

Elsenham Rights of Way & Open Spaces Committee

Committee Meeting

Friday 30th September 2022 at 2.15 pm
in Elsenham Memorial Hall

Present:

Graham Mott (GM) (Elsenham Parish Council EPC, P3 rep)
Stewart Pimblett (SP)
Heather Salvidge (HS) (Tree Warden)
Margaret Shaw (MS) (Secretary)
Dave Verlander (DV)
Sue Waite (SW) (EPC)
Kevin Wood (KW)

GM chaired the meeting.

Apologies:

Paul Salvidge (PS)

Not present:

Bianca Donald (BD) EPC)

Declarations of Interest:

MS/SW/DV (Trustees of Elsenham Memorial Hall)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 8th July

The Chairman signed the minutes as a correct record.

GM will deliver a signed copy to Louise Johnson (LJ) (EPC Clerk.)

MS will forward an electronic copy to LJ.

GM will pass draft minutes onto the EPC website manager.

Action: GM / MS

Matters Arising from meeting held on 8th July not on Agenda

P3 KW will go on the ECC brushcutter course next week. EPC have paid for the brushcutter service and KW's protective equipment. MS is reclaiming from P3.

Action: KW / MS

Parish Council Chairman's report

UTT/21/2461/DFO Land To The West Of Isabel Drive Elsenham on two sites.

(FP31 & FP32) (Dandara Eastern 99 homes)

Detailed Planning application was withdrawn just prior to the Planning Committee meeting.

UTT/19/0462/FUL Land West Of Hall Road (FP13) (Bovis Homes 130 homes)

S106 agreement signed. EPC have asked for assurances that FP13 will be kept open during construction work.

UTT/21/3269/DFO - Land To The North West Of Henham Road

(FP21 Elsenham) (Bloor Homes 350 homes)

Building work has started and FP21 has been kept open, although a diversion has also

been granted.

UTT/20/2908/OP Land South of Bedwell Road

(FP29 Ugley) (Rochester Properties 50 homes)

No appeal submitted yet.

UTT/19/0437/OP Rush Lane

(FP29 Elsenham) Detailed planning application still awaited.

PINS Section 62A Application: S62A/22/0007 Land to the South of Henham Road

(FP13 Elsenham) (Country Side Properties 130 Homes)

Planning application indicates that the route of FP13 will be preserved (although probably under an estate road). A "Heritage Trail" is proposed around the perimeter. EPC has objected. After initial approval indicated by UDC Officers, the UDC Planning Committee has decided to register their concerns.

North of Elsenham Station

(FP15 Henham) (Bloor Homes 200 houses adjacent to UTT/21/3269/DFO - Land To The North West Of Henham Road). An planning application is planned but Bloor have yet to decide if it will be to UDC or the Planning Inspectorate.

Open Spaces

Spinney Wildflower Area

HS / PS did 1st autumn cut & HS organised a working party on 29/09/22 to rake off arisings.

Spinney

A volunteer working party will be required in early 2023.

The North Western section will need some professional reduction work over the winter.

SP/PS/HS to decide what needs doing and ask LJ to go out to tender.

Action: PS / HS / SP

New Road Wildflower Area

MS will circulate the plan just received from Ben Brown (UDC Environmental Services).

He has requested that a baseline survey of the sites be undertaken.

Action: HS / KW / SW

The committee agreed that the proposals outlined weere appropriate & it was agreed that KW would respond to the email & liaise with UDC.

Action: KW

Wildflower Triangle on Playing Field

The area will be strimmed in October

Yellow Rattle spreading. Buddleia, foxgloves & mallow have taken.

Winter heliotrope to be moved here from Leigh Way in early October.

HS will organise a working party.

Action: HS

Leigh Way resurfacing

DV asked that the contractors be made aware that water & sewerage pipes & electricity cables serving the Playing Field structures run under the existing path, and that the telephone cable runs just underground on along the north side.

Action: GM / BD / SW / LJ

Oziers Green

A resident has raised the problem of other residents parking on the Green. It will be difficult to dissuade people from parking there if there is nowhere else for them to park.

MS to find out if the concrete parking area, that is in a poor state of repair, is part of the ECC adopted roadway.

HS recalled that there was a legal agreement between the developers & EPC when the land was handed to EPC. GM to ask LJ to look in the archive.

Action: MS / GM

UDC Tree Planting Initiative

SP said there was nowhere appropriate on Tye Green.

It was suggested that around the perimeter of the Playing Field and in the area north of the Bowling Green might be suitable. This would need to be investigated by the Playing Field Committee.

Action: GM / SW / BD

Rights of Way

FP4

Ned Gemmill (ECC PRoW Officer) (NG) reports that Simon Taylor (ECC Enforcement Officer) (ST) is dealing & that Mr. Herbert has agreed to install suitable gates where the footpath crosses his land.

FP12 near the BOAT

This had been cleared but SP reported that a crab apple tree has fallen. He has reported it to the landowners' contractors.

FP13 at Fullers End

HS reported that ECC see no need to reinstate the Public Footpath sign at Fullers End.

FP13 at Hall Road

This is not usable. EPC will discuss with developers.

Action: GM

FP17

Following a complaint by a resident ECC confirmed that their contractors had missed the path in the annual cut and they would be returning to do it.

This prompted a review of all the paths on the cutting schedule. Those that appear to have been missed are:

FP18/BW33; FP22; FP26; FP28. These will be / have been reported to NG.

Action: MS

FP21 between the Crown & the old Cricket Pitch ref 2793515.

The landowner has installed cut down telegraph poles at either end. These were reported to ECC & investigated by NG. He visited the site & writes *"I also spoke with the landowner and let them know that the current gap size isn't big enough. The legal minimum width of a gap along a footpath is 1.1m, it is questionable however whether they could get away with calling the western end a gap and should probably be 1.5m. However, as they are having the issue with motorbikes, I did say we would allow a 1.1m gap at both ends.*

I have also sent them a letter specifying this. If they do continue having the motorbike issue, they will need to report this to the police and if they can get an incident number, then we could consider installing staggered barriers to try and reduce this"

FP22 / FP15 Henham ref 2662891

Badger Setts are making the route of the PRow hazardous so the access from FP22 is not usable. NG writes (22/9/22): *"I was waiting until the path was cut during the summer cut but when I last checked two weeks ago, this was missed. I contacted the cutting contractors and asked for them to go back and do this one as well as a few others around Elsenham, which they have agreed to do. When this has been done, I will go back and get some better photos and contact the Badger Group"*.

Hedge Cutting Contract

The EROWOS Terms of Reference have been updated to include:

4. Delegated Authority and Powers

- j) Be responsible for all hedges upon land within the ownership of the Council and for initiating the annual maintenance programme and obtain the necessary quotations for the required maintenance in accordance with the prepared schedule works.

GM has circulated a **Schedule of hedges for maintenance, October 2022** which will go via LJ for quotations. The quotes will be shared with this committee for comment. When work completed we will check the work before payment is authorised.

Action: GM / All

SP suggested that we put an article in Elsenham News asking residents to cut back their own hedges where they overhang the footway.

Action: MS

Tree Warden's Reports

HS has circulated updates. Thank you.

HS has cut back the growth around FP4 Fingerpost.

Village Walks

To be discussed in detail at next meeting. Start at 11am on 26th December.

GM to advise MS of start point by 7th November. MS to put article in Elsenham News.

Action: GM / MS

AOB

PS asked that Estate Agents that have placed advertising boards on De Mandeville Green are told to desist. Details to be sent to LJ.

Action: KW / GM

Next meeting

Friday 18th November 2022 2pm in the Memorial Hall. MS to book.

Action: MS / ALL