

ELKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Elkesley Memorial Hall
on Thursday 8 May 2025 at 7.15pm
DRAFT UNTIL RATIFIED

Present : Councillors J Skelton, J O'Brien, J Gilson, L Ashley and M Stronach

Others : District Councillor C Adams, the Clerk and 1 member of public attended

2291/25) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Wright and T MacIntosh, and new County Councillor K Wright.

2292/25) Public Session

This item was brought forward to allow District Councillor Adams to give an update on the Brough Lane situation, following on from refusal of the planning application. Cllr Adam also confirmed that the proposal for CCTV in the village was still in the pipeline.

Cllr Adams and the member of public left the meeting at 7.22pm

2293/25) Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 16 May 2024 were approved.

2294/25) Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chair read out his report which is attached to these minutes.*

2295/25) Reports from Village Organisations

Cllr Gilson gave a report on behalf of Elkesley Memorial Hall. Weekly activities at the hall now include Brownies, line dancing, Chatty Friday and a food van as the bar is open on a Friday evening. It is hoped to restart boules, and an outdoor table tennis table will be installed. Outdoor seating and a general improvement to the surroundings will encourage visitors to the hall. Further social events, including Christmas time, have helped towards the costs of equipment needed. The Idle Times will be used to advertise future events for the village.

The Chair ended the meeting at 7.46pm

Signed

Chair

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***Chair's Annual Report 2024-25**

As the Chair of the Parish Council since October 2019, I would like to thank the constant and consistent efforts of our Parish Councillors who make every effort to make our community the place we all want it to be.

Please remember as I often remind people, this role is voluntary, none of us get paid, so every effort made is solely out of the love and passion for the place we all call home. It would also be remiss of me not to thank those who have contributed towards the village over the past twelve months in other areas, whether that be picking up and collecting litter, attending our meetings, reporting ASB or other issues to the Council, Highways or the Police or purely for engaging with those who do.

During this period we have welcomed three new Councillors onto the Parish Council who have already made their mark and frequently discharge their duties in their roles, it's nice to have you on board: Leona Ashley, Jamie Gilson and Jamie Wright.

As the incumbent Chair, I am supported by Vice-chair Jan O'Brien who always has and will no doubt remain my "right hand man, or woman if you like", as always also thanks to Mick Stronach, who has been a long-standing member of the council for many years and after a short period of illness he is fully back into the swing of things the way you know him!

Also it's a welcome to our newest Parish Councillor Tom Macintosh who joined us at our last meeting in April. It's always nice to have volunteers who also want to get involved and help shape their village and volunteer their time for the benefit of all. Tom thanks again and welcome.

Those who attend the monthly meetings will know I usually give a report on what the council and/or councillors have been doing for the community:-

As a whole, the Parish Council are responsible for grass cutting of the open spaces, such as the playing field and cemetery. JW Services were contracted to do this last year, and despite a heavy workload to get on top of the job, the season finished with everything in hand. We're now in a position of control over the grassed areas in the village and once again Jamie is hard at it keeping our communal areas looking great having been reinstated for another year.

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I can now update you that Elkesley PC have now handed over responsibility for maintenance of the Church Yard to BDC, they will take over the cutting of the grass. We appreciate they haven't so far attended and done any cutting, so as a result, we've scheduled in one last cut from the PC to keep it in good shape and so that the handover/transition period runs seamlessly. This in turn gives Jamie the chance to put more of his time and effort into the other public areas of the village.

In June of 2024, we said goodbye to our lovely clerk, Wendy Davies, who had served for many years. She was replaced by Cheryl Day, who is working hard to keep up with Wendy's legacy and she's doing an incredible job. Cheryl is absolutely on the ball with all things Parish Council and anything she doesn't know, she's quick to find out. It's a genuine and sincere thanks from me Cheryl, you work really hard for our Council and make my job very easy.

There was a Christmas Lights event in December, which saw the coming together of the parish council and the memorial hall committee. I'm sure you'll all agree that the event went really well, with catering vans and craft stalls to entertain everyone, along with visits from Santa himself and that all so special Christmas feeling in the air...

Over the Christmas period, there was also sadly a number of occasions where the village defibrillators were needed. This brought a new focus to the parish council, and I am proud to say I secured charity funding to provide a third public defibrillator at Starbucks, alongside the existing devices at the shop and on High Street. The one at Starbucks also houses a major bleed / trauma kit within the box, should the worst happen.

So please spread this far and wide as none of us know when any of this kit will be needed. It's a heartfelt thanks to Estelle of Heartbeatz DN22 for supplying us this very expensive and modern equipment and she genuinely has my backing in all the good she does in trying to secure funds and secure equipment to help save lives far and wide.

We also hosted two training sessions, courtesy of Retford Lions, to refocus everyone's minds on life-saving CPR and defibrillator use, which again is an invaluable tool and practical knowledge, that one day may also need to be utilised and the chances are you may help to save someone's life.

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Also once again a massive thanks to Starbucks at Elkesley who in essence remain a very key "sponsor" in our efforts to make sure we have vital life-saving equipment in our village. In a meeting last year they agreed to pledge £300 per year to the PC to be put towards vital life-saving equipment and true to their word, we had the £300.00 for this year only a few weeks ago, so again massive thanks to them.

We are hoping to move forward this coming year with positive changes to the playing field. Cheryl and I have met several companies who supply and fit sports equipment and play equipment and we continue to seek out grants and funds to achieve this. In short, we are looking at a structure similar to the current MUGA which is a small football area with goals, we are looking at a similar frame but housing a tennis court which I know many would use. On the outside would be other activities painted that the kids may use such as football targets and cricket stumps. Keep your eyes peeled for this!!

Also a massive thanks to Paul Morris who has taken on the challenge of trying to improve and increase the size of our football pitch, his knowledge and enthusiasm is great to see and I welcome his continued efforts. As the journey started many years ago by Neil, it's great to see someone else with some passion picking up the mantle and continuing to get us better sports facilities, this will hopefully also reignite potentially for funding for changing rooms etc.

Also massive thanks to our Neighbourhood planning committee consisting of: Neil Oldbury, Paul Morris, John and Pat Douglas, David Pell and Mark Crossley. Each and every one of these individuals have made massive efforts around our Village Plan and work tirelessly to make sure we are up to date with new info, facts, figures and policy and legislation changes. What they don't know between them about our village / community isn't worth knowing.

I know a considerable amount of work has gone in behind the scenes and it's again a massive thanks for all your efforts and sorry I'm not there more to help out. Sue Creedy also deserves a mention in this arena, again she played a pivotal role and put in an extreme amount of effort in the planning stages.

As the year ends, it's also thanks to District Councillor Charlie Adams and previous County Councillor Nigel Turner for their past year's service to Elkesley. Any personal opinions aside regarding local or National Politics, what I will say is these guys also fight tirelessly to make our village the place we all want it to be.

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Both find me frequently at the end of the phone, a text message or via Facebook appraising them of developments, issues and projects, and both are always more than happy to get stuck in and help to make this place the best it can be.

Although he can't be here tonight due to prior VE day commitments already scheduled in, it's a massive congratulations and welcome to Nigel's replacement Cllr Kelvin Wright who takes over as County Councillor for our area. I'm sure he'll be more than willing to get involved and hopefully he'll be in attendance at our next meeting to introduce himself and his vision.

The parish council meets almost every month at the memorial hall, with meeting dates arranged to fit in with the councillors' busy schedules as most of us also hold full time jobs. There are still vacancies on the Parish Council if any residents feel they could play a part in making life in Elkesley better. I'm not saying you have to take on the world, I'm not demanding all of your time, simply that small piece of the jigsaw you may hold which could fit into place to make the jigsaw complete.

I never imagined that I'd still be here 6 years later, but this voluntary role almost becomes addictive, you get to help people and shape the place we live, why not come along and take a look.

It's also massive congratulations to the Ball family who put on an incredible night a few weeks back, securing a lot of money which was duly donated to the Notts and Lincs Air Ambulance. I know how much you guys put in yourself, the efforts yourselves and your daughters made and also how much effort the other volunteers put in to make the night what it was. It was nice to see probably 100 or so people all in one room, eating, drinking, dancing and talking and getting on so well, true testament of the people we have here. Definitely needs to be an annual event, not saying you should organise it, but it was a great night!!

As a final note, this is not an ordinary Parish Council meeting. There's no public session and no formal agenda where we discuss matters, normal business will resume next month the meetings tonight are purely informative.

As such, some of you in attendance may be here to be updated on some matters including the Brough Lane site, all I will say is planning is refused and it's now in the

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hands of the appropriate people and departments, just trust the system. After the meeting I'm sure there's chance to have a chat.

Thanks everyone for your attendance.

Cllr John Skelton
Chair of Elkesley Parish Council

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