

ELSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Elswick Parish Council held on
Thursday 29 November 2007 in Elswick and District Village Hall commencing at 7.45pm

PRESENT: Cllrs Chedd (Chair), Hayhurst, Emmington, Molloy, James and Taylor. In attendance Mrs Elvy (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Cllr Rowe

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in item 10(ii).

2. MINUTES – Of the meetings held on 25.10.07 and 7.11.07 were read, approved and signed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

See Minutes.

4. PLANNING

i) FBC decisions on items previously commented up:

- a) 07/0877 - 3 Ronwood Close Elswick – Granted.
- b) 07/0996 - Norcott Farm Mill Lane Elswick – Granted.
- c) 07/1018 - 1 The Meadows Elswick – Refused.

ii) Items received since previous meeting for consideration:

- a) 07/1100 - Land at Roseacre Road Elswick – 3 Stables with Sand Paddock. Following some confusion at FBC, EPC have now been asked to comment on this application. It was:

07/107 Resolved: to object to the proposal and forward the Council's comments to Cllr Rowe in order that he may draft a reply and forward the comments to FBC.

- b) 07/1165 Sunny Cottage High Street Elswick – 2 Storey Side Extension.

07/108 Resolved: to object to the proposal and forward the Council's comments to Cllr Rowe in order that he may draft a reply and forward the comments to FBC.

iii) Royal Lancashire Show at Myerscough

The Clerk reported that she had forwarded the comments discussed at the Partnership Forum to the Planning Department at WBC. She has also requested that the PC be included in any further consultation regarding this proposal.

5. LEISURE AND AMENITIES

i) Playground Refurbishment/SITA Grant

Nil to report.

6. FINANCE

i) Expenditure November 2007

| Date | To Whom | Reason for Payment | Chq No | Nett (£) | VAT (£) | TOTAL (£) |
|----------|------------------------|---|--------|----------|---------|-----------|
| 12.11.07 | Powergen | Electricity Monthly payment | DDebit | 159.15 | 27.85 | £187.00 |
| 29.11.07 | V Elvy | Wages (Nov) | 100024 | £144.15 | £0.00 | £144.15 |
| 29.11.07 | G Thornley | Wages (Nov) | 100025 | 445.10 | 0.00 | 445.10 |
| 29.11.07 | A Atkinson | Mowing and Flower Bed Maintenance | 100025 | 510.00 | 0.00 | 510.00 |
| 29.11.07 | HM Revenue and Customs | Income Tax and NI Contributions (Dec&Nov) | 100027 | 13.16 | 0.00 | 13.16 |
| 29.11.07 | G Thornley | Reimbursement | 100028 | 84.98 | 11.94 | 96.92 |
| 29.11.07 | G Thornley | Mowing of Village inc Football Pitch | 100029 | 232.00 | 0.00 | 232.00 |
| 29.11.07 | V Elvy | Reimbursement | 100030 | 14.88 | 0.00 | 14.88 |
| 29.11.07 | Emmington Electrical | Compacter Sacks (Inv 10001052) | 100031 | 80.00 | 14.00 | 94.00 |
| 29.11.07 | Elswick VH | Use of Room (Inv 61) | 100032 | 40.00 | 0.00 | 40.00 |
| 29.11.07 | HS Dransfield | Skip Hire (Inv EPC45) | 100033 | 160.00 | 28.00 | 188.00 |
| 29.11.07 | HS Dransfield | Skip Hire (Inv EPC42 copy) | 100034 | 80.00 | 14.00 | 94.00 |
| 29.11.07 | Fylde Borough Council | Recharge Election Expenses (Inv 3031220) | 100035 | 25.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 |
| 29.11.07 | BDO Stoy Hayward LLP | External Audit Fee | 100036 | 420.00 | 73.50 | 493.50 |
| 30.11.07 | G Hall | Bowling Green Contract | SOrder | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| 12.12.07 | Powergen | Electricity Monthly Payment | DDebit | 159.15 | 27.85 | 187.00 |
| 27.12.07 | V Elvy | Wages (Dec) | 100037 | 144.15 | 0.00 | 144.15 |
| 27.12.07 | G Thornley | Wages (Dec) | 100038 | 363.30 | 0.00 | 363.30 |
| 30.12.07 | G Hall | Bowling Green Contract | SOrder | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |

07/109 Resolved: that these accounts are to be paid.

ii) Income November 2007

| Date | Received from | Reason for Payment | Payment Type | Amount (£) |
|----------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| 29.11.07 | Gt Ecc Meth Football Team | MUGA use | Cash | 40.00 |

07/110 Resolved: Income acknowledged. It will be paid into the bank account.

07/111 Resolved: Cllr Emmington was given authority to purchase Christmas Tree lights from Blackpool Borough Council up to £250 as the previous set had been vandalised.

iii) External Audit 2006/2007

Cllr Hayhurst highlighted the findings of the External Auditor's Report. A number of points were raised; these have been assessed and, where necessary, controls put in place for next year. The Completion of the Audit Notice has been sited. Following a risk assessment it was:

07/112 Resolved: that the Fidelity Insurance is adequate to cover the risks involved as three signatures are required to access money from the Bank Accounts and no Petty Cash is held.

07/113 Resolved: that an audit date of 1.8.08 will be requested.

iv) Precept and Open Space Grant 2008/2009

The Open Space Grant application was considered.

07/114 Resolved: To submit the Grant Application for 2008/2009.

07/115 Resolved: To discuss the 2008/2009 Precept at the February Meeting.

v) 2007/2008 Budget Review

The budget is split into a number of areas. It was noted that the overall projected spend to end March 2008 is on target and within budget.

07/116 Resolved: Cllr Chedd will undertake an internal audit of the financial work the Clerk has undertaken in the last six months.

vi) Banking Arrangements

The Clerk confirmed that the RBS account had now been closed with the transfer of all funds into the HSBC account. She confirmed the interest rates available at HSBC and it was:

07/117 Resolved: to move £30,000 into a High Interest Bond for six months to maximise revenue.

7. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dist Cllr Hayhurst confirmed that he had withdrawn from the Independent Group. He will continue to represent Elswick and Little Eccleston with Larbreck as a Non-Aligned Independent candidate and work for the people Rural Fylde. He explained the situation regarding the Cabinet system.

8. POLICE

PC Lyons reported that there had been two crimes (thefts) between 31.8.07 and 29.11.07. Hampers of seized alcohol are distributed to the elderly over Christmas. However, she was happy to report that no alcohol had been seized in Elswick this year. The Christmas Drink/Drive campaign has commenced. Cllr Taylor reported that a number of cars are parking at the bend on Roseacre Drive and this is causing a potential hazard. PC Lyons will discuss this with the appropriate residents. Cllr James asked for confirmation as to when Special Constable Neil Hudson will be on the Beat and PC Lyons will confirm this.

Cllr James requested assistance from the Council in completing a questionnaire regarding Community Meetings/Forums. This was done and will be returned.

9. PARISH PLAN

i) New Website

This was discussed and

07/118 Resolved: that it should be implemented in the early new year, preferably January.

10. OPEN SPACE GRANT

i) SITA Grant Application – Duplicate agenda item. See agenda item 5i.

ii) Bowling Green

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in this topic and spoke only as a representative of the BG Committee. The Green is improving. The AGM is to be held in January and it was agreed to consider the budget and ascertain whether this amenity could continue to be funded in the event of equitable taxation.

07/119 Resolved: to place this item on the January agenda.

iii) Summer Bedding 2008

The Financial Regulations were considered during this discussion.

07/120 Resolved: Summer Bedding Contract will be put out to tender with a view to a three year contract.

07/121 Resolved: Planting, flower maintenance and grass cutting contracts expire in one year.

07/122 Resolved: Commence work on updating and revising the above contract (Resolution 07/121).

iv) Trees to the Rear of The Meadows and Ronwood Close

The Clerk reported that another complaint had been received regarding the trees.

07/123 Resolved: the Councillors will review the situation on site.

v) Breathing Spaces Grant

07/124 Resolved: to prepare an application for the grant with a view to creating a wildlife meadow.

11. AMENITY CLEANSING

Nil to report.

12. MAINTENANCE WORK

i) Dyke Clearance – Resolution 07/102

Due to the soft ground a caterpillar will be required. David Thistlethwaite will be approached to assist in this task.

07/125 Resolved: to undertake the work with the proviso it does not exceed £250.

13. HIGHWAYS

- i) Roseacre Road and Larbreck Avenue road signs

These road signs have still not been replaced though it was noted that the Finger post had been.

07/126 Resolved: The Clerk will contact FBC regarding this.

- ii) Gully Clearance

07/127 Resolved: the Clerk will contact LCC again.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

- i) Lancashire Civic County Epiphany Service 13 January 08 Blackburn Cathedral 6.30pm – noted.

- ii) LCC Climate Change Strategy – available on web for comment by 14.1.08 – noted.

- iii) Bottle Bank

It was reported that FBC will not return the Bottle Banks to the Boot and Shoe Pub unless they accept t all types of recyclable items.

07/128 Resolved: to contact FBC to explain there are no recycling facilities in Elswick and a bottle bank is better than no facility at all.

15. COUNCIL DIARY

Noted.

16. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 24 January 2008 at 7.45pm in Elswick and District Village Hall

07/129 Resolved: to continue meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month with the exception of December.

07/130 Resolved: to publish meetings in the InFocus magazine and on the Noticeboards.

Signed: Chairman Date

Signed: Clerk Date