

# ELM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

15 August 2017 – 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Brand, Chairman; Councillors Mrs Dalliday, Mrs Cotterell, Stokes, Miss Ferguson

**Apologies:** Councillors Mrs. Davis, Mrs Hopkin, Hopkin, Webb, Pinnock, Patrick and Milham.

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

The Minutes of the meeting of 18 July 2017 were confirmed and signed.

### **42/17 Members' Code of Conduct**

The Clerk reminded Members 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 from the Clerk be noted and acted upon.

### **Public Forum**

A question was asked about the figure put aside for the street lighting in the Parish. It was confirmed that there was a reserve figure of £93,000 being held for the new parish lighting scheme. If the Parish Council agreed to join the scheme it was anticipated this would be in place from April 2018. The Parish Council has 158 street lights and these would be surveyed by the District Council as part of the arrangements.

A resident raised the issue of a footpath between Fridaybridge and Elm being very overgrown. Members agreed that Councillor Stokes would let the Clerk have precise details of the area concerned so that she can report it to the County Council.

### **43/17 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting**

#### **(1) Play equipment provision in Fridaybridge (Minute 28/17 (1) refers**

The Clerk reported that she had carried out a number of administration tasks that needed to be done but due to difficulty in liaising with the Community representatives and arranging site visits, nothing further had moved forward with the Project. She hoped to make some progress in September.

#### **(2) Speeding across the Parish (Minute 28/17(2) refers**

Councillor Pinnock was not present but had given the Clerk a report to read out at the meeting which she did. Details of which are given in the appropriate paragraphs below.

- (a) Councillor Pinnock reported that to date the Speedwatch team had undertaken 32 sessions spread over 39 1/2 hours. 5,756 vehicles had been "clicked" with 430 reported for excessive speed. This represented 7.5%.  
Councillor Pinnock requested that the Clerk arrange for the document confirming these details be put on the Parish website.

Members agreed that the details be noted.

**(3) & (4) Local Highway Improvements schemes – Elm & Fridaybridge (Minute 28/17 (3) &(4) refers)**

Councillor Pinnock provided to the meeting the following information for the Clerk to read out at the meeting which she did.

The schemes have been subject to much communication and have been cut back from the original plans by CCC. The present situation regarding Elm is that there will be 4 sets of cushions – Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) have stated that the Gosmoor and Begdale Lane locations are not suitable and that set number 4 is near a listed building. CCC has suggested that one Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) be used to replace these three sets of cushions.

There are current discussions to increase the number of MVAS's from one to two so that other locations within the Parish may benefit. CCC have stated that this is not a cost cutting exercise.

The MVAS(s) will be installed asap.

Consideration will have to be given (at the next meeting) to appoint someone to recharge the batteries and relocate the MVAS(s).

Double yellow lining in Elm and Fridaybridge (FB) has been done – the old signage has yet to be removed

The 20mph school flashing units (2 at Elm, 3 at FB) are due to be installed Wednesday 16 August 2017. The schools have supplied me with school opening times and the hours that they wish the units to operate. This information has been passed onto the suppliers. The Clerk and I will attend and learn how to programme the signs using the palm programmer purchased.

Whilst all the works are in hand, it is unlikely that everything will be completed within the school holidays which, bearing in mind the length of time the schemes have been ongoing, is regrettable.

The CCC Officer who deals with speed limit reduction schemes is currently on holiday. The proposal to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph on the B1101 between Elm and FB will be put to him by CCC on his return

Additionally, CCC have been requested to give a price for an "Unsuitable for LGVs"- Large Goods Vehicles - sign to possibly be located at the junction of Gosmoor Lane and FB Road

**(4) Elm Football Club (Minute 28/17(5) refers)**

The Clerk reported that she had made contact with the young man who had enquired about using the Football Compound and unfortunately he had been unsuccessful in getting enough people interested to start a new Team and so reluctantly he was now unable to make use of the facilities.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

#### **44/17 Street Lighting Replacement Contract**

Councillor King attended the meeting to discuss further details of the new contract in respect of the Parish Council street lights and to answer any questions. Details had been provided to Members, in a letter from FDC, prior to the meeting.

Members asked questions of Councillor King and after discussing the matter further they agreed in principle to join the FDC scheme.

(The letter from Councillor Simon King can be found on the Elm Parish Council website under Information/Street Lighting)

#### **45/17 Police matters – PCSO Sue Clarke**

The Clerk reported that she had not received an email from the PCSO prior to the Meeting.

#### **46/17 PCC Jason Ablewhite**

Mr Ablewhite was welcomed by the Chairman to the meeting. He gave Members a talk on the Local Policing Review, and the pressures on the Constabulary.

He said that the cost of crime overall in the rural areas of Cambridgeshire had dropped by another 7%.

Hare coursing was on the increase however with over twice as many offences in March 2017 compared with 2016.

There are 61 crimes per 1,000 of the population in the country as a whole and for Cambridgeshire the figure is 56 per 1,000. Some rural areas have little or no crime but it tends to be higher in the more urban areas.

A lot of time is being spent by the police on non-crime issues which include those in mental health crisis and young people absconding from children's homes.

All of the rural area front line is still intact. In an average month they get 30,000 calls to 101 and 10,000 to 999. However in July this increased to 31,500 for 101 and 12,500 for 999 calls.

There continue to be some low level anti-social crime and speeding issues.

Cuts to other frontline services seem to be impacting on the need for police services.

There had been an increase in services available to victims of crime. There is a new state of the art unit for those who are unfortunate enough to be victims of sexual crime. This is closely linked to the hospital as it is based at the Hinchingsbrooke site.

There has been a spike in the number of people leaving petrol forecourts without paying.

Recorded crime has gone up considerably over the last year or so. He is fairly confident that this is due to the increase in the way that crime is reported rather than an actual increase in crime. He gave an example that if a child of 10 is accused of shop lifting, in the past this would have been dealt with by the police liaising with the parents of that child and giving the child a "ticking off". However this is now having to be reported as an actual crime.

They are also having to cut costs by over another 8 million. As part of the Policing review the 6 areas of Cambridgeshire will be cut to two; Fenland and Peterborough and the rest of the County as the South. This

Review is expected to save this sum and more besides and these savings are anticipated to be spent on the recruitment of new officers.

Cambridgeshire has the highest satisfaction rate in the Country in respect of feedback from victims.

There are plans for a new Police Station to be built in Wisbech and plans are currently with FDC.

There has been a new Casualty Reduction Officer recruited to help to try and educate young people in respect of speeding and accident reduction.

They are going to fund a new Countrywide Co-Ordinator for Speedwatch, Rural Watch and Neighbourhood Watch.

#### **47/17 Planning Applications**

Members considered the following planning applications and decided to submit to the Local Planning Authority the comments set out (in italics) below:

F/YR17/0469/F – Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with detached double garage involving demolition of existing stables at Land West of Townfield House Main Road Elm – Revised Proposals

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

F/YR17/0662/TRCA – Works to 1no Willow tree within Conservation Area at Glenholm Main Road Elm PE14 0AG

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

F/YR17/0658/F – Erection of a 2-storey 2-bed dwelling at Land East of the Workshop Bar Drove Fridaybridge

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

F/YR17/644/F – Erection of a detached 1-bed Annexe ancillary to existing dwelling at Appletree House Begdale Road Elm PE14 0BE

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

F/YR17/0706/O – Erection of up to 2no dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) – Plot 4 Land West of Appletree House Begdale Road Elm

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

F/YR17/0660/CERTLU – Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing): Implementation of planning permission  
F/YR14/0479F (Erection of a 2–Storey 3–bed dwelling involving demolition of outbuilding) at Land South of 21 Main Road Fridaybridge

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

F/YR17/0731 – Erection of dwelling (Outline application with all matters reserved) at Land South of Railway Back Road Elm

*Resolved: That the application be supported*

#### **48/17 Reports from District and County Councillors**

Councillor Tanfield said that she would approach Phil Hughes at FDC to see if he could help with the consultation in respect of the Play Equipment project in Fridaybridge. She also said she will do what she could to move the project forward.

Councillor Sutton reported that there had been reservations around the combined authority decision but he said that there was £16 million available to the area of Fenland and it felt that on balance this was a good thing for the area.

He said that there had been a report from residents of Colletts Bridge in respect of a faulty street light and whether this light was actually serving any particular purpose in the road and that a number of residents had expressed their view that they were happy for the light to be removed. Councillor Sutton said that he would liaise with the Clerk as to the addresses so that she could write to them as to their views.

Councillor Sutton reported that he felt that had taken the role to help others and was please to report that some Parishioners who had had an issue for over 19 months he had been able to help them with this within three weeks.

Three cars abandoned on Station Road have been cleared away. He also attended a coffee morning with the Police and the PCSO had confirmed that the Police were liaising with the owner of the other vehicles to try and get that issue resolved.

#### **49/17 Open Spaces (including the cemetery) within the Parish –**

The quote for the Leam clearance was discussed and it was agreed that the Company be asked to go ahead with the works at the quoted price of £1804.00. The Clerk would request a start date with a view to the work being done in late autumn/early winter.

#### **50/17 Dyke at Elm Cemetery**

The Clerk reported that she had sent 24 letters to residents that backed on to the Cemetery. 12 residents had agreed to pay the fee, 3 people had said they did not wish to as they clear it themselves and 6 had not responded.

The Clerk had contacted the Chair of the Hundred of Wisbech about the works and he said that no formal consents were required and he welcomed the works being done.

Councillor Pinnock raised concerns in an email to the Clerk prior to the meeting that he was concerned about any chemicals that were to be used and the Clerk said that she would discuss this further with the Contractor.

Two quotes had been received and the costs and merits were discussed.

Members agreed to appoint RJ Warren at the quoted cost of £2340.00 to do the work in the autumn. The Clerk was requested to liaise with the Contractor as to the houses that had agreed to the works.

#### **51/17 Cemetery Cottage**

Members discussed the two quotes received from Contractors for carrying out the painting required on both the Cemetery Cottage and the Cemetery Chapel. It was agreed that the quote from J Painter in the sum of £1500.00 be accepted

### **52/17 SLCC Annual Conference**

The Clerk requested that she could attend the above Conference on the 6 September 2017 in Peterborough. The cost is £69 plus VAT. She offered to feedback on any matters that she felt Members may find useful

Members decided that the Clerk be given permission to attend and asked that items of interest be feedback in September.

### **53/17 Recording of Meetings**

The Clerk reported that she had sought legal advice from Clerks & Councils Direct in respect of recording meetings and the obligations under the Freedom of Information. This had been raised as a concern at the meeting in July.

Their legal Consultant is Paul Clayden, Author of Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration. He was of the view that the recording would not be a public document or information covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Smaller Authority Transparency Code. They are private recordings by the Clerk to aid her preparation of the Minutes. He further felt that the Clerk did not have to keep the recordings after the Minutes have been approved or provide copies to others.

The Members agreed that the advice given be noted

54/17 Financial Matters

(1) Income and Expenditure since last meeting

<b>ELM PARISH COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b>		
<b>15 August 2017</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Payer</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
National Savings	Interest Received	60.41
MJ Coates Memorial Mason	Cemetery memorial	321.00
W Bailey & Son	Cremated remains plot & interment fee	389.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>770.41</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
RJ Warren Ltd	Grounds Maintenance	2,029.04
C Brennan	Security - Playing Field Elm	100.00
Anglian Water	Water for Playing Field Elm	9.86
Anglian Water	Water for Cemetery	34.61
CL Butcher	Salary & Expenses	749.87
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,923.38</b>

In addition, the Clerk reported on the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank and savings accounts as at 31 July 2017 (in the total sum of £181,147.88), together with the figure of £144,680.19 as at 31 July 2016.

Members decided

- (1) that the income of £770.41 be noted and that the expenditure of £2,923.38 be authorised;
- (2) that the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank and savings accounts as at 31 July 2017 and the position as at 31 July 2016 be noted;

(3) to note that, after allowing for the Parish Council's ear-marked reserves (totalling £121,425.00) at 31 July 2017), the actual balance available to the Parish Council at 31 July 2017 was £59,722.88 making further allowance for a general contingency of £55,000 reduces the actual balance available to the Parish Council at 31 July 2017 to approximately £4,722.88;

The Clerk also reported that in the future she would be reporting on the income up to the month end before the meeting and the outgoings for the current month up to the date of the meeting.

### **55/17 Correspondence**

The Clerk confirmed that Councillor Webb had sent his resignation by email. She confirmed that she would be in touch with the Elections Team at FDC in respect of the process to secure another Councillor as soon as practicable.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for 12 September 2017, to commence at 7.00pm, at the Parish Council office Begdale Road, Elm.

**Meeting finished at 8.35pm.**

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

Date: