

# ELKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Elkesley Memorial Hall  
on Wednesday 6 May 2026 at 6.30pm  
DRAFT UNTIL RATIFIED

**Present :** Councillors J Skelton, J O'Brien, J Gilson, M Stronach and L Ashley

**Others :** The Clerk and 7 members of public attended

## **26/2455) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr T MacIntosh, County Councillor K Wright and District Councillor C Adams.

## **26/2456) Minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting 8 May 2025 were approved.

## **26/2457) Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The Chair read out his report which is attached to these minutes\*

## **26/2458) Reports from Village Organisations**

Cllr Gilson gave a report on behalf of Elkesley Memorial Hall. Activities include Brownies on Mondays, Line Dancing on Thursdays, Chatty Fridays, and Singing on Tuesdays. There is a charity event arranged for September, a disco this month, and the Christmas lights event and New Year's Eve in December. The hall is looking towards a greener future with plans for solar panels etc.

## **26/2459) Public Session**

The subject of defibrillators was discussed, following on from the Chair's report. A member of public related when they had performed CPR themselves after attending one of the training sessions provided by Retford Lions. A further training session will be arranged, and will include information about the new bleed kits.

The Parish Council was thanked by a resident for all the work done behind the scenes. Another resident asked for clarification about an item in the Idle Times referring to the new Panattoni jobs, and the rail link.

**The Chair ended the meeting at 6.56pm**

**Signed**

**Chair**

\*available online

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## Chair's Annual Report 2025-2026

As the Chair of the Parish Council since October 2019, I would like to thank the constant and consistent efforts of our Parish Councillors who make every effort to make our community the place we all want it to be. Also it's thanks to our Parish Clerk Cheryl who also tirelessly makes sure the wheels and cogs are turning and keeps tabs on our policies, procedures and day to day workings.

Please remember, as I often remind people, this role is purely voluntary, Councillors do not get paid, so every effort made is solely out of the love and passion for the place we all call home.

It would also be remiss of me not to thank those of you who have contributed towards the village over the past twelve months in other areas, whether that be picking up and collecting litter, attending our meetings, reporting ASB or other issues to the Council, Highways or the Police or purely for engaging with those who do.

Thanks go to PC Hollie Marsh, as well as being beat manager for East Bassetlaw, is part of the Rural Cohort and a Wildlife Crime officer. Hollie has gone above and beyond to help whenever and wherever we have needed support from the police.

It's a massive and heartfelt thanks to those from our Village planning / steering group who also worked tirelessly to build and develop our Elkesley Neighbourhood Plan, securing and shaping our own future of how we want our community to look for years to come.

For what has just turned a year, we have welcomed Cllr Tom Mackintosh who has also recently become Head Governor to Elkesley Primary School, cementing and building on the already professional and productive relationship we already hold with them. Good luck Tom and well done for your recent appointment.

It's also a sad loss that Jamie Wright has now resigned his post for both Parish Councillor and Grounds Maintenance Person. I hope you join me in thanking him for his commitment and enthusiasm to both positions over his term and we wish him well in his future endeavours in Suffolk.

As the incumbent Chair, I am supported by Vice-chair Jan O'Brien who always has and no doubt will remain my "right hand woman" Jan is someone who's input and perspective I trust and value and she helps share the burden of this role.

Those who attend the monthly meetings will know I usually give a report on what the council and/or councillors have been doing for the community:

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As a whole, the Parish Council are responsible for grass cutting of the open spaces, such as the playing field and cemetery. JW Services but since his resignation, Platts have now taken over the contract and are already well on top of their tasks.

In future months you will notice hedges being cut back and taken down to a more manageable height and further works on the grounds at the park and Cemetery.

We also hope to have the large BMX track removed fairly swiftly now the weather is turning and this will reduce our H&S risks associated with this area as well as making our grounds look more welcoming and appealing.

As per my previous report at the end of the last year's meeting, Elkesley PC have now handed over responsibility for maintenance of the Church Yard to BDC, they have taken over the cutting of the grass and maintenance.

Whilst I appreciate they do not potentially give it the same amount of time, effort and dedication as we did as a Parish Council, the contract does lay with them and they are cutting the grassed area every 4 weeks.

There was a Christmas Lights event in December last year, which saw the coming together of the parish council, The School, The Church and the memorial hall committee. I'm sure you'll all agree that the event went really well, with catering vans and craft stalls to entertain everyone, along with visits from Santa himself and that all so special Christmas feeling in the air... this year the event is planned in for Sunday 29th November with the Christingle scheduled for 4pm, with celebrations being held at the Hall and the lights turn on planned for 5.15pm.

Our village has suffered the unfortunate event of several passings over the last few years, of prominent people in our community. I wish to formally extend our thoughts and sympathy to the family of Derek Rushby who again was a very selfless and kind character in our village.

With a number of defibrillators in our village and ongoing pledges of monetary support from local businesses, we have hosted further training sessions, courtesy of Retford Lions, to refocus everyone's minds on life-saving CPR and defibrillator use, which again is an invaluable tool and practical knowledge, that one day may also need to be utilised and the chances are you may help to save someone's life.

We now have annual pledges from Starbucks, A1 metal recycling and Eco Prime.

As planned, we are hoping to move forward this coming year with positive changes to the playing field such as the removal of the large BMX track and if any future grant

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money is available to replace it with another sports facility. At the very least some extra grass and perhaps another focal point for the village.

Cheryl and I have met several companies who supply and fit sports equipment and play equipment and we continue to seek out grants and funds to achieve this. In short, we are looking at a structure similar to the current MUGA which is a small football area with goals, we are looking at a similar frame but housing a tennis court which I know many would use. On the outside would be other activities painted that the kids may use such as football targets and cricket stumps. Keep your eyes peeled for this!!

Not only has a lot of hard work and commitment gone into developing our Local Neighbourhood Plan, but likewise into documenting and pushing the Council to act into dealing with the unauthorised site on Brough Lane. As an update the inhabitants of the site have recently appealed the decision to deny authority and planning permission and although this causes further delays, this case is getting closer to being concluded.

As the year ends, it's also thanks to District Councillor Charlie Adams and County Councillor Kelvin Wright for their past year's service to Elkesley. Any personal opinions aside regarding local or National Politics, what I will say is these guys fight tirelessly and are unwavering in their support to make our village the place we all want it to be.

Another project which is soon to be started is a bench / seating area on the grassed area near the shop where the Christmas Tree is situated and will also hold a flag pole as prominent times. Kelvin has requested £500 to assist this project and Charles is applying for several hundred pounds to help and support this.

Both Kelvin and Charles find me frequently at the end of the phone, a text message or via Facebook appraising them of developments, issues and projects, and both are always more than happy to get stuck in and help to make this place the best it can be.

This year we also look to push and develop some of our other projects already discussed such as a water barrel being fitted in the cemetery for watering plants and flowers and also waling routes, signs and a village welcome map being developed and installed.

The parish council meets almost every month at the memorial hall, with meeting dates arranged to fit in with the councillors' busy schedules as most of us also hold full time jobs.

There are still vacancies on the Parish Council if any residents feel they could play a part in making life in Elkesley better. I'm not saying you have to take on the world, I'm not

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demanding all of your time, simply that small piece of the jigsaw you may hold which could fit into place to make our jigsaw complete.

I never imagined that I'd still be here 7 years later, but this voluntary role almost becomes addictive, you get to help people and shape the place we live, why not come along and take a look.

On the back of the BALL families Charity do last year raising vital funds for the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance, I would like to announce another upcoming Charity event which is to be hosted at the Hall and arranged by the Hudon Family, Kris, Gemma and their daughter Georgina. I will let them tell their story when the time comes but for now pencil in your diaries 7pm on Saturday 12th September for live music, food, drinks and dancing. Tickets will soon be on sale with money being raised to support families suffering with cancer.

As a final note, this is not an ordinary Parish Council meeting. There's no formal public session and no formal agenda where we discuss matters, normal business will resume next month, the meetings tonight are purely informative.

As such, some of you in attendance may be here to be updated on some matters including the Brough Lane site, all I will say is planning is refused and it's now in the hands of the appropriate people as their recent appeal has now been lodged. Please attend next month's meeting for all other matters.

Thanks everyone for your attendance.

Cllr John Skelton

Chair of Elkesley Parish Council