

# ELM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

18 September 2018 – 6.00 pm.

Held at the Parish Council office, Begdale Road, Elm

**Present:** Councillor Brand: Chairman; Councillors Milham, Butcher, Feaviour, Ms Ferguson, Mrs Hopkin, Hopkin.

**In attendance:** District Councillor Sutton

**Apologies:** Councillors Mrs Davis, Mrs Luffman, Mrs Cotterell, Cllr. Stokes

### 71/18 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.

### 72/18 Minutes of August Meeting

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

### Public Forum

A Parishioner raised the issue of vehicle parking on both sides of the road near his property at Well End Friday Bridge causing pedestrians to go onto the road to get round the vehicles. This is of particular concern at school start and finish times with parents and young children going home or to the local shop. In addition there is an elderly resident living nearby who could have need of the emergency services and an ambulance could not at times get near to her property. There are some yellow lines there and a telecommunications box, which vehicles have to avoid when parking. There is also an item of furniture blocking some of the area. There are a number of lorries and large tractors using that area which other cars and pedestrians are at risk from. The Parishioner provided photographs.

Councillors noted the comments made and the matter would be formally discussed as it is on the Agenda under item 13.

A Parishioner asked that Members consider the concerns he has about the changed design and increased houses under the Application coming up later on the Agenda from Kier Homes. This will impact on current residents and the Parish infrastructure. A general discussion took place about the history of the site and other proposed developments in the village.

A Parishioner produced a letter about some concerns that he had about a number of matters. He said that he would wait for a response in due course.

### 73/18 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

- (1) Play equipment provision in Fridaybridge (Minute 59/18(1) refers

The Clerk confirmed that the site was not yet finished as there was still one piece of equipment due to be installed. She was not sure when this was due to be done. Progress would be reported at the next meeting. Members noted the situation.

Members had been sent an email from the Skate park contractors with details of the signs they are producing for that area of the park. They were asked to approve them by email so that they could be ordered without further delay. Members confirmed that they were happy with the wording and ratified the decision previously discussed by email. The Contractor had reported a 5-6 week lead time for these being produced.

The issue of the exit onto Maltmas Drove was discussed at length. The Clerk had reported the various actions she had taken to try and move this forward from a highway point of view. Members were very concerned about the matter.

Members resolved to authorise the Clerk to ask a local contractor to get some barriers installed as soon as possible.

**(2) Local Highway Improvements schemes – Elm & Fridaybridge (Minute 59/18(2) refers)**

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the relevant officers at CCC about the changed speed limit area on the B1101 between Friday Bridge and Elm as increased speeding had been reported along there since the speed limit had been reduced from 40 mph to 30 mph.

She had been informed that there would be no signage installed as a result of the speed limit change as this is not required for a 30 mph area. They would not even install a "New Speed Limit" sign.

The matter was discussed at length.

Members discussed what could be done to help with the situation. It was suggested that local residents be approached about having signs in their gardens and stickers on their wheelie bins informing drivers of the new speed limit.

Members said they would speak to residents that they know. The Clerk was given details of a company she could contact about signage.

**(5) Land at Chapel Lane Elm (Minute 59/18(5) refers)**

Members were informed as to progress in respect of the land purchase. A discussion also took place about the area generally including getting a Committee together to oversee maintaining the area.

**(6) Community Centres Elm and Coldham (Minute 59/18(6) refers)**

Nothing further to report at this time.

**74/18 Planning Applications**

F/YR18/0320/F - Erection of 27 x 2-storey dwellings comprising of: 15 x 2-bed, 8 x 3-bed and 4 x 4-bed with associated parking and landscaping at Land West of Cedar Way Accessed from Grove Gardens Elm

***Members resolved not to support the application due to the number of properties in the Parish exceeding LP12. In addition in considering its decision, EPC took into account the high number of objections from local residents.***

F/YR18/0770/VOC – Variation of conditions 5,7 and 10 relating to planning permission F/YR16/0136/O (Erection of 3no dwellings (Outline application with all matters reserved)) – amendment to off-site highway improvements, site levels and approved plans at Land West of Rowde House Bar Drove Friday Bridge

***Members resolved to support the application***

F/YR18/0787/F – Erection of 4no polytunnels, agricultural storage building, pump house and water tank to existing plant nursery (part retrospective) at Bankside Nursery March Road Rings End Wisbech

***Members resolved to support the application***

F/YR18/0792/F – Change of use of former chapel to 2-storey 4-bed dwelling involving demolition of existing single-storey and erection of a single storey extension to rear at The Old Chapel Back Road Friday Bridge Wisbech

**Members resolved to support the application**

F/YR18/0811/F – Erection of a single-storey extension and garage to front of existing dwelling including conversion of existing garage to day room at The Orchards Begdale Road Elm Wisbech

***Members resolved to support the application***

F/YR18/0824/CERTLU – Certificate of lawfulness (Existing): Use of building as B1(c) light industrial at Workshop East Of The Bungalow Needham Bank Friday Bridge

***Members resolved to support the application***

F/YR18/0821/F – Change of use from agriculture to a residential use and the residential occupation of 3no static caravans (retrospective) at Land West Of Bar Drove Friday Bridge

***Members resolved not to support the application***

### **75/18 Reports from District and County Councillor(s)**

Cllr. Sutton reported that approx. 120 people attended the Golden Age Fair in Wisbech recently. It was a very good event. Another event is planned for December and he asked that the matter of the costs being met by the Parish Council be considered at next month's meeting.

He confirmed that new signage for Colletts Bridge Lane was still awaited.

A resident had raised the matter with Cllr Sutton of the Royal Mail post box disappearing from Kirkhams Lane opposite Colletts Bridge Lane. There had been conflicted information as to whether the box had been stolen or removed by Royal Mail. Cllr Sutton had produced a letter asking the Royal Mail to replace the post box and asked that the Chairman sign the letter which will also be signed by Cllr Sutton and Cllr Tanfield.

### **76/18 Open Spaces (including the cemetery) within the Parish**

A Councillor raised the issue of the state of the pond at the end of Grove Gardens which is the responsibility of the Developer.

The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Fen Ditching about the fish that had been removed and he had confirmed that when the time was right he would be replacing some fish.

The Clerk confirmed that she was meeting with the Architect in respect of the specification for the lay out of the Cemetery on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The Chairman confirmed that he would also attend.

### **77/18 Internal Auditor Appointment**

Members resolved to appoint canalbs as the Internal Auditor for the financial year 2018/19 and ask that she also attend later this year to do a half yearly audit.

## 78/18 Police Matters

Members discussed the report received from the PCSO and noted its contents. Members expressed their concerns about issues in the Parish generally. One Councillor expressed their concerns about speeding outside of Elm School. There is a real need for more policing in the Parish.

## 79/18 Financial Matters

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

<b>ELM PARISH COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b>		
<b>18 September 2018</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Payer</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
National Savings	Interest Received	83.23
Tenant	Cemetery Cottage Rent	595.00
Charity Cont. Various	Defib Charity Contribution	430.00
Charity Cont. Various	Defib Charity Contribution	519.00
Richard King Memorials	Cemetery memorial	455.00
Peter Barnes Funerals	Interment Fee - Ashes	207.00
W Bailey & Son	Burial	867.00
W Bailey & Son	Burial	412.00
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Fenland District Council	Playpark Grant	87,540.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>92,387.23</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
NEST	Clerk Pension	208.13
idverde	Grounds Maintenance	1,240.00
HMRC	Clerks' Tax & NI	699.64
CL Butcher	Salary & Expenses	579.10
Emneth Parish Council	Land Purchase Expenses	171.75
Bowers Solicitors	Land Purchase Price	5,000.00
Fenland District Council	Planning Fees	150.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,048.62</b>

Members decided

- (1) that the income of £92,387.23 be noted and that the expenditure of £8,048.62 be authorised
- (2) Members noted the Bank Reconciliation report for August 2018.
- (3) Members noted the further funds being held for the purposes of purchasing a Deliberator for Coldham and resolved they were happy to hold the funds until such time as there was enough funds to complete the purchase.

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 £16,000. This is for the following items:-

- Cost of replacement street lighting lantern x 3
- Placing of three litter bins in Elm/Fridaybridge
- LHI Payments
- Community Centre Admin. Costs.

### 80/18 August Meeting

The August meeting issue which again poorly attended in August and the Clerk also discussed about the nature of the Clerk's role being such that it can be difficult for leave to be taken in a block. It has previously been discussed that if was difficult to not have a monthly meeting due to planning applications and financial transactions.

The matter was discussed and the Clerk proposed that the meeting in July be held later in the month than was usual and the September meeting be held earlier in the month than was usual and this would mean that there would be minimal disruption to the business of the Council.

Members resolved to agree to the Clerk's proposal and dispense with the August meeting and have the July and September meetings as proposed above.

**81/18 Parking Issues at Clock Tower/Well End Mews**

Members further discussed the issues raised in the Public Forum in respect of the parking issues. Members resolved that the Clerk report the matter to CCC and see what can be achieved to resolve the matter.

**82/18 Correspondence**

The Clerk raised the issue of the repairing of street lights which was accepted as an urgent matter by Members. Members have previously resolved to have ETL assess their lights but not reached agreement in respect of ongoing repairs. The matter was discussed and Members resolved to ask ETL to prioritise the assessing of any light reported as not working and deal with them appropriately.

Some Parishioners who came late to the meetings raised their concerns about the empty plot of land at Rose Lane which has been vacant for some time. Rubbish is dumped there and also rats have been seen. One of the Councillors said that she had a contact number for the owner of the land and would report back to Members as to progress. The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been raised by email previously and she had reported it to FDC Planning Department and she read out to the Parishioners what the reply had been.

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting was 16 October 2018 at 6.00pm.

Meeting closed at 7.42 pm.

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

Date:

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