

Elsham Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Elsham Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th June 2025 commencing at 7pm at the Village Hall. Elsham

Present: Chair – Cllr Sandra Van Oosterhout
Cllr Andrew Horner, Cllr Deborah Damary Thompson, Cllr Michael Percy, Cllr Mark Lilley
Clerk – Louise Price
Cllrs N Sherwood, C Sherwood and R Waltham – North Lincolnshire Council
4 members of the public

2506/01 Apologies

Councillor S Moir had sent his apologies as he was on holiday.

Resolved: That Cllr Moir's apologies be accepted.

2506/02 Public Participation

A resident expressed concern about the proposed data centre and the effect on wildlife. They also expressed concern about the Grade 2 listed building which was on the land and the outcome for it and the owners who were trying to restore it. Another resident asked why water was being transported from Elsham to Essex and questioned where the additional water for the Data Centre would come from if planning permission was granted. Residents were concerned about the size of the Data Centre and one resident mentioned that one comment on the NLC Planning portal stated there should be financial benefit for locals if the Data Centre was passed and they felt this was a bribe. Cllr Waltham stated that this was quite common. A resident of Hall Lane reported issues with visitors to Elsham Hall trying to access the Hall via the back locked entrance on Hall Lane and causing a nuisance to Hall Lane residents. Elsham Hall have agreed to change the white sign to a brown sign. It was suggested that Elsham Hall be asked to send direction details out to people who book tickets for the Abba evening.

2506/03 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved – That the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 27th May 2025 were an accurate and true record and these were signed accordingly.

Signed _____ Date _____

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2506/04 **Declarations of Interest**

- a) Cllrs S Van Oosterhout and A Horner declared an interest in Agenda item 2506/11 – b) and Appendix 1 - Finance.
- b) No dispensations were given.

2506/05 **Report from Ward Councillors**

Cllr Waltham discussed the Local Government re-organisation and that residents had expressed that they would rather the Council remain as North Lincolnshire Council (NLC). NLC believe they are a viable Council and offer a good service. NLC Active are currently offering some special offers for the over 66s. Pensioners' bus passes have been protected and the Just Go Bus has been extended until the end of March 2026. Cllr Waltham updated the Council on the missing road sign at Barnetby top. The request to move the 30mph signs was discussed. Cllr Lilley stated he thought there was only one 30mph sign. Cllr Van Oosterhout asked Cllr Waltham why he was against solar farms. Cllr Waltham responded that if the land was good enough to be used as agricultural land, then it should be used so. Over 180,000 trees have so far been planted.

Cllrs N Sherwood and C Sherwood left the meeting. One member of the public left.

2506/06 **Highways, Drainage, Footpaths and NLC issues**

- a) i) NLC had responded that the missing directional sign at Barnetby Top had been ordered.
ii) The Clerk had spoken to NLC again regarding moving the 30mph signs further up Barnetby Lane but again, this had been met with negativity. Councillors questioned whether we could officially request that Elsham Parish Council be allowed to move the signs.
iii) There was no progress with the car park lights at Elsham Golf Club and as it was not such an issue in summer months, it was agreed that this should be deferred to the next meeting when Cllr Moir was back. Cllr Waltham suggested that we might need to speak to Environmental Health. He agreed to speak to them on the Councils behalf.
- b) Cllr Horner had met with Paige Leake from NLC and had found her very helpful and knowledgeable. They are relying on the kerb on Barnetby Hill to channel water. The road sweeper is currently on a 12-week schedule which he believed in Autumn, was not sufficient. Paige had expressed her unhappiness about the new services to be installed on Barnetby Lane for the new house.
- c) The issues on Hall Lane were discussed. It was agreed that changing the white sign for a brown sign would be beneficial.
Resolved: The Clerk and Cllr Van Oosterhout draft a letter to send to Elsham Hall regarding directions for their website to make it clearer where access was.

Signed _____ Date _____

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2506/07 Police Matters/Neighbourhood Watch/NATS

Councillor Horner had attended the recent NATS meeting. He reported he had found cannabis grow remains which NLC had removed. PC Parsons stated that it could have come from a house clearance or from another area. Hare coursing was discussed. The Police are taking rural crime very seriously. Priorities are water safety and fly tipping.

2506/08 Planning

a) The following Planning decisions had been received:

- i) Application PA/2025/643 – Outline planning permission for the construction of a data centre park, including ancillary offices, internal plant and cooling equipment, emergency backup generators and associated fuel storage, District Heating centre, flexible commercial/amenity buildings (Use classes E, F1 and F2) and construction of buildings for agricultural purposes. Other works include means of access, internal roads and footpaths, cycle and car parking, hard and soft landscaping, security gatehouses and perimeter fencing and lighting, drainage, pumping station, electricity substation/s, energy generation/storage, undergrounding of overhead power lines and other associated works, infrastructure and ground remodelling including creations of landscaped bunds, with all matters reserved for subsequent consideration.

Resolved: After a discussion, it was resolved to object to the Application due to loss of valuable arable land, the proximity to the residential area, the loss and detrimental effect on ecology and biodiversity, contradiction to Local Plan policies, the potential noise, the effect on conservation, the additional impact on the surrounding routes which are already under strain, greenhouse gases and excessive water consumption. It was agreed that if the planning application was passed that there should be a financial benefit to the local village. Cllr Van Oosterhout to draft the Council's response for circulation.

- ii) It was agreed to note the North Lincolnshire Local Plan Call for sites.
- iii) Councillor Percy gave an update on the ERNLLCA Planning Training he had attended and reported that he had found it very interesting and informative.

2506/9 Parish Projects, Reports and other Parish Matters

a) Councillors received the following monthly inspections and reports:

- i) Play area – The flooded area again seemed to have improved but this may have been down to the dry weather. The rings on one of the items of equipment need tightening.
- ii) Nature reserve
 - 1) Repair work on the damaged picnic bench had been completed.
 - 2) The new bench has been installed.
 - 3) A quote for the proposed new notice board had been received - £175 plus VAT. It was agreed this was a competitive price and the Council now needed to decide what to put on the board.

Signed _____ Date _____

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- 4) Ash Trees on Front Street / The Nature reserve were discussed. North Lincolnshire Council have been asked to assess them.
- b) Planting and Best Kept Village/East Midlands in Bloom was discussed.
- i) A budget of £150 was approved for Planting.
 - ii) The EMIB judging was discussed.
 - iii) The In Bloom Grant 25/26 had been approved. The new planters are due to be delivered in the next few days.
- c) It was agreed that it was not feasible to install a new bench on Front Street.
- d) Handyman jobs for July include washing benches and painting railings.
- e) The Speed Awareness signs were discussed. Cllr Van Oosterhout is to attend the LVF on the 18th June and will report back to Council.
- f) The opening of the Elsham Museum for VJ Day was discussed. Cllr Van Oosterhout will contact them.
- g) The potential new Elsham Sign was deferred to a future meeting.
- h) There were no other parish matters requiring discussion.

2506/10 Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report that was not on the Agenda.

2506/11 Finance

- a) The financial expenditure, receipts and bank statements were approved to 31st May 2025.
- b) The following payments had been made – May 2025. These were noted. Payments made May 2025
- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 2 nd May 2025 | Plastecowood – Picnic table repairs - £180.06 |
| 6 th May 2025 | Ermine Street Ceilidh Band – VE Day celebrations - £450.00 |
| 8 th May 2025 | Pauls Fish and Chips – VE Day celebrations - £518.50 |
| 8 th May 2025 | Sissons Gardening - £583.01 |
| 12 th May 2025 | St Johns Ambulance – S132 - £50.00 |
| 12 th May 2025 | Cllr A Horner – Planting - £28.98 |
| 14 th May 2025 | CPRE – Best Kept Village - £25.00 |
| 27 th May 2025 | Cllr A Horner – Planting - £257.54 |
| 28 th May 2025 | Wages - £310.13 |
| 28 th May 2025 | Cllr S Van Oosterhout – Planting - £159.08 |
| 28 th May 2025 | HMRC – P32 - £63.20 |
| 28 th May 2025 | Brian Brooks – Audit - £325.00 |

Signed _____ Date _____

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28th May 2025 Zurich – 2025/26 Insurance - £434.91

- c) The Notice of Public Inspection of the Accounts was approved. This will be placed on the website and the noticeboard.
- d) An Invoice from ERNLLCA for a Planning Training for Councillor Percy was approved for payment - £42.
- e) The Clerk advised that she had received notice that an application for funding for a Passion Play was being submitted but it had not yet been received.
- f) The Clerk confirmed that now year end was complete, she would be updating the Bank Mandate. Current Councillors who are signatories are Cllrs Van Oosterhout, Horner and Ewen (under her former name of Ousby). It was agreed that this would stay the same moving forward and the Clerk would be added to the Mandate. Former Councillor Wood and the two previous Clerks would need to be removed. She was due to visit the bank w/c 30th June.

2506/12 **Ongoing, Minor Items, Correspondence and Agenda items for the next meeting**

- a) There were no items raised for addition to the next Agenda.

2506/13 **Election of Councillors to Committees/Working parties**

- a) Low Villages Forum – Cllr Horner was appointed the Representative but Cllr Van Oosterhout will attend the meeting on the 18th June as Cllr Horner is unavailable.
- b) Police/NATS Committee – Cllr Lilley was appointed as the Representative
- c) District ERNLLCA Committee meetings – Cllr Van Oosterhout was appointed as Representative
- d) Snow Wardens – Cllr Horner was appointed as the Snow Warden. The Clerk will update the Emergency Plan.
- e) Personnel Committee – Cllrs Van Oosterhout, Damary Thompson and Percy were appointed to the Personnel Committee.

2506/14 **Responsibilities for Asset Inspections**

The following Councillors were appointed for Asset Inspections

- a) Nature Reserve – Councillors Van Oosterhout and Moir
- b) Play Area – Councillor Damary Thompson
- c) Village Benches – All Councillors
- d) Bus Shelter – All Councillors
- e) Telephone Box – All Councillors
- f) Notice Boards – All Councillors
- g) Salt Bins – All Councillors
- h) Litter Bins – All Councillors
- i) Signage and Planters – All Councillors

Signed _____ Date _____

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2506/15 **Date and time of forthcoming meetings**

- a) The date and time of the next Council meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 15th July 2025 7pm at Elsham Village Hall.

2506/16 **Closure of the Meeting to the press and public**

It was proposed by Cllr Van Oosterhout and seconded by Cllr Horner that the Council move into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2) due to the confidential nature of the items to be discussed. All in favour.

2506/17 **Staffing and IT**

- a) It was resolved to pay the Clerks wage and expenses.
- b) Councillor Van Oosterhout advised the Council that four Subject Access Requests had been received and briefly explained the advice the Council had been given.

Meeting closed 9.32pm.

Signed _____ Date _____