

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of full Council held on
Monday 20th April 2026 beginning 7.30pm
at The Blackbourne, Elmswell IP30 9UH**

The Meeting was preceded by a minute's silence followed by a round of applause to mark the recent death of Cllr David Hawes and to honour his life-long service to the community of Elmswell.

Present: Cllrs Barker, Brown, Burch, Hancock, Pallett (Chairman), Roots, Schofield, Shaw

Attending: County Council Ward Member Andy Mellen
District Council Ward Member Jen Overett
7 members of the Public
Parish Clerk Peter Dow

26.04.01 Noted:

- 3.1 An apology for absence was accepted from Cllr Edmonds who was unwell
- 3.2 An apology for absence was accepted from Cllr Mansel who was engaged on urgent family business

26.04.02

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 16th March 2026, as tabled, be agreed as a true record.

26.04.03

Noted:

That there were no Members' Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in subsequent agenda items, no deletions or alterations to the Council's Register of Interests and no Dispensations to be noted.

26.04.04

Noted: The following when Reports were received and comment or questions invited on those Reports or from any matter on the Agenda from members of the public or from Councillors

- 4.1 A written report from BMSDC Ward Members Cllrs Jen Overett & Sarah Mansel
- 4.2 A written report from County Council Ward Member Andy Mellen
- 4.3 Cllr Overett stressed a continuing commitment to the Community Elmswell / Woolpit cycle and pedestrian path project, despite the length of the process thus far, and confirmed that the strip of land initially conveyed to Sustrans to take the path down Church Hill is retained as being integral to the scheme.
- 4.4 Cllr Overett confirmed that, if notified of any omissions in the roll-out of the new waste bins, she would address the matter.
- 4.5 Cllr Mellen confirmed that, as he was not standing for re-election on 7th May, this was his last appearance as SCC Ward Member. He was thanked for his service over the past 4 years.
- 4.6 In response to a question from the public, the Chairman confirmed that the Elmswell Tavern would begin trading on 22nd April when operational income would begin to be accounted for. The expenditures thus far were capital items including the build and set-up costs.

26.04.05

Noted:

That there was no further correspondence unrelated to an Agenda item or to an item in the Clerk's Report.

26.04.06

Noted:

The Clerk's report as per Appendix A.

- 6.1 The Clerk confirmed that the second stage of the footpath improvement scheme, jointly funded by SCC, was in progress and that he had sanctioned use of the car park at Blackbourne for materials storage. The stretch from Blackbourne to Lord's Bridge should be completed imminently leaving the Ashfield Road / Grove Lane link to be tackled.

- 26.04.07 **Noted:**
That when any Complaints Committee business for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda was invited none was forthcoming and that the date of the next Complaints Committee meeting was not known.
- 26.04.08 **Noted:**
The Planning results as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council;
- 8.1 **DC/26/00643**
Erection of fence...
Yew Tree House, Ashfield Road GRANTED EPC objected
- 8.2 **DC/25/04964**
Extension..
15 Mill Gardens GRANTED EPC supported
- 26.04.09 To discuss the following Planning applications as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council and to make comment as appropriate:
- 9.1 **DC/26/00994**
Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/24/01321 dated 16th May 2024 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of part two storey part single storey rear extension. To vary Condition 2 (Plans/Documents) Changes to proposed drawings Replace current approved drawings with new submitted scheme
16 Cooks Road
Councillors agreed to support his application
- 26.04.10 **Resolved:**
That the Clerk makes known the Council's comments on the Planning application on this Agenda to the Chief Planning Officer at Mid Suffolk District Council as appropriate.
- 26.04.11 **Noted:**
The following other Planning business;
- 11.1 DC/26/00174 Listed Building Consent....
Willow Farm, Ashfield Road EPC made no comment under Clerk's Delegated Power
- 11.2 DC/26/01449 Application for agricultural determination...
Botany Bay Farm, Grove Lane EPC made no comment under Clerk's Delegated Power
- 26.04.12 **Resolved:**
That Elmswell Parish Council commissions a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of its land holding at Crown Mill (opposite numbers 2 -8) from Connected Ecology Ltd of Norwich before any vegetation removal is carried out at the site, to result in a report which will include measures to mitigate the impact on any slow worm colony established there, and to ensure compliance with the appropriate sections of the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 and the Environment Act, 2021, at a cost not to exceed £1,500
- 26.04.13 **Noted:**
To note authorised payments made and income received as per Appendices B and C.
- 26.04.14 **Resolved:**
That proposed payments, scheduled as Appendix D, be authorised.
- 26.04.15 **Noted:**
The Balances as per Appendix E and the Chairman's confirmation that the relevant bank statements and computer report verify the published figures.
- 26.04.16 **Noted:**
The following when public comment or questions on matters relevant to Council business were invited;
- 16.1 The expenditure at item 12 suggests that Council intends to remove vegetation for the installation of play equipment but no such plan has been approved, there has been no consultation and there is opposition.

16.2 Cllr Schofield confirmed that the Appraisal as authorised at item 12 was a response to a resident's assertion of the presence of slow worms on the site which could affect maintenance and / or any other works there which would thenceforward have regard to the Appraisal findings.

26.04.17

Noted:

The following other Council business from Councillors or the Clerk for information, to be noted, or for inclusion on a future agenda;

17.1 The Clerk undertook to advertise the fact that there are 30mph warning stickers available for wheelie bins at households sited on main roads where speeding is a problem. These can be collected, without charge, from Wesley.

26.04.18

Noted:

That the next scheduled Meeting of Council is the Annual Meeting on Monday 18th May 2026 beginning at the earlier time of 7.00 p.m. at Blackbourne.

26.04.19

Noted:

That the meeting closed at 8.09pm