

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of full Council held on
Monday 16th February 2026 beginning 7.30pm
at The Blackbourne, Elmswell IP30 9UH**

- Present: Cllr Barker, Brown, Burch Edmonds, Hancock, Hawes, Mansel, Pallett (Chairman), Roots, Schofield
- Attending: County Council Ward Member Andy Mellen
Parish Clerk Peter Dow
7 Members of the public
- 26.02.09 **Noted:**
9.1 An apology for absence was noted from Cllr Shaw as he was abroad
- 26.02.10 **Resolved:**
That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 19th January 2026 and 2nd February 2026 , as tabled, be agreed as a true record.
- 26.02.11 **Noted:**
The following when any Members' Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in subsequent agenda items were invited, and any additions, deletions or alterations to the Council's Register of Interests and to note any Dispensations;
11.1 Cllrs Brown, Burch, Edmonds, Hancock, each declared a Local Non-Pecuniary Interest in agenda items 20 & 21 as they were members of the BW-TMA
- 26.02.12 **Noted:**
4.1 A written report from SCC Ward Member Cllr Andy Mellen
4.2 A written report from District Council, Ward Members Cllrs Sarah Mansel & Jen Overett
4.3 Cllr Mellen confirmed that the local elections are now to be held on 7th May despite Central Government having implemented a cancellation, now overturned.
- 26.02.13 **Noted:**
The following other correspondence unrelated to an Agenda item or to an item in the Clerk's Report;
13.1 The Clerk confirmed from correspondence received that the Police do not consider that the vehicle parked permanently at Wetherden Road is not obstructing the highway.
13.2 The Clerk read from recent correspondence with SCC regarding the Elmswell-Woolpit Community Path scheme which confirms yet another change of personnel and no apparent material progress.
- 26.02.14 **Noted:**
The Clerk's report as per Appendix A.
- 26.02.15 **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.
- 26.02.16 **Noted:**
The Planning results as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council and to take action as appropriate.
16.1 **DC/25/05548**
Removal or variation of Condition...
Land North of Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road GRANTED EPC no comment

26.02.17

Noted:

The following Planning applications as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council;

17.1 **DC/25/04964**

Erection of front and rear extensions

15 Mill Gardens

Councillors agreed to support this application

17.2 **DC/26/00086**

Application for consent to display an Advertisement(s) - Installation of replacement signs to include 1x new panel to existing projecting gibbet, 1x fascia sign, 1x transom sign, 1x menu case, 1x sign written house name and logo, 1x sign written directional sign, 1x single sided post mounted sign, 2x wall mounted Corex signs and 1x double sided post mounted Corex sign

The Fox, Station Road

Councillors agreed to support this application

17.3 **DC/26/00161**

Application under Section 73A of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Variation of Condition 3 (Occupation Restriction) DC/22/06217 dated: 07/02/2023 - Retention of existing residential annexe, conversion of part of existing garaging to extend annexe, replacement of existing roof, including addition of solar panels, adjustments to existing fenestration and application of external cladding, and associated works.

Mulberry Farm, Ashfield Road

Councillors objected to this Proposal on the following grounds:

- 1 The works required to effect the conversion of the garage, roof replacement, changes to fenestration and the application of external cladding constitute more than a variation. These proposals should come forward as a full Proposal as they exceed the reasonable scope of a s73A application which might normally retrospectively reference minor adjustments and works of a minimal nature already carried out.
- 2 A major element of the original Permission was the restriction of occupation which was intended as a bar to the development of the annexe into a separate dwelling. Removing this constraint would allow the possibility of the creation of a new house without due process and the checks and balances this affords.
- 3 There is no scale or design for the proposed building works making an informed judgement on their effect impossible.
- 4 In summary, these proposals should be re-presented as a full Planning application.

17.4 **DC/26/00363**

Application for Approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to Outline Planning Permission of Hybrid Planning Permission DC/22/04002 - Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for Parcel 6 - 2no. commercial buildings; parking; and areas of Landscaping.

Land at Lawn Park Business Centre, Warren Lane

Councillors had no objection to this application

17.5 **DC/26/00467**

Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - Walnut Tree T1 To reduce tree back to previous cutting points - removal of deadwood. reasons for this tree is growing close to the property and has been cut back before to allow clearance of the property and to re-shape remainder of tree to blend in and giving more light to property.

11 Farm Meadow

Councillors had no comment on this application

26.02.18

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.

- 26.02.19 **Noted:**
The following further Planning business;
19.1 The Clerk confirmed notification of the BMSDC consultation on their Scoping Report for the JLP Review, as circulated to Councillors 05.02.2026.
19.2 The Meeting noted confirmation from Cllr Mellen that SCC have submitted their land adjacent to Old Schools Court on School Road for consideration under the SCC Call for Sites process.
- 26.02.20 **Proposal: Cllr Burch;**
That Elmswell Parish Council, with immediate effect, scraps the proposed increase in hire charges for Blackbourne and Wesley halls.

Seconded Cllr Schofield

Both Proposer and Seconder agreed to amend the Proposal by adding the words, ***for local groups and societies.***

Substantive Proposal fell
- 26.02.21 **Proposal: Cllr Burch;**
That Elmswell Parish Council, with immediate effect, scraps in perpetuity the fee for providing a bar at Blackbourne.

Seconded Cllr Barker

Proposal fell
- 26.02.22 The Meeting agreed that the proposed discussion of the renewal of grass cutting contracts at the cemetery and Crown Mill be postponed to the next meeting as the Clerk was not yet in possession of the full information required.
- 26.02.23 **Noted:**
The invitation to the launch & stakeholder meeting of the new Community Rail Partnership for the Ipswich to Cambridge / Soham line and that Cllr Shaw has agreed to represent EPC on the emerging body.
- 26.02.24 **Noted:**
The recent closure of Elmswell Post Office and Council's openness to any workable proposal in which it might help to provide a renewed service.
- 27.02.25 **Noted:**
The authorised payments made and income received as per Appendices B and C.
- 26.02.26 Resolved:
That proposed payments, scheduled as Appendix D, be authorised.
- 26.02.27 **Noted:**
The Balances as per Appendix E and the Chairman's confirmation that the relevant bank statements and computer report verify the published figures.

26.02.28

Noted:

The following when public comment or questions on matters relevant to Council business were invited;

28.1 In light of comments from members of the the public who spoke to reiterate their concerns regarding the planned installation of pre-school and toddler age-appropriate play equipment on land at Crown Mill on grounds that there is not a clearly-evidenced demand and that the site is unsuitable, it was agreed that the Minutes should show that these concerns, which included the presentation of a Petition to its January meeting, had not been accurately reflected in the Clerk's Report and that it should be recorded that the Parish Council acknowledges that such concerns remained vehemently held, namely that is against published guidelines, has no proven public need yet uses public funds and could cost more public money to remove if complaints to Mid Suffolk resulted in a requirement to do so.

26.02.29

Noted:

The following when any other Council business from Councillors or the Clerk for information, to be noted, or for inclusion on a future agenda was invited:

29.1 The Chairman confirmed that the matter of the provision of affordable housing on the Tavern site remained a live issue and that further consideration of the possibility of avoiding the loss of the Village's land through Right To Buy legislation would be forthcoming once the workload of the Wesley-Tavern project reduced.

26.02.30

Noted:

That the next Meeting of Council is scheduled for Monday 16th March 2026, beginning at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.

26.02.31

Noted:

That the meeting closed at 9.31pm.