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## Ellel Parish Council

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### Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Ellel Parish Council Held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 Galgate Recreation Rooms

Present: Cllr Booth, Cllr Collinson, Cllr L. Corkerry, (in the chair), Cllr S. Corkerry, Cllr Charlesworth and Cllr Mather.

Steve Caswell - clerk.

2 members of the public.

#### Open forum

#### Issues raised during the open forum:

A question was asked about the overgrown hedgerow at Foxholes, Bay Horse. The use of the "Love Clean Streets" app was suggested as a means of reporting issues such as this.

A question was asked regarding ruts in the grass verges. It was explained that as the weather was so dry it was not possible to repair the ruts at the moment.

It was reported to the council that the repairs to Chapel Lane Bridge had been completed.

#### 161/25 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr M Jarnell and Cllr Pollitt

#### 162/25 Declaration of interests.

Cllr Booth declared an interest in any item regarding the village hall as a VH trustee and as a member of the Warm Spaces group.

Cllr S Corkerry and Cllr L Corkerry declared an interest in any item regarding the Galgate Action Flood Group as members.

Cllr L Corkerry declared an interest in any item concerning the Warm Spaces Group.

#### 163/25 Election of Chair for 2025/26

As sitting chair, Cllr L Corkerry presented her chairs report for the previous year:

*"Since the last AGM of Ellel Parish Council, I am pleased to report that we have continued to be active in many areas across the parish.*

*We have been able to support several community events, including the Galgate "Gaslight" Horticultural Show, Galgate Children's Treat, Ellel St John's Church Beer Fest, Bonfire night celebrations, contributions to Dolphinholve Show and to Ellel Village Hall.*

*The playpark gate in Dolphinholve has been replaced, and a bench in the playpark re-sited.*

*Contributions have been made to bulb planting in Dolphinholve around the village sign.*

*The Community Rooms in Galgate have started to undergo a refurbishment, with additions to the kitchen and new blinds. Wi-Fi is now available via a dongle and new kitchen*

*equipment including a new cooker has been installed. Further improvements are planned in the coming months.*

*The Warm Welcome Group meets in the Community Rooms every Friday and provides a free meal and drinks for guests in a safe, welcoming space. The group is supported by the Parish Council and Lancashire County Council, and by independent fundraising and donations. The number of guests continues to increase, and I am proud that all the volunteers are so generous, tenacious, and welcoming.*

*In the forthcoming months Jasmine Peach will be running a pop-up bakery in the Community Rooms two days a week, and she will be offering a café service to visitors.*

*Our Clerk reports that bookings for the Community Rooms have increased, and it is to be hoped that this will continue as we progress with the improvements.*

*The security of the Community Rooms has been improved by the addition of an electronic keypad which can be operated independent of a key.*

*After a long wait the barrier at the entrance to the recreation fields has at last been replaced, and after some initial teething troubles this is operating very well and is a deterrent to large vehicles parking on the fields. The exit barrier is awaiting a slight engineering change and when this has been carried out, we will be able to install much needed one-way signs and replace other road signs which have been damaged or removed. We have also been lucky to be supported by volunteers – Tony Newton will be planting up the planters at the top of the football pitch, and Mr Thistlethwaite has moved some of the remaining MOT from the side of the Community Rooms to fill in the potholes on the approach road.*

*An exciting development, only recently achieved, is that we have been able to unequivocally establish that Ellel Parish Council own the recreation field. The copy documents are currently held by the Clerk and will hopefully put paid to any misunderstandings in future.*

*As always, there is still plenty more to do – we need to remove the old astroturf from the car park, and make some decisions on the potential re-siting of the play park behind the cricket pitch in Galgate to a more visible spot where parents can keep an eye on their children while they play.*

*I feel that we have made substantial progress this year – we have been able to resolve some old issues and tackle new ones. I also feel that as a Council we are open, approachable, and keen to support and collaborate with our parishioners and fellow community groups, which after all, is what we are here to do.”*

### **Election of Chair of Ellel Parish Council for 2025/26**

Cllr Mather and Cllr L Corkerry were both nominated for the role of Chair of Ellel PC for 2025/26. As a recorded vote was requested the voting for Chair for 2025/26 was thus:

Cllr Mather received votes from, Cllr Collinson and Cllr Mather.

Cllr Corkerry received votes from Cllr S Corkerry, Cllr Charlesworth, Cllr Booth and Cllr L Corkerry.

Cllr L Corkerry was duly elected as Chair of Ellel Parish Council for 2025/26.

Cllr L Corkerry, accepted the role as Chair of Ellel Parish Council for 2025/26

**164/25 Election of Vice Chair for 2025/26**

Cllr S Corkerry and Cllr P Mather were both nominated for the role of Vice Chair for 2025/26. As a recorded vote was requested, the voting was thus:

Cllr Mather received votes from, Cllr Collinson and Cllr Mather.

Cllr S Corkerry received votes from Cllr S Corkerry, Cllr Charlesworth, Cllr Booth and Cllr L Corkerry.

Cllr S Corkerry was duly elected as Vice Chair of Ellel Parish Council for 2025/26.

Cllr S Corkerry, accepted the role as Vice Chair of Ellel Parish Council for 2025/26

**165/25 Review of Ellel PC Constitution, including Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.**

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the council.

**166/25 Appointment of representatives on outside bodies, working groups and sub-committees**

It was agreed that the representatives on the bodies, groups and committees remain as per the previous year: -

- Ellel Village Hall Representative – Cllr Booth
- Dolphinhholme Playground Committee – Cllrs Collinson, Mather and Pollitt
- Recreational Area Management Committee – Cllrs Hoggarth, Charlesworth and L Corkerry
- Communications and Media Committee – Cllrs Hoggarth, Mather and Charlesworth
- Rural Access Committee – Cllrs Charlesworth and S Corkerry
- LALC Area Committee Representative – Cllr Charlesworth

**167/25 To consider and approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

It was resolved that the minutes be approved and signed by the chair.

Proposed by Cllr Charlesworth

Seconded by Cllr S Corkerry

**168/25 To consider matters of planning and development control.**

The Parish Council considered the planning applications before them and agreed to make no comments on any of the applications.

**169/25 To consider payments for authorisation.**

- I. Request for grant support from Dolphinhholme Village Show. The annual request for a grant to the Dolphinhholme Village Show was unanimously supported and a grant for £150 was agreed.

II. Payments for authorisation:

Electricity Invoice	£ 241.58
M6 Media Ltd - monthly hosting fee	£ 46.80
NFU Mutual - Insurance	£ 107.49
Clerk's Salary	£ 1279.90
Lengthsman Costs	£ 690.90
Cooker Socket point/light repair at Galgate Recreation Rooms	£ 770.99
Internal Audit Fee	£ 150.00
CPRE	£ 50.00
Dolphinholme Village Show (Grant)	£ 150.00

Authority to make the payments was granted.

Proposed by Cllr Booth

Seconded by Cllr Charlesworth

**170/25 Galgate Recreation Fields proposed Astroturf Pitch**

The council were informed that the University of Lancaster is replacing its existing 3G Pitch carpet – therefore as part of the project they are looking to potentially provide free of charge to a local sports ground (Galgate). If this offer is accepted, the University would undertake the following:

- Provide and transport the existing carpet
- The main contractor undertaking the install of new carpet would advise any drainage requirements
- Would provide a cost to install the carpet at Galgate (the University would look to provide up to potentially £10k subject to site meetings and feasibility checks)

The Council discussed the very kind offer from the university at great length but very reluctantly agreed that there simply wasn't the space to provide for the pitch. The only option was to use part of the car park but members felt that, as the car park was often at capacity, this was not a viable option. It was agreed that the university be thanked but the offer be declined.

**171/25 To consider the Annual Statement of Assurances and the Ellel Parish Council Annual Return.**

The RFO presented the Ellel PC Annual Return and explained the current financial standing of the council and answered questions from members regarding the accounts.

- I. The council considered the annual return and agreed that the return was an accurate reflection of the council's finances and that the return be signed by the chair.  
Proposed by Cllr Charlesworth  
Seconded by Cllr Booth
- II. The council considered the annual statement of assurances and agreed that to the best of their knowledge the statements could be agreed and signed by the chair.  
Proposed by Cllr S Corkerry  
Seconded by Cllr Charlesworth

### **172/25 Reports, Correspondence and Crime Statistics**

The Clerk reported on:

- A broken and damaged bus shelter at Dolphinholme
- Lancaster City Council are working on a grant agreement to deliver the 106 agreement through the Ellel Parish Council.

Cllr S Corkerry reported that the new lock had been installed at the Galgate Recreation Rooms, and that the new cooker had been installed and the lighting had been repaired.

Cllr Collinson reported that the Dolphinholme Playground Committee had met and were currently looking at possible forward plans for the site and utilising the 106 monies available.

### **The Clerk reported the Police Crime Statistics for March 2025**

Antisocial behavior – 2 incidents

Burglary – 4 incidents

Criminal Damage & Arson – 2 Incidents

Other theft – 5 incidents

Public Order – 1 incident

Vehicle Crime – 3 Incidents

Violence / Sexual Offences – 12 incidents

Other Crime – 1 Incident

### **173/25 Date and time of the next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held at Galgate Recreation Rooms at 7pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025

The meeting closed at 7.41 pm

Signed..... Date.....