

**MINUTES OF ELSWICK ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING**  
**Elswick Village Hall, Elswick, Committee Room, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 7.45pm**

PRESENT: Cllr P Hayhurst  
 Cllr J Dean  
 Cllr M Read  
 Cllr D Francis  
 Cllr J Rowe  
 Thirteen members of the public

IN ATTENDANCE: Jane Lingsings (Minutes)

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of Elswick Parish electorate. It is not a Parish Council Meeting, although the Parish Council Chairman will call the meeting, and if present normally chairs the event.

1.	<p><b>Appointment of Chair</b>          Cllr P Hayhurst was appointed Chairman for the meeting.</p>
2.	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>          The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.</p>
3.	<p><b>Opening Address by the Chairman and Annual Report</b></p> <p>The Chairman thanked people for attending and noted that following last years request to publicise the meeting and encourage local groups to attend, it was a pleasure to see so many people present.</p> <p>Cllr Hayhurst reported that Elswick Village had done exceptionally well over the last 12 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The village had retained Green Flag status – one of only five Parish Councils in the UK that has been given the award which is normally presented to large parks. This award is an indication of how well managed the site is at Elswick.</li> <li>• Elswick in Bloom won the category for North West in Bloom Best Village (Medium Size) for the second time in 50 years, further demonstrating the hard work carried out by our volunteers. This achievement has enabled Elswick in Bloom to progress to the UK finals this year.</li> <li>• There have been further successes with Britain in Bloom, which will be detailed in the report from local groups..</li> </ul> <p>There have been issues regarding the MUGA which has resulted in the facility being closed for many months due to ongoing problems with moss. Growth on this specialist surface has been a problem on the site for many years. In the last 12 months, the Parish Council have spent approximately £500 on appropriate chemical products and spraying by qualified professionals, in order to facilitate the reopening of the MUGA. Additionally the Parish Council sought guidance from the insurance company who recommended that the facility remain closed until the Councillors were confident that the surface was fit for purpose. Sadly with having to keep the MUGA closed, this has resulted in some adverse publicity for the Parish Council.</p>
4.	<p><b>Reports from Local Groups</b></p> <p><u>Little Park Residents Group</u></p> <p>Local resident Vicky Jacob introduced herself to the group. As a local business woman and mother of three children, Vicky informed the meeting that a number of parents and residents were interested in forming a group to look at options for a safe fun area for children of all ages in the village. The general consensus of this group is that there is not a play park suitable for “family” play within the village. The group is co-ordinating a fund raising initiative to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017, which will consist of a 5 a side football tournament of various ages, food and entertainment stalls. The event has secured sponsorship from the “Plantation Rug Company”. The monies raised from this event will go towards the development of the “Little Park”, Elswick.</p> <p>A “Friends of Elswick” Facebook page has been created where feedback on this project has been positive with lots of people willing to help. Once the community group has finalised its constitution</p>

Chairmans Signature ..... Date .....

etc., the group is aiming to apply for community group funding.

Elswick Womens Institute (WI)

Representatives from the WI were present to provide a summary report of which the following points were noted:

Elswick WI meets every first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There is no meeting in August as this is the summer trip. At present there are 38 members.

Meetings vary from month to month with speakers and topics ranging from heroic soldiers, chocolate making, jewellery craft and flower arranging. There are nights out to restaurants and the theatre is attended on a regular basis. There are lots of Federation trips that members can also attend.

On the alternate Wednesday evening, the group has dancing and singing groups and more recently a craft group commenced on Thursday afternoons.

The ladies of the WI take part in the Rose Queen celebrations, by walking the procession and Sams dance troupe entertain the crowds at the gala.

One member commenced fundraising for the defibrillator fund. In aid of this, the WI held afternoon teas. This coupled with the donations from Great Ecclestone, Elswick and the ADAM Appeal has enabled defibrillators to be fitted in both villages. Training sessions were also arranged on how to use the equipment.

Each December the WI arrange for Father Christmas to visit the village hall. This is a well attended event for children of the local villages. There are refreshments and a crafts table.

The WI has also supported the local Youth Club with a donation.

New members and visitors are more than welcome to come along. Contact details can be found on the website: [elswickanddistrictwi.co.uk](http://elswickanddistrictwi.co.uk)

Elswick in Bloom

Beryl Smith presented the report from Elswick in Bloom of which the following points were noted:

The last 12 months have been successful for Elswick in Bloom. In 2016 Elswick won North West in Bloom, Best Kept Village in Lancashire and won Gold in the finals of Britain in Bloom, with an invitation to enter the Champion of Champion Group for this year.

Thanks go to so many people who have given their time and dedication including more than 50 volunteers, who spend time dead heading flower beds, working in the orchard, transplanting spring flowers etc. There are also cleaning jobs, minor repair works, painting benches, railings, village hall entrance, chipped paint on the playground and anything else required! A lot of this work is the responsibility of the Parish Council, but the Elswick in Bloom volunteers undertake it to offset the cost of flowers. Everyone wins.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the new flower beds at the front of the village hall and the WI who have taken on the task of maintaining this bed.

Thank you to the volunteers who cleaned the litter bins, repainted the traditional iron road sign at the end of Copp Lane, painting and planting of the bus shelter near The Ship, the organisation and positioning of the Ploughs on Beech Road, taking the judges around the village in a vintage car, the work on the willow pods in the wild flower meadow, the planting of over three thousand small plants to create the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday carpet bedding tribute to the Queen.

Environmentally we are fortunate to have assistance from a tree specialist who meets with volunteers twice a year to offer training in pruning the orchard fruit trees correctly. Our volunteers also work with an organisation known as "Growing for Life" who had introduced two bee hives into the orchard and more hives are planned. In April, 31 Brownies and Guides enjoyed an evening learning all about the bees. They also made seed bombs which they threw at the side of the orchard and are looking forward to seeing the display of wild flower that may have been created. The meadow now has bat boxes, bug hotels and a hedgehog sanctuary is in the pipeline, although

the adoption process is very rigid. All of these projects have helped the village to retain its Green Flag status.

Most of the entrants to Britain in Bloom are located in areas with lots of businesses who are able to offer considerable financial support – we are not in that position and have to seek grants and apply for contributions etc. A grant was received via the Parish Council from Tesco for £8,000, Glasdon have supplied litter bins, Dobbies supplied lavender bushes, and Bonds have been extremely generous over the years. Elswick Singers joined with Copp School to organise a fund raising concert in aid of Elswick in Bloom. The event was a success with the church donating the venue and church ladies catering the event.

The benefits of Elswick in Bloom – Britain in Bloom is not just about flowers – the judges are looking for the way in which the community has pulled together to win the competition and in the process have generated a sense of wellbeing. By individuals contributing a little piece of the jigsaw the end result allows residents to experience the pleasure of living in a beautiful place.

### Elswick Church

Elizabeth Kernoghan presented a report on behalf of Elswick Church with the following points noted:

There has been worship in Elswick since 1969. The current site has 3 buildings and extensive grounds comprising of the old church dating back to 1743 and the new church built in 1874 and a modern hall built in 1998. Ministry is now shared and the minister who “looks after” Elswick also looks after St Annes United Reformed Church.

Historically when the Parish Council originally formed, it met in the old church with the minister acting as Chairman of the Council, beginning the meeting with prayers. There is almost an unbroken record of a church member sitting on the council.

The church organ was 100 years old this year. Originally the parts were brought from Leeds to Kirkham railway station and then brought by horse and cart to Elswick. There are 4 organists at present working on a rota basis including a 15 year old young man.

This year has had its troubles, finding a sinkhole in the lawn which was repaired by creating a manhole chamber to alleviate flooding and ground movement. The church also required a new boiler which was moved from the cellar into the church itself. On a positive note, the church has installed a new disabled entrance.

Worship is held every Sunday at 10.30am which includes Junior Church for youngsters. Junior Church has 23 young people from 0-16 years old, who enjoy fun and friendship. Activities are bible based and relevant to the world today. Recently the church hired a beach hut in St Annes and took the children to the lifeboat station, had a treasure hunt, games on the beach and ended the day with fish and chips brought back to the hut. A group of children were also taken to PGL at Winmarleigh in February.

Brownies and Guides meet on a Monday evening and Rainbows on a Tuesday afternoon which includes over 60 girls in the 3 groups. Activities include camping, activity weekends, and sleepovers in the hall. Guides take part in the Race for Life raising money for Cancer Research. Recently the Brownies and Guides visited the Parish Council site to learn about the bees and will be having a follow up visit later in the year, led by a team of dedicated volunteers.

The church received a “Children Friendly Plaque” following work by members ensuring that everyone working with children underwent safeguarding training courses etc.

There is a ladies group which meets monthly for talks or trips out.

During the year there have been 3 christenings, 1 wedding and 9 burials.

The church has a ministry of flowers whereby each week flowers are taken out to the sick or recently bereaved known to members. At harvest, Christmas and Easter the church is beautifully decorated by a talented team with floral displays. The brownies take flowers/plants from the

	<p>Harvest Festival to people in the village also. The harvest service this year was a joint service with Copp School/Church. Half the service was at Elswick after which everyone walked up the hill to Copp to complete the service. The Minister takes assemblies each week at Copp School. Produce and tins go to the Soup Kitchen and the food bank in St Annes.</p> <p>Twice this year Copp School Choir has joined the Encore Singers and Elswick Singers for concerts in the church. The latter raising money for Elswick in Bloom.</p> <p>Other charity work includes collecting 5ps for NICEF, Street Life in Blackpool, Brian House/Derian House, Christian Aid, DEC appeal for children in East Africa, Childrens Society, Help for Heroes and the RNLI.</p> <p>The church also visits Northlands Rest Home and Thistleton Lodge.</p> <p>The Parish Plan identified 3 areas which the Church felt it could help with. Firstly a badminton club which has proved a great success. Secondly, loneliness, which can affect anyone at any age or from any background and particularly the bereaved. The Church set up a coffee shop on the first Wednesday of every month which has proved popular within the local community and people from further afield. Thirdly, the church revived the Rose Queen/Church Garden party, this year being the 10<sup>th</sup>. This has gone from strength to strength with a procession around the village with visiting queens, a WI float, a tractor and trailer following by the crowning and afternoon of family fun. Fylde Borough Council put up bunting and provides a stage.</p> <p>The church has seen many generations of families worshipping and taking part in activities with many new families joining as they move into the village. Their enthusiasm, expertise, fresh ideas, helpfulness and commitment has assured the church that it continues on a long heritage.</p> <p>The church has no hidden agenda and welcomes all to join, visit at any of the events or pop into the coffee shop.</p>
5.	<p><b>Questions from Electors</b></p> <p>A resident from Elswick asked if the Parish Council would consider contacting Progress Housing Group to discuss the issue of the track between Leys Close and the Church. This track is not suitable for walking on particularly in the winter months and requires a paved surface.</p> <p>The clerk will add this to the next Parish Council meeting for consideration.</p>
<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and providing very interesting and comprehensive reports from local groups.</p> <p>Meeting closed.</p>	