

Elsenham Parish Council

Playing Field Committee Meeting held at 7.00pm in Old Franks, Elsenham on Wednesday 26 June 2024

MINUTES

Present:

Mrs. S Waite (Chair, SW), Mrs. F Lambert (FL), Mr. J Minor (JM), Dr. G Mott (GM)

Members of the public: 0

In the absence of the Parish Clerk, the minutes were taken by GM

1. Apologies for absence.

Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk, LJ)

Apologies for lateness

Mr. P Jarvis (PJ)

Not present

Mrs. B Donald (BD)

2. Declaration of Interests.

None

3. Open to the public.

None present

4. Approval of the minutes held on 22 May 2024.

The minutes were signed by SW as a true and accurate record.

5. Items brought forward from the meeting on 22 May 2024

5.1. Weeds in Children's play area and open space on Isabel Drive.

It was noted that BD said at the meeting on 22 May that EAGLES might be prepared to take over the open area on the left of Isabel Drive (adjacent to the new entrance road to the Dandara development), but nothing was known further. **Action: BD**

It was noted that no quotations have been received for resurfacing of the pathway through the play area. It was agreed that an acceptable, and cheaper, alternative would be if weed-killer was sprayed twice a year, in June and October. It was agreed that Mick Burke should be asked to quote for the current year, with the first application early in July. The weed-killer used must be in accordance with UDC policy.

PJ joined the meeting

Action: LJ to ask Mick Burke

5.2. Grass growing through the new paths in the children's play area.

Dania have applied weed-killer, as requested. GM observed that, while the grass has died off, it cannot be pulled out, but that might be possible later. It was agreed that it might be necessary to apply weed-killer again, possibly in October, and that in the longer term a contract might be needed to apply weed-killer in June and October, as with the Isabel Drive play area.

5.3. Does Dania guarantee an insurance backed guarantee?

It was noted that no reply has been received from Dania, and that it is now unlikely that they will be heard from on this subject.

JM proposed that we should approach our insurers to establish, in the first instance, whether the guarantee is insurance backed. If not, we should ask what the premium would be to make the conversion

Action: LJ

6. Playing Field and Play Area

6.1. Green bin and dumping in the top car park.

Thanks were expressed to Allan Hathaway for arranging for dumped material to be removed as part of the clear-up operation following the Village Fete.

It was agreed that a large notice should be attached to the container, with the words:

ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council use only

Not for public use

No fly-tipping

Action: LJ

FL undertook to include an item in *Elsenham News*, with a picture.

Action: FL

PJ had found a utility bill in the container, with the name and address:

Mrs C Smyth, 2 Southfield Close, Elsenham, Bishop's Stortford, CM22 6YF

GM had found that rubbish had been dumped between the container and the clothes recycling bin since the area was cleared on Saturday. The name and address shown is:

Craig Carey, 23 Honeysuckle Walk, Elsenham, Bishop's Stortford, CM22 6ZL.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to both these persons, informing them that the container is for PC use only, and that the area is not a dumping ground.

Action: LJ

GM said that near the basketball hoop, beside the container used by EYFC, there are many empty white paint containers. PJ said that he used to clear these from time to time when he had a close connection to EYFC. It was agreed that EYFC should be asked to clear them.

Action: LJ

6.2. Map of areas not to be mown.

Nothing had been received.

GM reported that the meeting of Finance Committee on Monday noted that various requests had been received for leaving areas unmown, but that these had not been formalized and no changes had been made to the grass-cutting contract. It was therefore decided that any changes already agreed should be continued, but that no more would be considered until the situation was regularized. To this end, a Working Party responsible to Finance Committee would be set up, with two members from each of Finance Committee (FL and SW, who could also represent Playing Field Committee), Flowerbeds Committee and EROWOS.

6.3. Paths in the children's play area.

SW, GM and LJ met James from AJD Landscapes on 3 June, but presumably no quotation has been received. The PC cannot continue on the basis of the one quotation submitted. AJD Landscapes should be given a reminder. **Action: LJ**

6.4. Permission to start selling food refills and cleaning and laundry product refills from a 1970's converted milk float. This would be occasionally in the bottom car park of the playing field. See Helen Scots email 21 June 2024.

Members were agreeable to the request. It was pointed out that the suggestion that the facility should be on a Thursday to coincide with Coco Fleur is not now viable since the latter has withdrawn. It was agreed to suggest Tuesdays, to coincide with TouchPoint and the cafe, with the regularity at the provider's discretion. It would be necessary to arrive at about 8.30, to be sure of a favourable position in the lower car park. **Action: LJ**

7. RoSPA Report

Not all members had reviewed the report, although it was established that all had received it. Consideration was deferred until the next meeting.

8. Outdoor Gym.

Update Meeting with Ricky.

Ricky Lambourne, EYFC, had said that in his view there is space for the outdoor gym in the area of the playing field closest to the entrance from Leigh Drive. The area gets waterlogged at times. It was noted that a night-vision camera would be needed.

There was uncertainty as to whether picnic tables could be sited on the triangle bordered by the footpath running from Leigh Way to the Memorial Hall, the children's play area, and the lower car park. No decision was made as to the siting of a table tennis table.

It was agreed that JM could go ahead with the search for funding. **Action: JM**

9. Isabel Drive play area.

Moving the litter bin.

It was agreed that as Mick Burke has not moved the bin, it is unlikely that he will do so now. The possibility of removing the bin was not agreed. It was agreed that a notice, to be screwed firmly to the bin, should be provided:

ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Children's play area
No dog waste please**

Action: LJ

10. AOB

GM referred to AOB from the meeting on 22 May:

GM mentioned the recent occasion when a dog was reported in the children's play area. He said that a 'No Dogs' notice is to be found a short distance from the entrance to the play area. SW undertook to inspect, with a view to asking Mick Burke to move the notice so that it is on the entrance gate to the play area

SW undertook to take action as agreed.

Action: SW

GM asked whether UDC are now watering the three new trees, in accordance with their undertaking to water them in summer. UDC should be asked; SW will water the trees meanwhile, if necessary.

Action: LJ and SW

11. To agree the date of the next meeting

The last Wednesday in July, 31 July

The meeting finished at 8.25 pm.