ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr Brown, Burch, Edmonds, Hancock, Mansel, Pallett (Chairman), Roots, Schofield, Sparks

Attending: County Council Ward Member James Patchett
District Council Ward Member Jen Overett
26 members of the public
Parish Clerk Peter Dow

26.07.01 1.1 An apology for absence was noted from Cllr Barker who was on holiday
1.2 An apology for absence was noted from Cllr Shaw who was on holiday

26.07.02 **Resolved:**
That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 15th June 2026, as tabled, be agreed as a true record.

26.07.03 **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.

26.07.04 **Noted:**
The following when Reports from external bodies were invited along with public comment on agenda items:

4.1 A written report from SCC Ward Member Cllr James Patchett

4.2 A written report from BMSDC Ward Members Cllrs Jen Overett & Sarah Mansel

4.3 Cllr Patchett Confirmed that the weeds and debris at the A 1088 roundabout had been cleared and that residents should not take the risk of trying to carry out such work themselves given the traffic hazard and the need for specialist herbicide sprays. The works are scheduled to take place twice yearly by SCC and BMSDC.

4.4 A resident spoke to express dissatisfaction with the proposal for the preschool toddler play garden facility at Crown Mill on grounds that responses to previous objections had not been adequate, that the site was too small and only mooted for play purposes in revenge for the council having been refused planning permission for a house on the site, that there was no need for such a facility and that any such need if it emerged should be satisfied by a site at the central Crown Mill location adjacent to Station Road. A paper outlining some on-line objections and another proposing action or play provision generally in the village was distributed to all present.

4.5 A member of the public spoke seeking assurances that the contract for the provision of play equipment at Crown Mill had been subject to quotations and suggested that there had been previous assurances that the working party findings would be subject to a separate report. They queried the continuing availability of the Amenities Association grant funding.

4.6 A resident spoke questioning the origin of the need for the toddler-preschool play facility, although there was no disputing the general need for play facilities for all age groups. They queried the wisdom of the money spent on the environmental assessment of the play garden site and the progression of the scheme regardless of the lack of CIL funding. They suggested that there was provision for preschool and toddler play elsewhere in the village and that the proposal at agenda item 12 be withdrawn pending a strategic review of play provision in the village. They suggested that the Tavern project needed to settle down financially before such expenditures should be considered.

4.7 A resident spoke to suggest that the most pressing need for play provision in the village was for the 11 to 14 age group, that the neighbourhood plan process would take too long to confirm this assessment. The best way forward, it was suggested, was the provision of a bike park as provided in various other places locally. The speaker confirmed that 24 volunteer litter pickers had succeeded in clearing the A 1088 roundabout and drew attention to the lack of maintenance of the local footpaths many of which are overgrown.

4.8 A resident spoke suggesting that the community had not been made properly aware of the Council's proposals regarding the pre-school / toddler play garden and questioned whether all appropriate approvals were in place including risk assessments. Further, the funding from the Amenities Association was questionable and Council was failing to address the concerns of the community as a whole.

26.07.05 **Noted:**

The following correspondence unrelated to an Agenda item or to an item in the Clerk's Report;

5.1 From residents re. problems with the recent funfair visit to Blackbourne – referred to BW-TMA
5.2 With Cllr Overett re bike ramp / park
5.3 With member of the public on behalf of residents seeking to initiate a formal complaint re the phrasing of an agenda item – formal process pending
5.4 With resident re abandoned vehicle at Grove Lane – referred to Cllr Patchett
5.5 With Growth Highways Infrastructure at SCC re Elmswell / Woolpit community path (circulated)
5.6 With resident re railway crossing delays – copied in with Peter Prinsley MP

26.07.06 **Noted:**

The Clerk's report as per Appendix A.

6.1 The Clerk stressed the importance of the issue of the forthcoming revision of the Elmswell Neighbourhood Development Plan, as identified in his report, with particular reference to the across-the-board provision of children's play and recreation and the traffic problems consequent upon the increasing use of the railway crossing. The Meeting agreed that contact should be resumed with Ian Poole of Places 4 People towards his advising on the timing and first steps in re-visiting the Plan.

26.07.07 **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.

7.1 The Clerk drew the Meeting's attention to the correspondence at 5.3 which might require the convening of the Committee.

26.07.08 **Noted:**

The Planning results as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council;

8.1 **DC/26/01893**
Discharge of Conditions Application DC/23/01172 …
Robins Nest, New Road APPROVED EPC no comment

8.2 **DC/26/02434**
Tree Preservation works…
St Johns House, Church Road GRANTED EPC – Delegated to Officer no comment

8.3 **DC/26/01853**
Removal or variation of Conditions DC/24/02890…
Willow Farm, Ashfield Road GRANTED EPC – Delegated to Officer no comment

8.4 **DC/26/02381**
Application for works to trees…
37 Oxer Close GRANTED EPC – Delegated to Officer no comment

8.5 **DC/25/01578**
Change of use pf land to gypsy and traveller site…
Land at 5 The Caravans, Kiln Lane GRANTED EPC objected

8.6 **DC/26/03052**
Approval of Condition 14…re fenestration
Former Grampian Harris Site APPROVED EPC no comment

26.07.09 To discuss the following Planning applications as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council;

9.1 **DC/26/02981**

Notification of works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order MS318/T2– Remove major deadwood from 1No. Oak (T1) tree and raise branches to height of 10ft and also cut back branches closest to the house by 2 metres

Oak Tree House, Spong Lane

Councillors agreed to defer this application to the Planning Officer for their professional assessment

9.2 **DC/26/02706**

Change of use of agricultural land to a secure recreational dog exercise paddock. Existing hardstanding and access infrastructure would be utilised for parking and access purposes. Erection of perimeter fencing 1.8metres height.

Land at Grove Lane

Councillors agreed to support this application in principle, but asked that their response should urge that any Permission be conditioned with regard to the perimeter fencing.

The specified option is industrial security steel mesh at 1.9metres height. At this prominent site in the rural setting of Grove Lane, the Proposal would, if successful as it stands, result in an unacceptable imposition on the street scene by way of a stark urban fenceline of a height which would dominate. This fence could be lower, as per other such dog exercise paddocks locally, and of a more sympathetic design.

9.3 **DC/26/02434**

Application for works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order WS47/A2 – Fell 1 No. Robina

St Johns House, Church Road

Refer to 8.2 above. No extension to the consultation deadline was granted to allow the matter to come to this meeting. Consequently, under Delegated Power the Clerk has confirmed that Council would defer to the Case Officer and that no comment would be forthcoming.

26.07.10 **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.

26.07.11 **Noted:**

The following other Planning business;

11.1 Regarding Council's approach to Planning Enforcement re caravans on land at Kiln Lane, a Planning application was required, duly lodged and determined as per 8.5 above.

11.2 Regarding the BMSDC Local Plan Scoping Consultation exercise, the Meeting agreed that individual responses from Councillors was an appropriate way forward.

26.07.12 *Cllr Schofield took the Meeting through a Power Point presentation which exhaustively addressed the key issues raised towards the formulation of the Proposal at 12 on the Agenda.*

Resolved:

That Council engages Kompan UK to supply and install pre-school / toddler play equipment on land at Crown Mill facing Crabtree Meadow as specified in their Quotation ref. SQ322979-1 for a sum not to exceed £25,161.07 net of VAT and that a further sum of £2,500.00 net of VAT be allocated towards environmental enhancement of the site.

26.07.13 **Noted:**

The authorised payments made and income received as per Appendices B and C.

26.07.14 **Resolved:**

That proposed payments, scheduled as Appendix D, be authorised.

26.07.15 **Noted:**
The Balances as per Appendix E and the Chairman's confirmation that the relevant bank statements and computer report verify the published figures.

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

16.1 A member of the public spoke to suggest that the presentation regarding the pre school / toddler play garden at Crown Mill was a good piece of work but unrelated to the relevant Proposal. Residents had not been properly informed as required by the FIT updated guidance, the funding remained an issue as it was donated before any detailed scheme had been drawn up and had been driven by the current parish clerk who at that time had been chairman of the EAA.

16.2 A resident spoke to suggest that the presentation regarding the new pre-school toddler play garden at Crown Mill did not address the real issues including the funding, the relevant permissions and that a letter would be going to the Chairman of Council confirming these points.

16.3 A resident spoke to suggest that the presentation at agenda item 12 had been a whitewash in that it dodged the issue of play provision for older children which could be easily made on Council land at Grove lane, at Clay Field or on Turners' Field.

16.4 A resident spoke to suggest that the engineered situation which underpins the proposal for preschool toddler play garden at Crown Mill resulted from a sense of revenge in light of the refusal of Planning permission for a house on the site. The proposal was both disingenuous and duplicitous and such expenditures should not be incurred unless and until the Railway Tavern scheme, which is currently mismanaged and a drain on council reserves, is operating successfully.

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

17.1 It was confirmed that the vegetation overgrowth on Footpath 9, from Station Road to Blackbourne, had been reported on the SCC Highways Reporting Tool.

26.07.18 **Noted:**
That the next scheduled Meeting of Council was on Monday 17th August, should enough business come forward, at 7.30pm.

26.07.19 **Noted:**
That the meeting closed at 9.51pm