Minutes of the Elstronwick Parish Council

Meeting Held on 21st May 2024 at Elsternwick Methodist Chapel at 7.30 pm

## Annual Parish Meeting

1. Present: Cllrs. Pennington, Burstall, Barker, Frear, Hubbard, Nicholson, Shimmon
2. Members of the Public invited to speak: There were three members of the public present and Mark and Lee from Enviromena.

Enviromena spoke about the solar farm at Daisy Hill Farm and the consultation they had had at Chapel and wanted to know if the Parish Council wanted any information on the proposal. They said there was a community fund of £70,000.00 which would be made available when the project was completed , they said solar farms are unlike wind farms and do not have to give money to the community as they are not under section 106. They are in talks with Burstwick, Burton Pidsea and ourselves as Elstronwick Parish feel they should get some of the allocated money as the Development will affect them. We reiterated to them that the whole project is in the parish of Elstronwick and Lee said that Enviromena were under no obligation to provide any funding to the community. Cllr. Burstall asked for clarification of where the categorisation of the land had come from, Lee will send this to us. He confirmed it was Grade 3b Land so solar farms could be built on this land. If it was 1, 2 or 3a none best and most versatile solar farms could not be built on it.

There would be a nine month construction with about a four month period when most of the lorries will come to site and they are custodians of the land for 40 years. They would like local resources to manage the site if possible. They hope to be out of planning for Christmas but then they have to wait for the National Grid to say they are ready for them, this might be 2 – 3 years ahead.

There could be wild flowers, hedges, bees and grazing sheep under the panels and there will be a hedge around the farm to block the view.

We asked them about lighting in the playing field and they suggested solar lights with a solar panel on the top and a battery, they could get prices for this and would be something they could provide the money for. Battery storage devices for electric are not sustainable and not recommended at the moment as they are not advanced enough to do what we need with them.

2 Local Residents wanted to say the roads are getting busier around the villages and especially their road Southfield Lane as cars speed down there now. They asked if any signs could be placed on the road as they train horses. i.e. slow signs of horse signs. The Parish Council advised signage can be requested and reported online via the ERYC portal.

Also there are a lot of pot holes around the village, Cllr. Burstall and Cllr. Pennington encouraged residents to complain to the Council about these as well so there are more reports with ERYC to do something.

Lastly the boundary fence on the Playing Field side of the east field is broken and the Sycamore tree seedlings are poisonous and could kill their horses so they are unable to use that part of the field. Cllr. Nicholson said she would take this to the Playing Field Committee.

The meeting closed

**Annual Parish Council Meeting**

1. Present: Cllrs. Pennington, Burstall, Barker, Frear, Hubbard, Nicholson, Shimmon
2. Election of Chairperson

Mr Burstall Proposed and by Mr Shimmon seconded that Mrs Pennington should be elected – all agreed – Mrs Pennington accepted

1. Acceptance of office of Chairperson

Mrs Pennington signed the acceptance of office

1. Apologies: None Absent: None
2. Minutes of the Last APCM:

The minutes of the meeting on the 16th May 2023 were accepted as a true record and signed.

1. Matters Arising: None
2. Election of Officers/ Committees:
   1. Vice Chairperson –Mr Barker proposed and Mrs Pennington seconded that Mr Burstall should be elected – all agreed – Mr Burstall accepted.
   2. Elstronwick & Danthorpe Playing Field – Mrs Pennington proposed and Mr Shimmon seconded that Mrs Nicholson be re-elected – all agreed – Mrs Nicholson accepted.
   3. The Thompsons Charity – Mrs Pennington proposed and Mr Barker seconded that Mr Burstall should be re-elected – all agreed – Mr Burstall accepted.
3. Chairperson’s Report:

We started this financial year wondering if we would be viable as a council with going down to just four councillors. Fortunately, we are now at a healthy 7 and welcome our new additions, Brenda Frear and Jim Hubbard, both of Lelley.

Amongst enquiries and concerns raised over the last year were bollards, verges, stagnant water, fire hydrants, rubbish bins (THE BINS!), Lelley’s noticeboard, finger boards for footpaths and bridleways, village signs, speed limit signs, pot holes, hydrogen pipelines, missing man hole covers, speed limits, traffic calming measures, flood-risk, ditches, defibrillators, culverts and gullies. All in a year’s work for our parish council. We correspond with adjacent parishes when matters relating arise such as the fatal crash last year on Fieldend Lane in Elstronwick. We are in regular communication with ERYC often using the same methods that are available to all residents in reporting concerns to do with highways, signage, flooding and traffic concerns.

We did request a supply of sand bags to be kept near to the beck (between Elstronwick and Danthorpe) but have not heard back from ERYC as yet. This is a regular occurrence and we do have to persist as a council and as individual residents and interested parties if we feel we must be heard. I implore those who recognise a need to use the identified channels and keep working together for positive change. Our parish is small and if we think of everybody as a neighbour we can only hope to see positive outcomes.

Planning applications saw several applications for the removal of trees in Lelley. We often, if not always, request that ERYC request the landowner plants a new tree in place of the old. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing whether this happens. Given the general age of the parish council it will be our children and their children who reap the benefit of these requests.

Enquiries have not provided us with any information on who deemed it necessary to cut down two roadside trees in Elstronwick in October last year. It is not quite the same as the Sycamore Gap tree but we must be vigilant with elements that enhance our human lives and are essential to other lives.

On that wildlife note, we gave out the bee friendly seed shakers last year: please sprinkle these around if you didn’t manage to in our dry summer!

Thank you to all parishioners who have attended and / or put forward their ideas, thoughts or concerns. Thank you to Mary Jane, Parish Clerk, who provides valuable assistance with maintaining contact with the ERYC, other local groups and is so very helpful when it comes to procedures and guidelines (of which it feels there are many). Thank you to all the parish councillors, Andrew Shimmen, Karen Nicholson, Michael Barker and Patrick Burstall, who give up their time to attend meetings, offer advice, research issues, maintain the website, deal with enquiries and get hands on when necessary as it is all on a voluntary basis. The experience of each and willingness to discuss issues, ideas, plan and work as a team who respects one another’s contribution is vital. The hard work and dedication of the clerk and councillors is so important to getting things done in the parish and you are all very much appreciated. Your knowledge and love of the area is invaluable.

Special thanks goes to those people, resident or not, who volunteer their time to keeping Danthorpe, Elstronwick and Lelley looking their best, either litter picking, maintaining the playing field, bus shelter and the community library, war memorial, verges, hedgerows and trees sympathetically to the all important wildlife. Also, the people who volunteer their time creating and running events in the villages, such as the church, chapel, playing field and also looking after those who need support. I am sure there are people I have omitted and sincere apologies to them. Please know that your contribution is valued and I write this in time between nursery drop-off and collection with our four-year old chasing about.

1. Elstronwick & Danthorpe Playing Field Report:

Mrs Nicholson said there had been some very successful events in the playing field this year, Carols in the Church was very successful and the Easter Egg Hunt which had all been well attended. The other fundraising events were not as successful due to the ether not being very good on the day. They have a good committee who all work hard. Eventually the wooden play equipment will need replacing as the playing field is well used by a lot of people.

1. Code of Conduct - Review of Interests:

The Councillors signed their declaration of interests for the coming year. If any changes happen the Councillors must inform the Clerk within 28 days. The new members signed the Member Coded of Conduct.

1. Presentation of Accounts and Budget:

The accounts and budget were presented. There were no comments on the account and Mr Burstall proposed and Mrs Pennington seconded that they were accepted and signed. The Clerk was thanked for preparing them.

1. Appointment of Internal Auditor:

Mr Burstall proposed and Mrs Pennington seconded that Mr D Scruton should be appointed as the Internal Auditor for the coming year.

1. Review of Clerks Salary

There has not been any communication regarding the new rates yet, the Clerk to bring this when it is received.

1. Review of Risk Assessments

The Risk Assessments were reviewed and no changes were made.

1. Review of Standing Orders

The Standing Orders were reviewed and no changes were made.

1. Review of Complaints Procedure

The complaints procedure was reviewed and no changes were made.

1. Review of Financial Regulations

The complaints procedure was reviewed and no changes were made.

1. Review of Privacy Notice

The complaints procedure was reviewed and no changes were made.

1. Review of Policies
   1. Health & Safety
   2. Equality & Diversity
   3. Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults
   4. Social Media & Electronic Communication Policy

These were all reviewed and no changes were made.

1. Dates of meetings throughout the year:

2nd July, 3rd September, 12th November, 7th January 2025, 4th March, 6th May APCM – all meetings will start at 7.30 pm and will be held at Elsternwick Methodist Chapel

The meeting closed.