

ELM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

22 JULY 2014 – 7.15 pm.

Present: Councillor Brand, Chairman; Councillors Mrs Cotterell, Mrs Dalliday, Hopkin, Mrs Hopkin, Mrs Lankfer, Milham, Pinnock, Softley, Stokes and Webb.

In attendance: County Councillor Gillick and District Councillors Sutton and Tanfield.

Apologies: Councillor Miss Webb.

The minutes of the meeting of 24 June 2014 were confirmed and signed.

28/14 Open Forum

(1) Parish Council's Financial Regulations

A parishioner expressed the opinion that the Parish Council is not operating in accordance with its Financial Regulations (paragraph 3.5) with regard to decisions relating to agreeing ear-marked reserves.

Members decided that the comments of the parishioner be noted and that the Clerk would respond to this allegation as part of his reporting at minute 30/14 (1).

(2) Overgrown hedges along Fridaybridge Road, Elm

Further to minute 17/14 (4), a resident of the parish enquired as to any progress in addressing the situation described at that minute.

Members noted the enquiry made by the parishioner and accepted the offer of District Councillor Sutton to provide an update on the situation at minute 40/14.

(3) The Big Knit 5,000

A resident of Fridaybridge informed the Parish Council that she had set up a group within the village to knit 5,000 small hats for Innocent Age UK; the idea is that local people would knit the hats which are then sold with bottles of Innocent smoothies. The target nationally is the knitting of 1,000,000 hats; 25 pence from the sale of each hat is paid by the innocent company to Age UK.

The resident explained that her group is being allowed use of the Tower Hall, over a period of 12 weeks (2.5 hours per session) beginning during the first week of August 2014, to run the activity. She expressed the view that this activity is not only providing support for a worthy cause but also generating social interaction and community activity; this activity is also helping to promote the Tower Hall as a community facility.

The resident mentioned that she had submitted, today, an application to Elm Parish Council for a grant of £150.00 (as a contribution towards the cost of producing advertising posters and purchasing knitting patterns) and asked that council gives the application favourable consideration.

The Clerk confirmed his receipt of the grant application and that it would feature as an item on the agenda for the next meeting of Elm Parish Council.

Members decided that the information reported by the resident be noted and that the application for financial assistance be considered at the next meeting of the council.

29/14 Members' Code of Conduct

Further to minute 31/12, the Clerk reminded members of the need for them to submit to the Monitoring Officer at Fenland District Council any changes to the content of their Register of Member Interests forms.

Members decided the reminder from the Clerk be noted and acted upon.

30/14 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) Parish Council's ear-marked reserves (minute 17/14 (2))

The Clerk explained, in response to the parishioner's question relating to the council's decision to ear-mark the sum of £20,000 for the provision of play equipment at Elm, that, as a result of members' discussions at the council meetings in February and March 2011 (which included their consideration of quotations obtained by former Councillor Rogers), the Clerk had accordingly included an ear-marked reserve in the 2010/11 accounts; these accounts had been approved by the council on 19 July 2011 (minute 31/11 refers); that action constitutes a decision of Elm Parish Council to approve its ear-marked reserves; the money has continued to be shown as an ear-marked reserve in the accounts for 2011/12, 2011/12, 2013/14 and would continue to feature until such time as play equipment is purchased or the council decides not to utilise the funding for that purpose.

With regard to the £7,500 sum shown as Windfarm Community Payment, it had been concluded that, although the sum had been provided to the council (but not as part of a Section 106 Planning Obligation) in association with a windfarm development, there was no specified purpose to which it must be put; therefore, this sum should not be shown as an ear-marked reserve but be included within the council's general reserves.

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted and that they concur with Clerk's explanation of the decision-making in relation to allocation of the ear-marked reserve for the provision of play equipment at Elm.

(2) Facilities for young people in the parish (minute 20/14 (2))

The Clerk informed members that the situation is unchanged from that reported at minute 20/14 (2).

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted.

(3) Elm Cemetery – operational issues (minute 20/14 (3))

The Clerk reported that the Chairman and he had met with a representative of the company which undertakes the grounds maintenance services on behalf of Elm Parish Council and undertaken an inspection of the standard of the grounds maintenance across the parish; the inspection had included Elm Cemetery.

As a result of the inspection, it was concluded that the grounds maintenance works are generally in accordance with the contract requirements. The Chairman and the Clerk requested the contractor to provide quotations for: supplying and planting replacement laurel shrubs; cutting the grass at the extended area on a

fortnightly basis during the growing season; top dressing, levelling and seeding of the extended area. The Clerk read these quotations to

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted and that arrangements be made for the grass at the extended area of the cemetery to be cut by the contractor fortnightly during the growing season.

(4) Parking on the grassed verge at Abington Grove, Elm (minute 20/14 (5))

The Clerk reported the response that he had received from the County Council's District Highways Manager.

The District Highways Manager (DHM) makes the point that although he had suggested the use of plastic wood effect bollards as a deterrent to the parking of vehicles, the decision as to what would be used would be a matter for the Parish Council (as it would be required to fund the cost of purchasing and installing the bollards).

The DHM states that he is unaware of the bollards that were installed in the vicinity of the St Raphael Club in Wisbech; his view is that they could have been installed under different circumstances at a time where different funding was available.

This officer has investigated the subsidence and the presence of a filled-in dyke on the grassed area at Abington Grove; he has examined various historic mapping and was unable to find any dyke; the situation will be monitored by the Local Highway Authority.

The District Highway Manager states that he has no issue with the suggestion of providing an earth mound, provided that it were installed properly and would pass a safety audit. He suggests that the Parish Council considers applying for LHI funding for the installation of the bollards or the earth mound. With regard to the presence of a waiting restriction and yellow lines, the officer comments that the enforcement of any parking on the grassed areas would need to be addressed by the Constabulary.

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted and that this matter be pursued no further at this time.

(5) Gosmoor Lane, Elm – overgrown trees and hedging (minute 26/14 (1))

The Clerk reported that the Chairman and he had inspected the site in question and it is clear that the land upon which the overgrown trees and hedging is situated (forming the boundary to the allotments site) is in the ownership of Elm Parish Council; it is also clear that tree cutting and hedge trimming works are needed to ensure that the council is not in breach of Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980.

Consequently, the Clerk and the Chairman had obtained a total of four quotations for the necessary works; the quotations were reported to members by the Clerk.

Members decided that the lowest of the four quotations received, in the sum of £2,275.00 (for the trimming of hedges and topping of trees to a height of 1.8 metres approximately), be accepted, subject to a prior meeting on-site (involving the Chairman, Councillor Pinnock and the Clerk) to ensure that the quotation covers all of the work required to address the situation,

31/14 Fenland Association for Community Transport

Further to minute 20/14 (6), members received a presentation from Jo Philpott, Manager of the Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT), on the services that FACT provides across the district and what it can offer to the residents of the parish. She informed members that FACT is a not-for-profit organisation which

offers: a door-to-door service for: people who are unable to access local bus routes due to age or disability; people living in rural locations with limited or no access to local bus routes; people without access to a car. The availability of public transport continues to decrease as a result of local authority budget reductions.

Ms Philpott explained the manner in which FACT's Dial-a-Ride service operates within the rural villages around Wisbech, i.e. that people need to become a member, at an annual membership fee of £10.00, and then they are able to travel free-of-charge on a timetabled route using a Fenland concessionary fares bus pass; those who do not possess a bus pass are required to pay a fare. She expressed the view that many people would suffer social isolation if it were not for the services available to them from FACT. The number of members from the villages and settlements across the parish is currently: 18 at Elm; 7 at Fridaybridge; 1 at Coldham; 1 at Rings End.

In response to a question as to whether FACT receives financial assistance from other Town/Parish Councils, Ms Philpott stated that such assistance had been provided by Gorefield Parish Council, Manea Parish Council, March Town Council, Parson Drove Parish Council and Tydd St Giles Parish Council.

Ms Philpott informed members that FACT currently operates 35 vehicles. The Dial-a-Ride service operates at a loss financially but FACT is able to continue to provide the service because of the use of profits achieved through the contract work it undertakes; furthermore, it receives funding of £40,000 per annum from Cambridgeshire County Council. In response to a member's question as to the percentage of FACT's turnover which related to contract work for the County Council, Ms Philpott stated that she did not have the figures to hand but would supply this information to the council.

Ms Philpott circulated copies of leaflets, which provide details of the Dial-a-Ride service which is accessible to Elm parishioners. She requested Elm Parish Council to consider favourably the grant application from FACT for the Dial-a-Ride service, to help sustain what provides, in her view, a "lifeline" to residents of the parish.

Members decided that the comments of the Manager of FACT be noted and that they would re-consider, at the next meeting of the council, the application from FACT for financial assistance.

32/14 Police matters

The Clerk reported that PCSO Dave Russ, of the Wisbech and District Neighbourhood Policing Team, was unable to attend the meeting, This officer had, however, provided a report detailing recent incidents of crime and disorder within the geographical area covered by Elm Parish Council, which the Clerk presented to members, including:

- Coldham – no incidents reported
- Fridaybridge – one report of suspicious circumstances involving a truck being driven around in the early hours of the morning; one noise complaint
- Elm – three incidents of criminal damage (two of which are felt by the Constabulary to be linked to a neighbour dispute)
- Rings End – no incidents reported.

The PCSO's report mentioned that, in relation to complaints from a member of the public regarding persons regarding this unauthorised activity, he had given words of advice to a young male caught fishing at The Leam. The PCSO has given a commitment that he would continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate action.

The PCSO's report included a reminder that the next meeting of the Rural South Neighbourhood Forum would take place on 10 September 2014; this would operate on the basis of the New Horizon outreach vehicle being located at Maltmas Drove, Fridaybridge from 12 noon and concluding with a meeting (to decide the neighbourhood policing priorities for the next six months) on the vehicle commencing at 5.00 pm.

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk, on behalf of PCSO Russ, be noted.

33/14 Planning applications

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

- (1) Erection of a single-storey front and two-storey side extension to existing dwelling, involving demolition of existing garage, at 32 Main Road, Fridaybridge – F/YR14/0446/F (applicants: Mr and Mrs S Johnson).

That the application be supported.

- (2) Conversion of loft to living accommodation including insertion of four dormer windows to rear elevation and insertion of juliet balcony to existing side elevation at 6 Bramley Court, Coldham – F/YR14/0469/F (applicant: Mr M Pilling).

That the application be supported.

- (3) Erection of a two-storey 3-bed dwelling, involving demolition of outbuilding, on land south of 21 Main Road, Fridaybridge – F/YR14/0470/F (applicant: Mr R Wright).

That the application be supported.

- (4) Erection of 1 x three-storey 5-bed dwelling with attached garage, 1 x three-storey 5-bed dwelling with detached garage with games room over and 1 x 5/6-bed dwelling with attached garage and formation of a 1.5 metre high earth bank to plot 3 on land west of Soffits, Halfpenny Lane, Elm – F/YR14/0487/F (applicant: Mr D Housden).

That the application be supported.

In addition, the Clerk reported that planning application F/YR14/0401/F (for the erection of 2 x two-storey 3-bed dwellings, involving demolition of outbuildings, and formation of new access and parking to serve proposed dwellings and existing dwelling (76 March Road) at One Woodhouse Cottages, 76 March Road, Fridaybridge), which was considered by Elm Parish Council at minute 22/14, has been withdrawn by the applicant.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

34/14 Grove Gardens, Elm

Councillor Pinnock informed members that he had examined the content of the Section 106 Planning Obligation associated with the planning permission for the Grove Gardens estate, which states that not more than 23 dwellings may be occupied before the developer offers the community open space to Fenland District Council (FDC) for adoption. He made the point that more than 23 dwellings are occupied but the open space land had not been adopted by FDC; he suggested that FDC should be asked to explain why it had not enforced the requirements of the Section 106 Planning Obligation.

In addition, Councillor Pinnock mentioned the condition of the ponds at the entrance to the Grove gardens estate and suggested that the land owner be requested to undertake the necessary works to address the situation.

Members decided that

- (1) Fenland District Council (FDC) be asked to explain why it had not enforced the requirements of the Section 106 Planning Obligation in relation to transfer of the community open space from the developer of the estate to FDC;
- (2) the land owner be requested to undertake the necessary works to address the poor condition of the ponds at the entrance to the Grove Gardens estate.

35/14 Re-development of The Dale, Begdale Road, Elm

Councillor Pinnock referred to a recent article in the Fenland Citizen newspaper regarding the views of local residents in relation to the removal of trees as part of the scheme to re-develop The Dale site at Begdale Road, Elm. He stated that he has no confidence in statements made by the Housing Association which is undertaking these re-development works in terms of its claims of listening to the concerns of local residents as he believed that misrepresentations had been made by Roddons at the time of acquiring The Dale, as promises had been made regarding keeping wardens and appointing more.

Members decided that Councillor Pinnock's comments be noted and that Elm Parish Council concurs with the views of the local residents in this matter.

36/14 Play equipment provision within the parish

(1) Elm

The Clerk read to members a letter from a resident of Elm, in which, in summary, he suggests that the Parish Council should no longer pursue the idea of providing play equipment at the open space area at Grove Gardens but should look instead to making this provision at the Begdale Road playing field. He suggests also that the Parish Council should contact the Headteacher at Elm C of E Primary School, with the request that the school assists in ascertaining the wishes of children in terms of the play equipment that they would like provided.

Councillor Pinnock expressed the opinion that enough time had been spent by the Parish Council in discussing the provision of play equipment at Elm; he expressed the view that, being mindful that the Grove Gardens community land is not available (through lack of progress in securing the adoption as community land) and the council's knowledge of the opposition from some of the Grove Gardens residents to the provision of play equipment on the estate, there are two potential sites for such provision – the community open space land at the rear of the Grove Gardens estate and the Pocket Park adjacent to Chapel Lane.

Councillor Pinnock expressed the opinion that there should be no further delay to spending of the £20,000 allocated for the provision of play equipment at Elm and that the council should replicate at this site the provision that had been by the council at Coldham.

Members decided that

- (1) Councillor Pinnock's comments be noted;
- (2) the content of the letter from the Elm resident be noted;
- (3) in the event that the community land at Grove Gardens does not become available within the foreseeable future (as a consequence of its adoption by Fenland District Council, the council would proceed with the

provision of play equipment at Elm on the basis of using the Pocket Park adjacent to Chapel Lane as its location.

(2) Fridaybridge

Further to minute 23/14, members considered allocating funding to this project.

Councillor Pinnock mentioned that there are Section 106 Planning Obligation monies available (£20,400.00 in respect of planning permission reference F/YR00/0018/O and £3,249.16 in respect of planning permission reference F/YR01/0795/F) that could be utilised to contribute towards the cost of providing play equipment, to which the Parish Council could add the "windfarm community payment" ear-marked reserve (of £7,500.00); this would provide in excess of £30,000.00 towards a play equipment project. He recommended that the council should proceed on that basis and other members supported his view.

Members decided that the Parish Council would

(1) request Fenland District Council to make available the Section 106 Planning Obligation monies detailed above as contributions towards the cost of play equipment provision at Fridaybridge;

(2) ear-mark the sum of £7,500.00, which is currently shown in the Parish Council's accounts as a "windfarm community payment", as a contribution towards the provision of play equipment at Fridaybridge.

37/14 Local Highway Improvements 2015/16

The Clerk reported that the County Council is inviting proposals from local communities which wish to submit a bid for funding from that council's 2015/16 Local Highway Improvement (LHI) scheme. Any community group, which includes local councils, is eligible to submit a bid.

Under the LHI scheme, applicants are able seek up to £10,000 from the County Council as a contribution to their scheme. The applicant is expected to provide a contribution towards each project of at least 10% of the scheme cost. Bids are restricted to one per applicant.

Projects could involve any highway measure or improvement that is considered to offer benefit to the local community; applicants are required to state within their applications how they feel that the proposal would provide that community benefit.

The Clerk informed members of the application process relating to this scheme and of the method of application evaluation/prioritisation that the County Council will operate.

Long-term maintenance of schemes would normally be the responsibility of the County Council, provided that the scheme is constructed to normal County Council standards.

The deadline for submission of applications is 12 September 2014.

The Clerk reminded members that they had agreed at minute 26/14 (1) to consider the submission of a Local Highway Improvement scheme bid in relation to a potential road safety scheme for Gosmoor Lane, Elm.

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted and to defer to the next meeting of the Parish Council the consideration of submission of an application for a LHI scheme.

38/14 Street Trading Consent Policy

Members considered a draft version a Street Trading Consent Policy, which has been prepared by Fenland District Council with the aim of addressing problems with issues such as the sale of vehicles from the side of the road to food retailing from a van parked on a much loved monument with a noisy generator leaking oil. The regulatory partners have found it difficult to address those problems to the satisfaction of the community through the use of existing enforcement options available.

The view of Fenland District Council is that there is a need for a common set of rules to apply to street trading and the draft policy for street trading describes what is expected in terms of responsible management, the disposal of waste, not obstructing the highway etc. In this way, a street trading policy does no more than ensure that traders operate within the same general constraints that apply to other businesses, requiring that they comply with the law of the land and meet the same minimum standards that any responsible business should observe. The policy aims to give clarity and transparency to traders in explaining how the rules would be applied.

As part its consultation process, Fenland District Council (FDC) has decided that Town and Parish Councils in the district be consulted on which streets they feel should be designated within their town and parish as part of the Street Trading Policy before FDC makes a decision on 'Designated Streets' for the policy document, prior to the formal twelve weeks public consultation period.

Town and Parish Councils are being asked by Fenland District Council if they consider there to be roads/streets in their parish areas that would add value to the policy and to submit those details to FDC by 5 September 2014.

Members decided to inform Fenland District Council that Elm Parish Council notes the content of the draft policy, understands the rationale behind the production of the policy and considers that the whole of the length of the B1101 through Coldham, Elm and Fridaybridge (including: the grassed areas at the junction of the B1101 and Abington Grove, Elm; the grassed area at the junction of the B1101 with Birch Grove, Elm; Fridaybridge Road, Elm; High Road, Elm; Main Road, Elm; Main Road, Fridaybridge; March Road, Coldham) should be Designated Streets under the Street Trading Consent Policy.

39/14 Whitemill Local Environment Fund Committee

In the light of a letter from a resident of Elm (which had been circulated to members, by the Clerk, in advance of the meeting), in which the resident alleges that the Chairman of Elm Parish Council, when at meetings of the Whitemill Local Environment Fund Committee, does not appear to represent the whole of the parish of Elm but Coldham only, Councillor Pinnock invited the Chairman to refute the resident's allegation.

The Chairman commented that three of the members of the committee are residents of Coldham and that although he is a resident of Coldham, he attends the meetings as a representative of Elm Parish Council (not as a resident of Coldham). The Chairman made the point that the opportunity existed for other members of Elm Parish Council to serve upon this committee but they chose not to do so. The Chairman also explained that he is not the Chairman of the Whitemill Local Environment Fund Committee, as had been stated by the parishioner in his letter.

Members decided that the comments made Councillor Pinnock and the Chairman be noted.

40/14 Reports from District and County Councillors for the parish

Councillor Gillick, the County Councillor who represents the electoral division which includes the parish of Elm, informed members that the government had provided an additional £2,000,000 to Cambridgeshire County Council for the education service. He expressed the opinion that the committee system of governance, which has operated since May of this year, is proving to be more effective than the previous Cabinet system of governance;

a number of officers' recommendations have been challenged and overturned by committees; this would not have happened, he suggested, under the Cabinet system.

Councillor Sutton, one of the District Councillors who represents the parish of Elm,

- informed the Parish Council that there are still some Section 106 Planning Obligation monies available for educational purposes within the parish and that Councillor Pinnock had met with the Headteacher of the Fridaybridge School, with a request that a "wish list" for the use of these monies be produced;
- expressed his thanks to the Parish Council for its support to the community's request for the provision of play equipment at Fridaybridge and expressed the opinion that the project needs to be led by the Parish Council;
- reported that he and the Chairman had met with an officer of the Local Highway Authority to identify the areas within the parish where there is a need for action to address the problems of overgrown vegetation and that he would seek an update on the progress being made in that regard;
- informed members that he had been able to secure funding for works to replace fencing at Peartree Way and Henry Warby Avenue, Elm;
- explained that the Fenland Core Strategy has been re-named as the Fenland Local Plan and that he is hoping that Fenland District Council, as Local Planning Authority, will be able to provide planning training for Town and Parish Councillors and Clerks;
- mentioned that staff within the District Council's Legal Services Team are examining the legal situation regarding the Section 106 Planning Obligation relating to the Grove Gardens estate.

Councillor Tanfield, the other District Councillor who represents the parish of Elm, informed the Parish Council that work is being undertaken to Elm Church Hall.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

41/14 Memorial to the late Mac Cotterell

Further to minute 129/13, members considered further the purchase and installation of a suitable bench, as a memorial to the late Mac Cotterell.

In advance of the meeting the Clerk had circulated a document containing examples of three types of memorial bench, for members' consideration.

Councillor Pinnock offered to investigate further the availability, cost etc of suitable memorial benches and report to the next meeting of the council on the outcome of his investigations.

Members decided that the offer of Councillor Pinnock, to obtain the information outlined above, be accepted and that this matter be considered further at the next meeting of the council.

42/14 Financial matters

The Clerk reported on the Parish Council's income and expenditure since the last meeting, as follows:

Income

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| Maxey Grounds | Cottage rent (less fees) | £523.60 |
| Fenland District Council | Concurrent Functions Grant – first half | £2,653.00 |
| Richard King Memorials | Cemetery memorial | £303.00 |
| JH Cross Monuments | Additional memorial inscription | £66.00 |
| D Barton | Purchase of two Garden of Rest plots | £242.00 |
| Total Income | | £3,787.60 |

Expenditure

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------|
| Glazewing | Wheelie bin emptying – Elm Cemetery (includes VAT of £14.10) | £84.62 |
| Mrs S Woodhouse | Playing field security (quarterly payment to 30 June 2014) | £100.00 |
| R J Warren Ltd | Grounds maintenance contract (includes VAT of £241.88) | £1,451.29 |
| T Jordan | Salary (less income tax of £150.59 and NI of £10.79), Broadband and other expenses | £706.73 |
| D A Pest Control | Control of moles | £60.00 |
| Total Expenditure | | £2,402.64 |

In addition, the Clerk reported on the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank and savings accounts as at 30 June 2014 (in the total sum of £132,729.71), together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 30 June 2013.

Further to minute 21/11, the Clerk reported on the management accounts that he had produced for the first quarter of the 2014/15 financial year; he gave explanations as to variances between the estimated income and expenditure for the year and the actual levels of income and expenditure in that financial year.

Members decided

- (1) that the income of £3,787.60 be noted and that the expenditure of £2,402.64 be authorised;
- (2) that the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank and savings accounts as at 30 June 2014, together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 30 June 2013, be noted;
- (3) to note that, after allowing for the Parish Council's ear-marked reserves (totalling £56,035.50) at 30 June 2014, the actual balance available to the Parish Council at 30 June 2014 was £76,694.21; making further allowance for a general contingency (at the level of 150% of the 2014/15 Precept, which equates to £45,000) reduces the actual balance available to the Parish Council at 30 March 2014 to approximately £31,695;
- (4) that the financial information within the first quarter's management accounts be noted.

43/14 Begdale Road playing field – security

The Chairman informed members that the local resident who currently unlocks and locks each day the gates to the playing field at Begdale Road, Elm would be removing from the village in the very near future and, consequently, would no longer be able to provide this service for the Parish Council. He invited the council to consider how/if this service should be provided in the future.

Councillor Stokes informed members that he is aware of another local resident who may be prepared to provide this service.

As a result of debating the security aspects of the playing field, discussion led on to use of the playing field by the Elm Football Club; the conclusion of that discussion was that a representative of the Elm Football Club should be invited to attend a future meeting of Elm Parish Council to update members on the activities and success (or otherwise) of the football club.

Members decided that

- (1) Councillor Stokes would discuss unlocking and locking situation with the individual who may be prepared to undertake this activity; in the event that the situation could not be addressed in this way, the Parish Council would consider the matter again at its next meeting;
- (2) the Clerk would invite Elm Football Club to send a representative to a future meeting of Elm Parish Council, for the purpose of updating the council on the activities and success (or otherwise) of the football club.

44/14 Correspondence

(1) Fishing at The Leam, Fridaybridge

The Clerk reported an e-mail (which he had forwarded to members in advance of the meeting) from a resident of The Leam at Fridaybridge regarding fishing in the pond at The Leam.

The resident states that the fishing problem is escalating again and wishes to complaint formally to the Parish Council regarding lack of action in enforcing the No Fishing rule; also, the danger to wildlife that the litter created by the fishing is causing.

The resident states that she is concerned that small children could be injured by hooks and lines left on the grass and that wildlife could be made to suffer. The resident asks that the council re-considers its decision not to improve and increase the No Fishing signs.

The resident states that she does not consider the stance of “we cannot do anything” to be satisfactory. She comments that leaving fishing line behind constitutes “litter” and that the council has powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to tackle the littering.

The Clerk informed members that he had drawn this e-mail to PCSO Dave Russ, who had commented that he is aware of the problem; however all that he is able to do is give words of advice as fishing at The Leam is not an offence; he has provided his contact number to the complainant, so that she can report to him any incidents of fishing at The Leam, but he is unable to give an assurance, because of the need to react to matters in order of priority, that he could attend a report of fishing at The Leam.

The Clerk reminded members that the same resident had raised this matter with the Parish Council previously (minute 15/13 (1)) and had decided that no action on the part of the council was necessary, on the basis that their the current signage makes it clear, in their opinion, that fishing at The Leam is not permitted

and they did not wish to cause detriment to the attractiveness of The Leam by erecting further signage. Members remain of that opinion. They consider that there are no practical measures which could be put in place to enforce the No Fishing rule or to deal with any associated littering; furthermore, they are confident that PCSO Russ would make every reasonable effort to respond to reports of fishing at The Leam.

Members decided that their stance in this matter remains the same as that at minute 15/13 (1), i.e. that no additional No Fishing signs be erected at The Leam and would hope that any enforcement of the No Fishing rule would be undertaken, on the basis of giving words of advice, by the Police.

(2) Parish Council website

The Clerk informed members of an exchange of e-mails between Councillor Pinnock and he regarding the functionality of the Parish Council's website; as a result of this correspondence, it had been concluded that there would be benefit to both the council and the public in adding a search facility to the website.

There would be a one-off cost associated with adding a search facility, likely to be less than £50.00.

Members decided that a search facility be added to the Elm Parish Council website.

(3) Elm Friendship Club – financial assistance

Further to minute 90/13 (1), the Clerk circulated a note of thanks from the Elm Friendship Club in relation to the financial assistance provided by the Parish Council which had enabled club members to have day trips this year to Cleethorpes, Grimsby and Skegness.

Members decided that the content of the note of thanks be noted.

45/14 Date of next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council had been scheduled for 19 August 2014, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Parish Council office, Begdale Road, Elm.

Meeting finished at 9.20 pm

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

Date:.....