

# ELM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

20 March 2018 – 6.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Stokes: Chairman; Councillors, Mrs Cotterell, Milham, Mrs Hopkin, Hopkin, Ms Ferguson, Mrs Luffman, Mrs Davis and Butcher.

**In attendance:** District Councillors Ms Tanfield and Sutton

**Apologies:** Councillor Brand

### **164/17 Members' Code of Conduct**

Members were reminded of the need for them to submit to the Monitoring Officer at Fenland District Council, via the Parish Clerk, any changes to the content of their Register of Member Interests forms.

Members decided the reminder be noted and acted upon.

### **165/17 Membership of the Council**

Councillor Butcher was welcomed to the Council. Councillor Pooley was not in attendance.

### **166/17 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest.**

Councillor Butcher confirmed that he had a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 22 and would not be remaining in the meeting or taking part in the vote for that Agenda item.

### **167/17 Minutes of February Meeting**

The Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **168/17 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting**

#### **(1) Play equipment provision in Fridaybridge (Minute 147/17 (1) refers**

The Clerk confirmed that the Contract has been received by WREN and it was hoped that work would start on site before too much longer.

#### **(2) Speeding across the Parish (Minute 147/17(2) refers**

No report was received from Speedwatch.

The Elm Speedwatch Co-ordinator stated that 10 sessions were held in the last month and 69 speeders were noted. It was further stated that due to the time taken for the report to go on the Council's Website and the fact that the report was not complete, that a separate website had been set up for Elm Community Speedwatch and reports would be put on there in future.

[www.elmspeedwatch.btck.co.uk](http://www.elmspeedwatch.btck.co.uk)

The MVAS has not been installed as yet due to the batteries supplied not working properly and the unit not being supplied with a spare set. It was hoped that the spare batteries together with the bag and padlocks would be received from the Contractor shortly.

**(3) & (4) Local Highway Improvements schemes – Elm & Fridaybridge (Minute 147/17(3) & (4) refers)**

The Clerk reported that when the implementation of the speed reduction between Elm and Fridaybridge was to take place was still awaited.

**Public Forum**

A Parishioner queried the sign in respect of No Parking outside the Cemetery which had taken some time to be replaced. The Clerk confirmed that she had spent time trying to find a sign that is not too flimsy and not too expensive. She believed she had found one and hoped to have a sign in place before too much longer.

A volunteer from Elm Community Speedwatch confirmed that the Consultation period on the speed reduction between Elm and Fridaybridge was currently open and responses were required by 14th April.

**169/17 Police matters**

The following report was received from the Police for the month of February.

Please find the Police update for February

You can contact the Wisbech Neighbourhood Policing Team on:-

[Wisbech.NPT@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Wisbech.NPT@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

However crimes cannot be reported via this media, crimes and incidents must be reported using 101 non-emergency or 999 in an emergency.

Unfortunately PCSO Sue Clarke is still on sick leave, but she is making good progress, and is expected to be returning to work in the very near future.

Meanwhile, please find details of a brief report for the month of February 2018:

There was a robbery at Elm Village Store in February, where masked offenders stole cash and cigarettes after threatening the staff. This was a terrifying ordeal for the staff involved. If you or anyone you know has information regarding this crime, please contact the police.

Vehicle crime in the rural villages of Wisbech has caused some concern during February 2018. There have been many reports of thefts from vehicles, criminal damage to vehicles, and interference with vehicles. It appears that the majority of the vehicles which were targeted were work vehicles. Various work tools and personal items such as wallets, were among some of the items taken.

If you, or you know of anyone in your area who has a work vehicle where tools and other items are stored overnight, please advise them of the current criminal activity which is happening.

**CRIMES REPORTED IN ELM – FEBRUARY 2018**

- 1 x Theft in a dwelling
- 1 x Criminal damage other than a dwelling
- 1 x Burglary

1 x Robbery of a business property  
1 x Theft from a motor vehicle  
1 x Criminal damage  
1 x Criminal damage to a vehicle

### **CRIMES REPORTED IN FRIDAY BRIDGE – FEBRUARY 2018**

1 x Theft from motor vehicle

### **CRIMES REPORTED IN COLDHAM – FEBRUARY 2018**

I am pleased to advise there were no reported crimes in Coldham

### **CRIMES REPORTED IN RINGS END – FEBRUARY 2018**

I am pleased to advise there were no reported crimes in Rings End

Crime statistics can also be found on the following websites:-

[www.cambs.police.uk/help/crimemaps/](http://www.cambs.police.uk/help/crimemaps/)

[www.ukcrimestats.com/Police\\_Force/Cambridgeshire\\_Constabulary](http://www.ukcrimestats.com/Police_Force/Cambridgeshire_Constabulary)

### **GENERAL CONCERNS**

There have recently been two reports of cybercrime incidents. One victim believed they had won the Spanish Lottery despite not having purchased a ticket. The victim had parted with several thousand pounds before realising that they were the victim of a scam. Please beware, Fraudsters are very clever. They are convincing, persuasive, and appear realistic. For further advice and information on different types of cybercrime, please contact Action Fraud UK. They are the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre.

Hare coursing remains a problem in the rural areas, with several reports being made every week.

I am continuing with rural patrols to try to combat some of the issues which are occurring in the rural areas.

If you see anything suspicious, or have any information regarding any of these issues, please contact 101, or 999 in an emergency.

Councillor Ferguson confirmed that she was attending a meeting on behalf of the parish Council in April to meet with the new fenland Inspector and would report back as appropriate.

### **170/17 Planning Applications**

F/YR17/0946/F - Erection of 1 x 2-Storey 3-bed dwelling with detached garage and 1 x 2-storey 3-bed dwelling, installation of 1.8m high close boarded fence to rear and the formation of a two new vehicular accesses at Land South of 125 Fridaybridge Road Elm. Revised proposals.

***Resolved: That the application be supported.***

F/YR18/0158/O – Erection of up to 4 x dwellings and the formation of a new access involving the demolition of existing outbuildings (Outline application with all matter reserved) at Land South of Needham Road Cottages Needham Bank Fridaybridge.

***Resolved: That the application be supported.***

F/YR18/0240/LB – External alterations to a listed building involving replacement and repair of existing windows at The Limes Begdale Road Elm PE14 0BQ

*Resolved: That the application be supported.*

F/YR2018/0248/F – Erection of 2 x 2 storey 3 – bed dwellings at Land West of The Holt Begdale Road Elm

*Resolved: That the application be supported.*

### 171/17 Reports from District and County Councillors

Councillor Tanfield confirmed that if Parishioners had concern about Planning Applications they could contact their District councillor and they would help if they could.

Councillor Sutton confirmed that it was hoped that the resolution to the flooding issues at Birch Grove was in sight. There were also issues raised at The Stitch and he was working on these with other agencies.

There was also an issue in respect of HGVs in Colletts Bridge Lane and he had attended a site visit recently and that this was being dealt with.

He confirmed that he had attended a meeting last week and the issue of Elm not having a Village Hall had been raised and he just wanted this to be in the minds of Members for future consideration.

The issue had been raised with both District Councillors that as they were not selected for the Elections next year that they were hiding away. They wished it to be known that they were very much doing their roles and their contact details are on the Web and they are very happy to receive requests for their support.

Finally he confirmed that the consultation was open for the speed reduction between Elm and Fridaybridge and hopefully this would be in place before too much longer.

Members noted District Councillor Ms Tanfield and Councillor Sutton's comments.

### 172/17 Open Spaces (including the cemetery) within the Parish

The Clerk confirmed that the initial plans had come through from the Architect and he had queried the "maintenance strip" required by the Hundred of Wisbech as this would cut down the number of burial plots considerably. The Clerk had queried this with the Solicitor to the Board and was awaiting a response.

The Clerk confirmed that the maintenance work had been carried out by the Contractor. They had been mixed reports as to the standard of the work and the Clerk was meeting with the Contractor at the end of the month to discuss further. One resident did ring the Clerk and wished to comment about the work carried out and the helpfulness of the workers.

The Clerk raised the issue of the state of the benches and gates/fences at the cemetery and asked Members if they would like the Clerk to get a quote for them to be repainted.

Members resolved that the Clerk get a quote for the works.

### 173/17 Financial Matters

(1) Income and Expenditure since last meeting

<b>ELM PARISH COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b>		
<b>20 March 2018</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Payer</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
National Savings	Interest Received	83.23
Peter Heron	Cemetery Cottage Rent	595.00
Peter Barnes Funerals	Interment Fee - Burial	2,475.00
D Bates	Agricultural Holdings	162.50
A Fitzjohn	Agricultural Holdings	700.00
Cemetery Main. Cont. Various	Cemetery Contribution Maintenance	609.60
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,625.33</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
NEST (Direct Debit) EPC Contribution £4.00	Clerk Pension	304.00
Fen Ditching Company Ltd (VAT £ 360.80)	Leam - Maintenance Works	2,164.80
Turner Contracting Ltd (VAT 27.40)	Works to Cottage	164.40
Diamond Byte Solutions Ltd (£7.50)	IT Support	45.00
Fenland Fire Appliances LLP £VAT £6.24)	Extinguisher Service	37.44
DA Pest Control	Control of moles	60.00
Anglian Water	Water for Cemetery	65.21
CL Butcher (VAT £1.33)	Salary & Expenses	231.45
RJ Warren Ltd (VAT £287.88)	Grounds Maintenance	1,727.27
RJ Warren Ltd (VAT £401.54)	Grounds Maintenance	2,409.26
Friday Bridge Primary School	Grant Donation	2,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,208.83</b>

Members decided

(1) that the income of £4,625.33 be noted and that the expenditure of £9,208.83 be authorised;

(2) Members noted the Bank Reconciliation report for February 2018.

As previously agreed Members wished to be reminded of any previously agreed expenditure not yet made and/or invoiced for, which is detailed below:-

The Council currently have agreed expenditure outstanding in the total of approximately £7,000. This is for the following items:-

Cost of replacement street lighting lantern x 3  
Placing of two litter bins in Elm/Fridaybridge  
LHI Payments

The Clerk confirmed that the Reserves both earmarked and general would be reviewed at the April meeting.

#### **174/17 Future of old towpath – Chapel Lane Elm**

The Clerk confirmed that both Elm and Emneth Parish Councils have resolved to purchase the land previously. Members were asked to confirm that they were in agreement to the anticipated purchase price of £10,000. There was no further confirmation from Norfolk County Council as to the final purchase price.

Members confirmed their decision to purchase the land and noted the potential purchase price. More information would be brought to the meeting in April.

#### **175/17 Bus Shelter Provision in the Parish**

Nothing further to report at this time.

#### **176/17 Provision of Defibrillator at Elm Church of England Primary School**

The Clerk confirmed that she had met with the Headteacher and Caretaker. She had contacted the East of England Ambulance Service about registering the device. However she now had sight of some emails to the Headteacher from the charity funding the purchase and installation and it may have been registered already and she was awaiting a response from the charity to confirm this. The Defibrillator is installed in a heated cabinet on the wall of one of the smaller school buildings diagonally opposite the pedestrian entrance by the grey barriers near the footpath.

#### **177/17 Section 137 Grant Requests from Elm Community Speedwatch (ECS) and the Tenants at Cemetery Cottage**

Final details of the request from ECS was received just before the meeting. The total request was for £195.43 of which £118.26 has already been paid. The original request was agreed in the sum of £163.50 and the final additional sum of £77.17 has been requested.

Members resolved to agree an additional grant of £77.17.

The request for funding for a Defibrillator at the February meeting was postponed due to the Council being informed that there was one already installed at the local primary School. The applicants have therefore requested that the funds be agreed for installing one in Fridaybridge.

Members resolved to agree in principle to a grant of money with final figures being agreed when the total costs were known for an installation in Fridaybridge.

### **178/17 Elm Street Pride Group**

Councillor Stokes reported on a recent Street Pride meeting which had taken place recently. He felt it was a very interesting and productive meeting. They discussed amongst other things, speeding in Gosmoor Lane and the large number of empty vodka bottles littered down it. One of the Directors of Fenmarc attended who was due to make a donation of £250 next week.

Also discussed was the issue of the provision of a dog waste bin down Wales Bank/Atkins Lane and a waste bin at the end of Grove Gardens near the walkway to Gorefield Avenue.

A request was raised by a Parishioner as to the possibility of a pedestrian access to the playing field when the main vehicular gates are closed.

### **179/17 Adoption of Street Light at the Parish Office Begdale road Elm**

A brief discussion took place about the additional light in the compound at the far end of the Office portacabin.

Members resolved to leave the light as it was.

### **180/17 Removal or re-siting of Street Lamp at Rose Lane Elm.**

Members discussed the request and were shown photographs taken by the Clerk. The quote from FDC for moving the light was in the region of £2.5k to £3.5k. The light is currently not working.

Members resolved that due to the high costs and the uncertainty of final costs due to the awaited new contract from FDC as an interim measure, to report the light for repair and ask that it is shrouded to assist local residents who say it impeded on their sleep due to shining in the bedroom window.

### **181/17 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that a letter in from a Parishioner who wished to be considered for the current Vacancy on the Council. This had been forwarded to Members prior to the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that this would go on the Agenda for the April meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that she had been contacted by a Charity from Scotland who wished to offer the Council a plaque commemorating the World War One landing strip in Coldham. However they were not sure where this actually was in Coldham. The Clerk confirmed that's he had done some research into the matter in her own time but had not been able to locate where it was. She asked if any Parishioners knew of anyone in the Parish that may know where the site is to let her know. There is no cost to the Council.

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting was 17 April 2018 at 6.00pm.

### **182/17 Resolution to Exclude the Public and Press**

It was proposed that the Press and Public be excluded for item 22 to review the terms and conditions of employment of the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Resolved that the Public and press be excluded.

The Chairman closed the meeting to all but the Members.

Councillor Butcher left the meeting.

**183/17 Parish Council Staffing**

The Clerk left the meeting.

Members discussed the report from the Clerk and agreed to the change requested to the Clerk's terms and conditions of employment and informed the Clerk when she returned to the meeting. The Clerk expressed her thanks.

**Meeting finished at 7.25 pm.**

Signature :.....( Council Chairman).

Date: