

ELM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

22 May 2018 – 6.45 pm.

Held at the Parish Council office, Begdale Road, Elm

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

In attendance: District Councillors Ms Tanfield and Sutton

Apologies: Councillors Feaviour and Pooley

1/18 Election of Chairman

Councillor Brand was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the municipal year 2018/19 and made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2/18 Election of Vice-Chairman

Councillor Ms. Ferguson was elected as Vice Chair for the municipal year 2018/19.

3/18 Chairman's Allowance for 2017/18

Members considered the setting of a Chairman's Allowance for the municipal year 2018/19.

Members decided that the sum of £320.00 be allocated to meet the expenses of the Chairman of the Council during the municipal year 2018/19.

4/18 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.

5/18 Minutes of April Meeting

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

6/18 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) Play equipment provision in Fridaybridge (Minute 187/17 (1) refers

The Clerk confirmed that there had been delays in getting the Contractor for the skate park to agree a start date. WREN had got involved as there was a risk that the funding agreed by them towards the project would be lost. The Contractor has finally agreed to start on the 4th June 2018.

Members were also asked to consider the design of the signage provided by the Contractor for the play park areas.

Members resolved to agree the designs subject to the changes to reflect Elm Parish Council.

Members further resolved to allow dogs on the area subject to them being on a lead.

(2) Speeding across the Parish (Minute 187/17(2) refers)

No report was received from Elm Speedwatch. Details are available on the Elm Speedwatch website www.elmspeedwatch.btck.co.uk

(3) & (4) Local Highway Improvements schemes – Elm & Fridaybridge (Minute 187/17(3) & (4) refers)

The Clerk confirmed that details had been received from CCC as to the costs of the speed reduction and the white line marking around the speed bumps near the Cemetery. Details of the increased costs were circulated prior to the meeting.

Members resolved to agree the total costs in the sum of £4,546.23 including £649.46 VAT.

(4) Land at Chapel Lane Elm (Minute 187/5 refers)

Members had been previously informed by email from Norfolk County Councillor Humphrey that the land was being offered for purchase at £5k and despite the fact that it had previously been offered a few years ago to the Parish Council for free, Norfolk CC were not prepared to drop the price any further. The matter was discussed and Members agreed to the purchase price and to go ahead with the purchase.

(5) Community Centres Elm and Coldham

The recent meeting arranged had to be cancelled as a number of people could no longer make the date.

7/18 Police matters

Firstly my apologies for non-attendance. You may or may not know that I have been away after an injury at work

Over the last month there has not been too much happening in your areas but as a whole we do seem to be suffering with Shed burglaries and thefts from vans i.e. tools.

So some basic asks for your parishioners.....don't make it easy for the burglars

Are there items on display in your vehicle?

Is your Vehicle locked?

Is the gate to your back garden unlocked?

Is your Shed unlocked?

Is your garage unlocked?

Are there tools left in your garden? (particularly lawnmowers at this time of year)

Bicycles left unattended or unlocked?

Ground floor window open?

As to regards tools going from work vansit is too much to ask residents to take out everything from their van at the end of a busy day but if you can't put your vehicle in the garage consider reversing right up as close as you can to the garage doors so that it is impossible for the back doors to be opened.

Mark your property –It is important to put an identifiable mark and take a note of unique serial numbers on any valuables as they help both you and the Police identify them if they are unfortunately stolen. It also makes it difficult for a thief to dispose of the items and may provide vital evidence for a prosecution.

Items can be marked in a variety of ways:

Engraving or edging your postcode and the house number

UV Pens

Specialist products i.e. Smartwater

If the item is a work of art or difficult to describe – take a photo of it and keep it along with the items details safe with your insurance policy.

8/18 Planning Applications

F/YR18/0318/RM – Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission F/YR15/0201/0, for the erection of a 2-storey 5-bed dwelling with attached garage/cart shed involving the demolition of 2 x existing dwellings at 1 – 2 Whitehouse farm Coldham Bank Coldham

Resolved: That the application be supported

F/YR18/0320/F – Erection of 20 x 2-storey dwellings comprising of: 8 x 2-bed, 5 x 3-bed and 7 x 4-bed with associated garages, parking and landscaping at Land West of Cedar Way Accesses from Grove Gardens Elm

Resolved: That the application cannot be supported due to the overdevelopment of the area and Elm already being in excess of LP12 allocations for new building.

F/YR18/0363/F – Erection of a single –storey extension to rear of existing dwelling at 9 Grove Gardens Elm PE14 0JG

Resolved: That the application be supported

F/YR18/0364/O –Erection of 6no dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land South of 6 Fridaybridge Road Elm

Resolved: That the application be cannot supported as Elm is already in excess LP12 allocations for new building.

F/YR18/0441/F – Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling, a 1.8m high (max height) close boarded rear boundary fence and the formation of a new access at Land South of 125 Fridaybridge Road Elm

Resolved: That the application cannot be supported as Elm is already in excess of LP12 allocation for new building

F/YR18/0443/O – Erection of up to 2no dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land North East of Eastleigh Elm Low Road Wisbech

Resolved: That the application be supported

F/YR18/0444/F – Erection of single-storey to existing outbuilding to form double garage study and gym involving demolition of existing garage at Claymore House 26 The Stitch Fridaybridge

Resolved: That the application be supported

9/18 Reports from District and County Councillors

Councillor Sutton advised that as Members will have noticed further work were being carried out on the dyke at Birch Grove and it was hoped that there would be no flooding issues this coming winter. He has also been contacted by a Parishioner from Fridaybridge who was having flooding issues in Back Road and he was assisting her as appropriate.

He further mentioned that many local developers/agents assumed that as FDC did not have a 5 year land supply that the Local Plan would not apply but he said that only 2 parts of the Plan fell silent because of the land supply issue. He said there are no shortage of Planning Permissions but a shortage of delivery of the works.

He mentioned in respect of LP12 that the Plan states that if there is proof that the public do not want the development to take place this can be a reason for refusal. However this will then often go to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol and the original refusals are often overturned. He therefore shared the frustrations of the local Parishioners in respect of the Planning Permissions granted.

He mentioned that the issues in respect of infrastructure around Elm is being partially addressed by the Wisbech Access Strategy. This has had 1 million pounds spent on it already and there is another 21 million due to be spent on various proposals in the area including works to the Elme Hall Hotel roundabout, the Freedom Bridge Roundabout and Cromwell Road.

Cllr Ms Tanfield said that she was very disappointed to hear about the delays in respect of the skate park and would like the Contractors contact details so that she could contact them about the delays.

She further mentioned that she had attended a meeting in respect of the Hundred of Wisbech recently who had proposed an increase to the drainage rates of 20%, she pushed for a reduction of this to 10%.

She further mentioned that she is happy to do what she can to support Parishioners who have concerns about proposed Planning Applications.

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

Cllr. Tanfield left the meeting.

10/18 Open Spaces (including the cemetery) within the Parish

The Clerk was still waiting to hear from the Hundred of Wisbech to move this matter on further.

The Clerk had previously circulated an email from the Upwell Tramway Project. They were not requesting any funds but just asked that the Council were in agreement with their project and what they were trying to achieve.

Members agreed that they were happy with the proposals for the project

11/18 Financial Matters

(1) Income and Expenditure since last meeting

ELM PARISH COUNCIL		
Income & Expenditure		
22 May 2018		
Income		
Payer	Description	Amount £
Fenland District Council	Precept	34,396.00
National Savings	Interest Received	83.23
Tenant	Cemetery Cottage Rent	595.00
Richard King Memorials	Cemetery memorial	99.00
R S Memorials	Cemetery memorial	1,009.00
W Bailey & Son	Burial	1,030.00
Total		37,212.23
Expenditure		
Payee	Description	Amount £
NEST EPC Contribution £4.60	Clerk Pension	184.60
Hundred of Wisbech IDB	Agricultural Drainage Rates	80.88
Independent Memorial Inspection VAT £358.35)	Cleaning of War Memorial	2,150.11
CL Butcher (VAT £2.17)	Salary & Expenses	583.03
canalbs ltd	Internal Audit Fee	173.75
Came & Co	Insurances	2,743.86
CommuniCorp	Membership Fees	100.00
SLCC (VAT £15.00)	Training	90.00
Fraser Dawbarns (£70.00)	Legal Fees	426.00
Total		6,532.23

Members decided

- (1) that the income of £37,212.23 be noted and that the expenditure of £6,532.23 be authorised
- (2) Members noted the Bank Reconciliation report for April 2018.
- (3) The Internal Auditors report be noted and accepted
- (4) That the dates for the display of the Audit paperwork be displayed from the 11th June to 20th July 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 £15,000. This is for the following items:-

- Cost of replacement street lighting lantern x 3
- Placing of four litter bins in Elm/Fridaybridge
- LHI Payments
- Purchase of Land/Solicitors Costs

12/18 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Clerk confirmed that she was still waiting to hear through CALPC and SLCC exactly how the legislation applies to the Parish Council. She would pass on details to the Members in respect of their new email addresses when received from the website provider.

13/18 Fenland Policing meeting

Cllr Ms. Ferguson attended the Neighbourhood Policing Meeting and was asked to sign a confidentiality agreement so there was limited information that she could give.

There has been a complete restructure of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and they would not be attending Parish Meetings and also will be winding down reporting to Councils.

The Police Statistics can be found on the Cambridgeshire Constabulary website.

They are concentrating on rural crimes including hare coursing, money laundering, theft of plant vehicles, exploitation of children being used as drug runners and dwelling house burglaries.

80 PCSO officers are being replaced with police officer roles across Fenland, this will take approx. 18 months to complete due to training. They have found additional funding resources by restructuring some of the ways they carry out policing across the County. Generally a very positive meeting.

14/18 Private Funded Highway Improvement

The Clerk referred to an email about the costs detailed from CCC as to the costs for three buffer zones in Wales Bank, Begdale Road and Gosmoor Lane.

Members agreed in principle to the works being considered and asked that the Clerk contact CCC further to find out if these can be carried out and the full costs.

15/18 Assets Register – Risk Assessment

The Clerk informed Members that as detailed by the Auditor, the Council should go out and have a look at all the Assets and decide about the condition of the item, whether it require maintenance/replacing.

It was agreed that the list be divided between the Members and the Clerk and an updated list be prepared in due course.

16/18 Wayleave – Back Road Fridaybridge

The Clerk gave brief details of the Wayleave Document and it was resolved by Members that the document be signed by the Chairman and returned to UK Power Networks.

17/18 Funding for Improvement of Signage at Colletts Bridge Lane/Birch Grove

As part of his presentation noted above Cllr Sutton mentioned about the possibility of Members agreeing some funding towards the costs of works/signage required at Birch Grove and Colletts Bridge Lane. Members noted his comments and said that they would consider the matter further when they are informed as to the likely costs involved and funds offered by other organisations involved. He confirmed that the Council have the powers to make contributions towards the costs under the Public Health Act 1972 s.145 and the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 s.72

18/18 Section 137 Grant - Fridaybridge Defibrillator

The total requested towards the cost of the purchase and installation of a Defibrillator in Fridaybridge was £961.41. A discussion took place and Members agreed to fund the rest of the cost in addition to the money already raised by the Christmas Lights.

19/18 Parish Council Insurance Cover

A general discussion took place in respect of the Cover currently in place. Members decided that they would carry out the audit of the Assets and then consider if they could reduce the insurance cover costs in the next financial year.

20/18 Correspondence

An email was received in respect of the parking in Grove Gardens and also speeding in Elm. A general discussion took place as to some of the issues. The Clerk will prepare an email for the Members to comment on.

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting was 19 June 2018 at 6.00pm.

21/18 Resolution to Exclude the Public and Press

Members resolved to exclude the Press and Public due to the confidential nature of the item 26.

22/18 Confidential Item - Allotments

A general discussion took place about the issues raised by the Clerk. Members resolved that the Clerk be authorised to write to the Tenant as discussed.

Meeting closed at 8.17 pm.

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

Date:

Elm Parish Council, Antwerp House, 252 Gosmoor Lane, Elm Wisbech PE14 0EG