

ELM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

13 November 2018 – 6.00 pm.

Held at the Parish Council office, Begdale Road, Elm

Present: Councillor Ms Ferguson: Chairman; Councillors Milham, Stokes, Mrs Cotterell, Mrs Hopkin, Hopkin, Feaviour

In attendance: District Councillor Sutton

Apologies: Councillors Mrs Davis, Mrs Luffman, Butcher, Pooley, Brand, District Councillor Michelle Tanfield.

101/18 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.

102/18 Minutes of October Meeting

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

103/18 Reports from District and County Councillor(s)

Cllr. Sutton mentioned about the following items:-

The FDC garden waste service is being held at the same cost as it has been since the start of the scheme two years ago.

The Wisbech Christmas Fair is in the Town Centre on the 9th December 2018, 10am to 3pm.

The Golden Age Fair is at the Tower Hall Friday Bridge on the 11th December 2018.

Cllr Sutton said that the Memorial Service on Sunday the 11th November was well attended. He was approached by a couple of Parishioners about issues that he would be looking into further.

Cllr Sutton confirmed that he was more than happy to help with any issues that he was able to.

Cllr Sutton then left the meeting due to another commitment.

104/18 Request by Begdale FC to use the porta cabin at Begdale Road.

No-one from the Club attended the meeting so the matter was not discussed further.

105/18 Age UK Community Warden Scheme

Melanie Wickford attended the meeting to give Members details of the Warden Scheme to enable Members to consider the possibility of introducing the scheme in Elm Parish.

Members thanked her for her presentation and for answering their questions.

Members resolved to investigate the Scheme further and look into possible funding sources to enable the scheme to be set up in the future.

106/18 Elm Street Pride

The current Chair of the Street Pride Group introduced himself and thanked Members for allowing him the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

The Group meet the first Saturday of each month at the War Memorial to litter pick various areas of Elm.

The Group would like to create some flowerbeds in the village, in Spring 2019, by the Village Sign near the junction of Main Road and Gosmoor Lane. It was hoped that if they could get permission for these flowerbeds to be installed that they could get them sponsored by local businesses. They also hoped to clean some of the road signs in the Village.

Members thanked the Chair for his presentation and for the work carried out by Street Pride members each month. They confirmed that they were happy to support the above proposals.

Public Forum

A parishioner mentioned that he had given the Clerk a list of questions at the September meeting and to date had not had a written response to those questions but he had received some oral responses to some of the questions. As he had not had a response by today, he had made a formal complaint to the Information Commissioners Office.

The same parishioner raised the matter that meetings were taking place in respect of a possible Community Centre and that these meetings should not include the Clerk and were they correctly being convened as an Agenda was not published and neither were Minutes being produced.

He also raised the fact that the July 2018 meeting Agenda did not include any item relating to funding for the initial costs for the Community Centre so therefore the resolution to fund £1,000 may well be illegal.

The Clerk confirmed that she did not realise that he wanted the matter dealt with as a FIO request so she would deal with it as a matter of urgency. She also confirmed that the meeting held were just a Steering Group to move the matter forward and was not a formal Committee as detailed under the legislation.

A parishioner asked a number of questions in respect of the financial records held on the website and the monthly accounts and Audit details. He also asked about the monthly accounts, VAT refund and the monies spent on the Friday Bridge play area. The Clerk confirmed that she would look into the issues raised and report further as appropriate.

A parishioner read out comments that she had to make in respect of Speedwatch and speeding in the Parish. The Chair confirmed that the matter would be looked into further.

The Clerk confirmed that some Police speed checks had been held in the villages on 2nd November 2018 and she had asked that further ones be carried out in other areas in the parish.

Another parishioner mentioned that walking to school in Gosmoor Lane was very difficult at times due to parking and the speed of vehicles. The School were also getting involved with a "Walk to School" week.

The Chair confirmed that these are issues that the Council could raise matters with Highways at CCC but that PC has no powers in respect of highways.

A parishioner raised the issue of the state of the empty building land (site of the old Church Hall) at Rose Lane. She also raised the issue of the HGV vehicles going to and from the development down Halfpenny Lane.

The Chair confirmed that FDC had been contacted about the old Church Hall site and that some works had been carried out to tidy it up and reduce the rat population.

107/18 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) Play equipment provision in Fridaybridge (Minute 85/18(1) refers

There was still works waiting to be done on the site and both Contractors had been chased on the matter and the cheques were being withheld until the works were completed.

(2) Land at Chapel Lane Elm (Minute 85/18(2) refers)

Nothing further to report at the moment but the solicitor was going back to NCC in respect of completing on the purchase.

108/18 Planning Applications

F/YR18/0924/LB – Works to a Listed Building involving display of 2no externally illuminated painted signs to front and side elevations at The Sportsman Main Road Elm PE14 0AG

Members resolved to support the Application

F/YR18/0965/RM – Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission (F/YR16/0136/O) for the erection of a 2-storey 5-bed dwelling and integral double garage with 1-bed annexe over (Plot 3 only) at Land west of Rowde House Bar Drove Friday Bridge

Members resolved to support the Application

F/YR18/0915/F – Erection of a detached garage to existing dwelling at 19 Tower Road Friday bridge PE14 0HP

Members resolved to support the Application

109/18 Open Spaces (including the cemetery) within the Parish

Members resolved to carry out works to the willow trees at the Pocket Park and The Leam

Members again discussed the positive feedback about the works carried out by the Councils' ground maintenance contractor. The Clerk confirmed that she was due to meet with the Contractor to discuss about the works required for the winter. Members confirmed that the Contractor should use his judgement as to what works he carried out over the winter.

The Clerk confirmed that the Tender documentation had gone out in respect of the Cemetery and Contractors had been asked to return them by 30 November 2018.

Quotes had been received in respect of fencing at the Friday Bridge play area. Members felt the quote was too high and additional quotes were required.

A Parishioner confirmed that there was damage again to the play area at Friday Bridge and the Clerk confirmed that the local Police were under instruction to call in at the area whenever they were able to when returning to base.

Members resolved that the quote for the additional works identified by the contractor maintaining the Clock Tower be approved.

110/18 Police Matters

Members discussed the report received from the PCSO and noted its contents.

111/18 Financial Matters

(1) **Income and Expenditure since last meeting**

ELM PARISH COUNCIL		
Income & Expenditure		
16 October 2018		
Income		
Payer	Description	Amount £
National Savings	Interest Received	83.23
Tenant	Cottage Rent	595.00
Fenland District Council	Precept	34,396.00
Cottage Rent Deposit Account	Interest Received	0.36
Total		35,074.59
Expenditure		
Payee	Description	Amount £
NEST	Clerk Pension	259.01
idverde	Grounds Maintenance	1,240.00
PKF Littlejohn	Audit Fee	360.00
DA Pest Control	Control of moles	60.00
Fenland District Council	Wheelie bins emptying	184.27
Turner Contracting Ltd	Works to Cottage	270.00
Came & Co	Insurances	194.54
CB	Security - Playing Field Elm	100.00
CL Butcher	Salary & Expenses	578.26

HAGS-SMP Ltd	Fridaybridge Rec Grd Equipment	13,539.31
Total		16,785.39

Members decided

- (1) that the income of £35,074.59 be noted and that the expenditure of £16,785.39 be authorised
- (2) Members noted the Bank Reconciliation report for October 2018.
- (3) The Clerk confirmed that she had been informed by FDC that there were no outstanding invoices from FDC for street light repairs.

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 £12,000. This is for the following items:-

LHI Payments
Community Centre Admin. Costs.

112/18 Street Lighting

A discussion took place about changing the labels on the Parish street lights now that the Council were now responsible for their maintenance. To supply new labels would be approx. £400 including VAT.

It was resolved that the Clerk speak to the Contractor about this and bring it back to the next meeting.

113/18 S137 Grant Request

Wisbech Stroke Club – The Clerk confirmed that nothing further had been heard from the Club. The Clerk agreed to go back to the Club to ask them if they wanted to proceed further.

Coldham Defibrillator – Members agreed to fund the additional costs to add to the funds already raised by the Community to fund the project. This amounted to £425.95 plus VAT.

Royal British Legion – Members agreed to fund the cost of a wreath in the sum of £17 and a further donation of £50.00.

114/18 Trees at Chapel Lane Elm

Members resolved to fund works to the trees at Chapel Lane and the Clerk to speak to the Grounds Maintenance Contractor about carrying out the works.

115/18 Green Dog Walkers Scheme

Members discussed the scheme and resolved to not prompt the project in the Parish.

116/18 Correspondence

The matter of speeding in the Parish had been raised in emails to the Clerk. The matter was discussed.

The Clerk confirmed that stickers can be put on wheelie bins to advertise the speed limit. There is to be a scheme introduced shortly by CCC and details would be available to be discussed at a later meeting.

Nothing further to report at present in respect of the inclusion of a name on the War Memorial. An email has been sent to the Memorial Trust to confirm with them about including a name on the Memorial.

A letter has been received from the Elections Officer confirming arrangements for next year's local elections and the possible costs.

The data collected from the MVAS was circulated and the matter discussed.

The Clerk confirmed that she had again reported the matter of the lack of signage and street markings at Redmoor Lane.

As an urgent matter the required expenditure on the LHI 2019/20 bid for £654.25 was discussed and agreed by Members.

This would be included as a formal matter on the December agenda but the CCC were asking for a response as soon as possible.

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting was 11 December 2018 at 6.00pm.

117/18 Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

Members resolved to exclude the Press and Public due to the confidential nature of the following two items

118/18 Allotment Review

Further information is required before a decision can be made on the site.

This would be considered again at the next meeting.

119/18 Monitoring Officer

The Clerk reported that the Monitoring Officer had confirmed that there was no further action required in respect of the matter raised with her.

Meeting closed at 19.51pm.

Signature :(Council Chairman).

Date:

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