

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL REPORT PAGE 1

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place in the Sports Pavilion with Caroline Payne in the Chair. Also attending were 8 parishioners and Bill Borrett, County and Breckland District Councillor. Mrs. Payne welcomed Mr. Borrett in his new dual role. The evening began as usual with public participation time. Mr. Alan MacKim asked if the Highways Department were aware of the bad pothole on the path near the Sports Pavilion and wondered why this had not been attended to during the recent road and pavement works. Councillor Fletcher said it had been reported and should be dealt with soon. Mrs. Linda Richmond gave her regular report on the NECPG and reported that to date there had been an extremely low response to the request for items to be included in the village questionnaire, although several good ideas had been suggested. The Rev. Nicholas Varnon had offered to check the draft for leading or biased questions. Councillor Groom wondered if the poor response to the request for questions was symptomatic of there being little interest in the proposed village plan. The power point presentation at the Elmham Festival had been quite well used.

PAVILION AND PLAYING FIELD MATTERS: Councillor Brown reported that parts for repair to the skateboard ramp had been obtained. The type of concrete rubbish bin for the top area of the field was agreed upon and purchase will go ahead. Regarding the abandoned car on the pavilion car park, police advice was now that the Parish Council must apply to the DVLC for the name of the owner and the Clerk was asked to do this. The Council was reminded that the present grass cutting contractor was on a one year contract ending on October 31st. It was agreed that tenders for the position should again be invited, with a detailed written specification being made available. Submitted tenders would be discussed at the November meeting of the Council.

LAND MANAGEMENT MATTERS: The Chairman said that it was a matter of some concern that the signed lease for the Village Green had been returned with an amendment regarding boundary ownership and maintenance. Councillor Wade-Martins proposed that legal advice be taken over suggested new wording for that section of the lease, which would then be included in a letter to Norfolk Property Services. This agreed. It was reported that a resident had asked about the possibility of a tree preservation order on the row of ash trees on the Green. Councillor Lowe said he would consult the Breckland tree officer about this, but being within the conservation area, the trees may well already be protected.

It had been noted that the new grass cutting contractor for the ruins did not have a roll bar on his equipment. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to him emphasising that liability rests with him in the case of any accident occurring during his work.

The water level of the Broom Green pond is very low and there had been some reoccurrence of the alien weed which is receiving attention.

SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL: There had been no response to the Council's letter to Mr. Graham Bygrave asking for an update on the situation, but Mr. Borrett said he had spoken to him that morning and a letter was on its way.

STREET LIGHTS: The County Council has declined to take over responsibility for the village street lights and their suggestions on some money saving measures were not acceptable to the Council who will therefore have to continue to finance all maintenance and replacement of the lights.

HIGHWAY MATTERS: There had been a negative response from the Highways Department to the proposal for providing hard standing for car parking at the top of Eastgate Street. Councillor Groom suggested that a specification be obtained for the work and the possibility of independent funding explored.

NORFOLK MINERALS AND WASTE LDF: Mr. Borrett reported that a consultation report due to be published on September 7th will categorise the proposed sites into three sections to be followed by consultation on this list. The categories are "No" (which should see an end to those particular proposals), "Maybe" (which will need to be discussed and a coherent case made against the proposals), or "Yes" (which will be very tough to negotiate further). The "advisory group" of which Mr. Borrett is a member has been set up by Councillors who have sites in their divisions and is for the sole purpose of providing them with information. Councillor Miss Ketteringham wished to thank Mike Wyatt for putting information about the Min 21 site on the village web site.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: In answer to questions asked at the August Council meeting, Mr. Borrett said that it had been necessary for him to declare an interest due to ownership by his mother of land in relevant areas. He said that representation of Elmham's interests and concerns could be undertaken by Kate Millbank from the Swanton Morley division and it was suggested that the Chairman should meet her and possibly invite her to a future Council meeting.

HEDGE ON CATHEDRAL MEADOWS NORTH SIDE: It was agreed that the Council's side of the hedge should be left alone apart from the trimming out of some of the weaker saplings.

ELMHAM FESTIVAL: Councillor Lowe said that the memorabilia and photographic exhibition had been very well received and congratulated the organisers.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman Mrs. Payne presented Mr. Gerald Marsh with a gift in appreciation of his many years of service as caretaker and key keeper for the Cathedral Ruins site. Mr. Marsh has now retired from this position.

ENDS