) Batteries to enable the fitting of the CCTV cameras to the rear of the hall are still awaited.

14 To discuss Playing Field issues; no report.

15 To discuss Norfolk County Council issues including highways

- a) It was noted that the surface of the road from the playing field to the swimming pool along Hungate Road is in a very poor state of repair.
- b) Correspondence from Elm Parish Council had been received regarding broken fencing along the edge of the land known as Pocket Park at Chapel Lane, Emneth. It was resolved to point out to Elm Parish Council that although we acknowledge the County boundary line runs through the middle of Pocket Park placing Chapel Lane within the parish of Emneth, Emneth Parish Council does not own this piece of land nor is it responsible for maintaining it or the fencing. For the purpose of the Minutes, after the meeting it was noted that Pocket Park, Chapel Lane forms part of Elm Parish Council's Community Assets as listed on their website.

16 To receive a report from County Council; the 2022-23 budget proposes significant investment, while addressing continuing severe pressure on services. Plans are for a balanced budget and a 2.99% Council Tax rise. There will be an expected increase in the 2022/23 net budget by £25 million compared to this year, to £464.123 and a review of the Council and how it operates, to bridge a £60m budget gap predicted for 2023/24.

17 To receive a report from the Borough Council; it was noted that two new electric flytipping vans have recently been purchased and moving forward any current damaged dog waste bins will be replaced free of charge.

18 To note any communications from the Police since last meeting

- a) Our Community Engagement Officer is Paula Gilluley paula.gilluley@norfolk.police.uk
- b) Residents are encouraged to report any anti-social behaviour issues on the Police 101 non-urgent number.

19 Items for the next meeting agenda

- To note internal auditor appointed for financial year end 2021/22
- To confirm a venue for the Annual Parish Meeting in April
- To provide an update on quotes for piping the dyke in the cemetery
- To discuss an Upwell to Wisbech Tram Memento for Emneth
- To further discuss Jubilee Celebrations for the village in June 2022

20 To consider excluding the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the items to be discussed

21 To discuss correspondence received relating to the alleged breach of planning permission by a caravan on the former canal land towpath jointly owned by Emneth Parish Council & Elm Parish Council

- a) The correspondence in question was circulated and noted and it was agreed for the Clerk to progress the matter as discussed and agreed: ongoing.

22 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th March 2022 at 6.30pm in the Committee Room at Central Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman's signature