

ELM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

11 December 2018 – 6.00 pm.

Held at the Parish Council office, Begdale Road, Elm

Present: Councillor Mr Brand: Chairman; Councillors Milham, Mrs Cotterell, Mrs Hopkin, Hopkin, Feaviour, Pooley, Butcher, Luffman.

In attendance: District Councillor Sutton

Apologies: Councillors Mrs Davis, Stokes, Ms Ferguson, District Councillor Ms Tanfield.

120/18 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.

121/18 Minutes of November Meeting

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

122/18 Progress Report from ETL Limited

Matt gave details of the lights that had all been tested by ETL. There were no Red category lights. There were 51 bracket lights that need replacing as they are very old. A large number of minor repairs have been carried out. There are still 5/6 lights that were not working and need repairing as soon as possible.

He has provided an estimated budget £30,791.04, five full replacements, at a cost of £3,442.00. 107 lantern conversions at £26,750. Total Costs of £60,973.04.

He let the Clerk have a memory stick with the details on and had also emailed the Clerk details of the log in for their online portal to see the details of all the lights. He also gave members details of the assessments by means of a pie chart to demonstrate how many Red, Amber and Green were.

He suggested that the Council consider what timescale they decide to follow as to when they will assess the lights in the future. He said that if all the lights are replaced as LED then he suggested a 6 year timescale.

The Council resolved to look at all the data and make a decision about the LED replacements at the January meeting.

They further resolved to ask that ETL carry out the repairs and LED replacements to all of the 5/6 lights not currently working as soon as possible.

Members thanked Matt for his input.

123/18 Speedwatch

Mike Brooks has been contacted about how the Speedwatch Scheme could be reformed after it was deactivated due to the resignation from the scheme of the two people running it. Due to these resignations, and the return of the majority of the equipment, The Elm Parish Speedwatch group needs to be reactivated including members of the Parish Council to show unity in the scheme.

Members were asked to vote as to whether they would like to support the Scheme being started again and they unanimously agreed that they did.

The intention in the New Year was to contact the previous organisers of the Scheme and invite them to a meeting to look to move forward.

It was confirmed that anyone within the Team can be the one responsible to give the Police the information gathered at sessions. It was also felt that there only needed to be weekly Speedwatch sessions

Anyone within the Team could be responsible for giving out and recovering equipment at the beginning and end of sessions.

The Parish Council are still waiting for the Speed Indicator Device charger cable to be returned by the previous Speedwatch Co-ordinators to allow progress to be made on reactivating the scheme. The statistics from the sessions would be put on the Council website in future.

Public Forum

A Parishioner confirmed that money had been set aside from the Whitemill Fund for the purchase of a seat within the bus shelter and another seat to go on the green in Coldham. This money was being held by the Coldham Residents Action Group. Cllr Brand confirmed that he would look into this further as he was Chairman of the group and would organise the purchase and installation to be done.

The same Parishioner further asked why the assets from the Friday Bridge Play Area were not in the Council's Assets List. The Clerk confirmed that the Asset List on the website related to the financial year 2017/2018. As those items were purchased in the financial year 2018/19 they would be included on the Assets List for that financial year by the end of March 2019.

The same Parishioner raised the issue of the figures on the Audit paperwork in respect of the explanation of variances did not read correctly. The Clerk said that this was standard paperwork from the External Auditor and she would look into it further.

Another Parishioner stated that speeding through Coldham is still a major issue. He asked if a VAS could be reinstated after the old one was knocked down. The Clerk confirmed that the possibility of a new sign or at least a post so the MVAS could be installed in Coldham was currently with CCC as part of a private funded highway initiative.

He further mentioned that the Stagecoach service is still being late or not turning up at all. The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the depot but not had a response. She said that she would contact CCC and ask about the issues with the service.

A 40mph road sign at the junction of Station Road Coldham has been knocked down and another Parishioner confirmed that he had reported it to CCC.

124/18 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) Play equipment provision in Fridaybridge (Minute 107/18(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 107/18(2) refers)

The Chairman confirmed that he had signed the paperwork today at the solicitors and the land purchase should be completed before too much longer.

It was discussed that Volunteers need to be sought to assist the Parish Council with the maintenance of the area for the enjoyment of the Parishioners and those from Emneth Parish who have purchased the land in partnership with Elm parish Council.

125/18 Planning Applications

F/YR18/0992/F - demolition of existing conservatory, insertion of first-floor window to side elevation and erection of detached domestic workshop at The Cedars 64 Friday Bridge Road Elm PE14 0AT

Members resolved to support the Application.

F/YR18/1035/F – erection of part 2-storey/first floor side extension and single storey rear extension to existing dwelling including conversion of garage to living accommodation at 21 Henry Warby Avenue Elm PE14 0BT

Members resolved to support the Application.

Community Consultation in respect of – Proposed dwelling at land to the rear of Westview Main Road Elm PE14 0AG

Members resolved they could not support the Community Consultation.

For information only - Notification of an appeal to the Secretary of State in respect of F/YR18/0158/O Land south of Needham Road Cottages Needham Bank Friday Bridge

Members resolved to note the above information.

126/18 Reports from District and County Councillor(s)

Cllr Sutton reported that one of the two issues he was spoken to about after the Remembrance service last month has now been resolved. In addition the works in Back Road Friday Bridge has now been resolved. The resident spoke to him at the Golden Age Fair to thank him in person. Eighteen metres of underground pipe has been repaired and after recent heavy rain there were no flooding issues evident. There was high attendance at the Golden Age Fair and the children from Friday Bridge School sang carols for about three quarters of an hour. The signage is now in place in Colletts Bridge.

He also spoke about the planning application at Grove Gardens where Kier Homes had change the original application from 20 houses to 27. The District Council, whilst aware of local opposition to both the original application and the amendment, felt that they were not in position to refuse the application. They had previously turned down a similar application in Manea and this was overturned by the Planning Inspectorate and the District Council were criticised and awarded costs (he believed the figure was £25k) against them for being unreasonable. Therefore he felt that he had no choice but to support the application due to the risk of costs being awarded again and costing public money as a result. The Developer was however prepared to pay a sum to the local community for the loss of a small amount of amenity land.

127/18 Open Spaces (including the cemetery) within the Parish

A Councillor raised the issue of the play equipment at Grove Gardens and who was responsible for it. It was believed that the Developer was Allison Homes. It maybe that Kier Homes are now responsible for the site. The Clerk said that she would investigate further.

The issue of the maintenance of the hedges in the Parish owned by the Council was raised. It was confirmed that the Council's contractor was responsible for these under the maintenance contract

128/18 Police Matters

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

129/18 Financial Matters

(1) Income and Expenditure since last meeting

ELM PARISH COUNCIL		
Income & Expenditure		
11 December 2018		
Income		
Payer	Description	Amount £
National Savings	Interest Received	95.72
Tenant	Cemetery Cottage Rent	595.00
Fenland District Council	Playpark Grant	7,094.00
Total		7,784.72
Expenditure		
Payee	Description	Amount £
NEST	Clerk Pension	211.44
Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	17.00
Royal British Legion	Donation	50.00
Play Safety Limited (Vat £ 71.60)	Annual Inspection of Play Equip.	429.60
Idverde (£206.67)	Grounds Maintenance	1,240.00
Doddington Parish Council	Training	131.22
Electrical Testing Ltd (VAT £161.00)	Street Lighting Contract	966.00
CL Butcher	Salary & Expenses	533.92
Electrical Testing Ltd (VAT £154.00)	Street Lighting Contract	924.00
Total		4,503.18

Members decided

- (1) that the income of £7,784.72 be noted and that the expenditure of £4,503.18 be authorised
- (2) Members noted the Bank Reconciliation report for November 2018.
- (3) Members decided to approve the quote from Fen Fencing for the various fencing installations required in the Parish and the quote from the grounds maintenance Contractor be approved in respect of the works required to trees within the parish.

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.

130/18 Elm Community Centre

The Clerk discussed the issues raised in the public forum at the November meeting. She confirmed that the meetings being held were not formal sub committees or similar of the Parish Council. They were a working party or steering group to look into the feasibility of and interest in the building of a Community Centre.

It was further discussed that it had been raised in the Public Forum at the November meeting that the Council may have acted ultra vires due to agreeing the funding of costs in connection with the Community Centre as it was not on the Agenda in July. The Clerk confirmed that it was on the Agenda for discussion and resolved by members at that meeting to agree a sum of £1,000. (Minute 42/18(6) refers)

131/18 Correspondence

The Clerk confirmed that there was no additional correspondence in addition to those matters already contained in the Agenda.

132/18 Dates of meetings in 2019

The Council confirmed their agreement to the dates for 2019.

The dates are January 15th, February 12th, March 12th, April 16th, May 14th, June 18th, July 30th, September 10th, October 15th, November 12th, and December 10th.

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting was on the 15th January 2019 at 6.00pm.

The meeting was due to be suspended to briefly inform the public as to the figures received from Contractors for the works at the Cemetery however the public had already left the meeting.

133/18 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

134/18 Allotment Review

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

The Clerk was due to have a site visit when one could be arranged and a Councillor wished to be included in this. This would be considered again at the next meeting.

135/18 Consideration of submitted Tenders for works at Elm Cemetery

Members discussed the tenders received and awarded the contract to the Contractor who tendered for the lowest figure. The Tender accepted was priced at £45,309.00

Meeting closed at 19.33 pm.

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

Date:

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