

**Playing Field Committee Meeting
Held at 7.00pm in Old Frank's, Elsenham
on Wednesday 31 July 2024**

MINUTES

Present:

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

Members of the public: 2

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

1. Apologies for absence.

Mrs. B Donald (BD), Mr P Jarvis (PJ), Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk, LJ)

2. Declaration of Interests.

None

3. Open to the public.

As the two member of the public present had a particular interest in 6.2, that item was taken first.

6.2 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). **Action: BD.**

The document 'Isabel Drive wildflower project' with accompanying map, prepared by BD, was considered.

The two members of the public present were representing EAGLES. Various points were discussed, as summarised below.

Grass cutting on the wildflower area should be restricted to one a year, and the cuttings should be removed. It was explained that a Grass Cutting Contract Working Party has recently been established (members include BD, FL and SW) in order to make explicit the grass-cutting regime on all the areas which are the responsibility of the PC, to take effect from 2025. The specific requirements for the area should be included.

SW said that funding of sand, wildflower seeds and signage should not be a problem.

Ground preparation is needed; yellow rattle should be introduced, in order to keep down the grass which will otherwise grow naturally.

EAGLES felt that the bin where sited next to the bench is unpleasant, but it was pointed out that moving the bin would be costly, and a bin cover might be a better solution.

JM pointed out that the area falls within the provision made in the S106 which includes the children's play area on the other side of Isabel Drive. S106 funds could be drawn upon, within reason.

In reply to GM, it was confirmed that hedges should continue to be clipped, and the area will therefore be included in the hedge maintenance schedule. The PC will go out to tender for all the hedges within its control, and the work will be done probably in December.

EAGLES said that the aim would be to get residents involved. The project will not work if something is imposed upon them, and they would then be willing to help with maintenance. Details of how this is to be done will be fleshed out. A Facebook group was mentioned.

The area has no shade. EAGLES will look to plant trees, in consultation.

SW said that there is a need to decide next steps. A meeting should be held on site. From September, there should be discussions as to how to take the project forward.

The two members of the public left the meeting.

Ricky Lambourne (Chair, Elsenham Youth Football Club, RL) joined the meeting.

4. Approval of the minutes held on 26 June 2024.

The minutes were signed by SW as a true and accurate record, and will be delivered by GM to LJ.

5. Elsenham Youth Football Club.

5.1. Planning discussions for Bloor homes.

It was explained that this should more properly be considered by Planning Committee. GM confirmed, however, that Bloor have been advised that the original plans should be adhered to.

5.2. Potential plans for repainting of the club's container, also the placement of the Elsenham badge.

It was confirmed that the Committee is agreeable to repainting and inclusion of the badge, at EYFC's discretion and at their cost.

5.3. Weed Spraying – BD.

It was confirmed that there is no issue. The contractor will ensure that chemicals are used in a safe and responsible manner.

5.4. Other matters

GM expressed thanks for clearing away the paint containers, and drew attention to the many pieces of cardboard packaging adjacent to the club's container. RL gave assurances that these will be moved soon, and certainly before the next rain. The goals will also be moved.

RL said, for information, that the Club is now running 28 teams, including girls and adults.

RL left the meeting.

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

6.1. Weeds in Children's play area and open space on Isabel Drive. **Has now been sprayed.**

6.2. 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). **Action: BD.**
See above, after 3.

6.3. Grass growing through the new paths in the children's play area. Long term a contract might be needed to apply week-killer in June and October, as with the Isabel Drive play area.
Mick Burke should be asked if he would be prepared to give a price. **Action: LJ**

6.4. Does Dania guarantee an insurance backed guarantee? **See email 9 July 2024.**
JM said that if the providing company goes out of business, there is no guarantee. The question as to whether the guarantee is insurance backed has not been answered specifically.

It was agreed to take no action, and the PC will, in effect, carry the risk of a claim being made against the guarantee which is found to be non-enforceable.

7. Playing Field and Play Area

7.1. Green bin and dumping in the top car park. **Sign installed, (seems to be working)**
GM said that there is a problem when the clothes recycling bin is full. It is not possible to see that it is full. There is a QR code, and an instruction to use it to request that the bin is emptied. SW agreed to try the code at some time. **Action: SW**
It was agreed that we should ask either for another bin or a larger bin. **Action: LJ**

7.2. Map of areas not to be mown. **Working Group being set up.**

7.3. Paths in the children's play area. **Awaiting third quote from James Laird.**
Received. Company name is Spellbrook Driveways & Landscapes. See 12 below.

7.4. Empty white paint containers - **Been removed.**

7.5. No dogs notice moved onto the entrance gate to the play area. **Action SW.**
It was agreed that the existing notice is in poor condition, and that a new notice should be purchased and placed on the entrance gate. **Action: LJ**

7.6. The swing gate leading onto Station Road. **See note circulated.**
GM and FL pointed out that there is no bumper on the gate at present. Options were considered. JM suggested that a short length of plastic hosepipe might suffice to absorb the noise, and offered to make the experiment. **Action: JM**

7.7. LJ is arranging a yearly check up on the CCTV cameras

8. RoSPA Report

Suggestion, please can we arrange a site meeting, it doesn't have to be everyone; to go through the issues raised by RoSPA, LJ has a printout. **Action: LJ**

9. Outdoor Gym.

Update.

JM provided an update. He has been searching for funding opportunities. It is very difficult to find funding which does not require match-funding. Funding providers are more likely to look favourably on applications if provision is made for the less mobile; disability friendly equipment would be needed. Few grants are available in excess of £10,000.

JM suggested that we could say we are match-funding by providing evidence of S106 funds and then putting the money back into the S106 funds. GM said that funders would probably want evidence that the match funding had been spent; to represent that funds would be spent when that was not the case would be unlikely to satisfy LJ, or the Chair of Finance, and he would be unlikely to support such a procedure himself. Auditors were mentioned by FL.

JM said that at the stage when forms needed to be completed, help would be required, and it was agreed that Cllr Anna Mowbray could be asked to provide assistance.

JM said that he will continue with his researches; it will take time, but there is no urgency.

10. Isabel Drive play area.

Litter bin. Signs waiting to be put up.

It was assumed that the signs are in LJ's possession. It was not known how they might be attached, in particular whether they are flexible enough to go round the bin. FL offered to help if needed.

Action: LJ and FL

11. AOB.

None

Public asked to leave the meeting.

In accordance with section 1 of the Public Bodies (admissions to meeting) Act 1960,

The public and press will be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

12. Extra Paths in the children's play area.

To agree a recommendation to make to the Full Council on who to engage to carry out the extra paths in the children's play area.

Three quotations were considered, and a proposal was agreed to be brought before the meeting of the Parish Council on 5 August.

13. Date of the next meeting, 28 August 2024.

The meeting finished at 9.00 pm