

Parish Councillors present: Lloyd Groves (Chair), Stephen Curtis, Yvonne Howard, Mark Purchase, Mike Wiles, Michael Pearson, Dan Finnis, Julian McCourt, Mick White. Also present: Kate Bennett (Parish Clerk) and County Councillor Chris Dawson and one member of the public

1 Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Roland Fry, Brenda Poole and Borough Councillor Chris Crofts.

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.

4 Open Forum for Public Participation: 15 minutes

The member of the public present wished to address Council concerning the lack of drainage at parts of Church Road. She had attended a parish council meeting earlier this year and was requesting an update. County Councillor Dawson advised that Highways had assessed the road and did not consider it required any attention at this stage but they would continue to monitor and repair it when and where needed. Any drainage issues should be taken up with Anglian Water by residents.

Chris Dawson updated everyone on 1) the 1m trees for Norfolk initiative. He has £1,500.00 available for his division; if Emneth Parish Council is interested in a particular project for some trees/hedges then a proposal needs to be with him by the end of November and 2) the majority of County Councillors refused to object to the incinerator for Wisbech until full details of the planning application are available.

5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 31st August 2021

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

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

- a) It was noted that our Highways Engineer has recently been promoted and his replacement is Mr. Dan Jordan.
- b) It was resolved not to write at this stage to the occupants of a property at Elmside concerning overgrowth from their garden into the non-commissioned drain at their property as they have literally just moved in. This issue can be revisited if any further complaints are received about the overgrowth.

7 Finance

- a) It was resolved to approve all outstanding payments per the Payments List attached to these Minutes.
- b) Income since the last meeting was noted at £80.00 (cemetery).
- c) It was resolved to consider budgeting for two new bus stops¹ in the 2022/23 Budget preparations and for Cloud membership for the CCTV cameras at the village hall; Clerk to action.
- d) It was resolved to hold a Finance Meeting to consider the 2022/23 Budget, week commencing 18th October 2021; Clerk to finalize a date and time with the Finance Committee members.
- e) Balance of the Current Account at 5th September 2021 was £57,882.78 and the balance of the Claude Coates fund, £34,544.19.
- f) It was resolved to approve expenditure of £40.00 for Councillor Howard to attend some training.

¹ Adjacent to The Peel Centre and opposite the junction of Elmfield Drive

8 Planning

- a) To consider planning applications since last meeting;
Planning Application 1: 21/01569/F proposed change of use from a hotel to a large HMO² (Sui Generis³) at Elme Hall Hotel, 69 Elm High Road, Emneth; it was resolved for the Clerk to make some further enquiries before a decision is made.
Planning Application 2: 21/01770/F proposed conservatory to rear of existing dwelling at The Arches, 15 Church Road, Emneth; it was resolved to support this application.
Planning Application 3: 21/01774/F proposed extension to outbuilding to provide indoor swimming pool, construction of new 4-bay garage with games room above and new outdoor tennis court at The Old Vicarage, 76 Church Road, Emneth; it was resolved to support this application.
- b) To note any planning appeal notifications since last meeting; no report.
- c) To note any decisions from the Borough Council since last meeting:
Planning application 21/00853/O Land South of 2 Elmfield Drive and West of 117 Elm High Road, Elmfield Drive, Emneth for the erection of a single dwelling on garden land, permitted.
- d) Neighbourhood Plan preparations for the parish are still on-going; no report.

9 To discuss Parish matters

- a) An anonymous letter from a resident of The Wroe had been received concerning a property with scrap cars to its frontage, touring caravans in its rear garden and regular bonfires being lit at The Wroe. The property in question had been visited by a parish councillor and following their comments/findings it was agreed that there is little the parish council can do. The only suggested course of action would be for any concerned resident to contact the Neighbourhood Nuisance Team at the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk and report any issues to them:
[Anti-social behaviour | Anti-social behaviour | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour)
- b) It was resolved to accept an offer from the owner of the Spar Shop to purchase a litter bin for installation at the bus stop at Gaultree Square; Clerk to action.
- c) Clerk to investigate the removal of some asbestos and other rubbish which has been unearthed by the Friends of Elm & Emneth Towpath working group at the Collett's Bridge end of the towpath. It was agreed that some bluebells which have been donated to the group could be planted.

10 Cemetery Issues

- a) It was resolved to approve expenditure to purchase a new bench for the cemetery; Clerk to action.
- b) The Clerk and Roland Fry had met with the CGM Group Operations Manager to discuss the current maintenance of the cemetery and churchyard and the requirements moving forward. It was agreed that a new contract should be drafted for consideration as this hadn't been done since 2016. It was stressed that litter picking and blowing the headstones was a necessity as is treating the ashes section for weeds.
- c) Councillor Groves will update the columbarium wall for the cemetery at the next meeting.
- d) Full grave burials are being offered to *residents* of the parish *only* as of 1st January 2020⁴. It should be noted that the provision of cemetery services within a parish is a discretionary service.

11 To discuss Village Hall issues

- a) A CCTV camera has now been installed in the front car park; the rear one will be fitted when a wifi extender has been purchased to provide coverage for the rear.

² House in Multiple Occupation

³ Of its own kind, independent legal classification, peculiar to itself

⁴ Ashes interments are still permitted to non-residents, just full grave burials restricted to *residents* only

12 To discuss Parish Council Allotment Land issues

a) It was noted that some of the scrap vehicles have been removed, there are still about three which need removing.

13 To discuss Norfolk County Council issues including highways

- a) Following a site meeting with Highways, we are still awaiting information relating to road improvements for Mill Road and quotations for informal footways at Hollycroft Road and Church Road.
- b) Clerk to investigate the overgrowth onto the footpath on the bend opposite Concorde Tyres on the A1101 just beyond Elmfield Drive.

14 To receive a report from the County Councillor; see Public Forum Item 4 of these Minutes.

15 To receive a report from the Borough Councillor; no report.

16 To note any communications from the Police since last meeting

- a) The next Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel Meeting is 25th October 2021 at Nordelph Village Hall.
- b) Our Community Engagement Officer is Paula Gilluley [paula.gilluley@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:Paula.gilluley@norfolk.police.uk)
- c) Residents are encouraged to report any anti-social behaviour issues on the Police 101 non-urgent number.

17 Items for the next meeting agenda

- To consider 2022/23 Budget figures
- To provide an update on a new litter bin for the bus stop at Gaultree Square
- To provide an update on a new bench for the cemetery
- Councillor Howard to provide an update on a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish
- Update on the installation of the CCTV at the rear of the village hall
- 1m trees for Norfolk; proposal to be with Chris Dawson by end November
- To consider updated contract from CGM Group to include spraying the ashes section
- To discuss the renewal fee for the annual subscription to the Scribe Cemetery Package

18 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

The member of public present left the meeting.

19 To report on breach of planning permission by a caravan on parish land (towpath)

An update on the current situation was given by the Clerk; a further update to be provided next month.

20 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th October 2021 at 6.30pm in the Committee Room at Central Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman's signature