

ELM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

23 May 2017 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Brand, Chairman; Councillors Mrs Cotterell, Miss Ferguson, Mrs Hopkin, Hopkin, Pinnock, Milham, Stokes Patrick and Webb

Apologies: Councillors Mrs Davis and Mrs Dalliday.

In attendance: District Councillor Will Sutton (at close of meeting)

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

1/17 Election of Chairman

Councillor Brand was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the municipal year 2017/18 and made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2/17 Election of Vice-Chairman

Councillor Pinnock was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the municipal year 2017/18

3/17 Chairman's Allowance for 2017/18

Members considered the setting of a Chairman's Allowance for the municipal year 2017/18.

Members decided that the sum of £320.00 be allocated to meet the expenses of the Chairman of the Council during the municipal year 2017/18. The Clerk confirmed that there was a balance of £154.90 in the Chairman's Allowance bank account and suggested that the amount of £166.10 be transferred to that account from the current account to bring it to the sum of £321.00

Members agreed to this action.

4/17 Appointment of membership of the Finance Committee for the municipal year 2017/18

Members decided that the Finance Committee be disbanded forthwith but reinstated at a later date should internet banking require it.

5/17 Members' Code of Conduct

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.

6/17 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) Play equipment provision in Fridaybridge (minute 144 /16 (1) refers

The Clerk informed Members that she was awaiting the outcome of the WREN application which is due in the next few days.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

(2) Speeding across the Parish (Minute 144 /16(2) refers

- (a) Councillor Pinnock reported that the Speedwatch team had undertaken to date, 18 sessions spread over 23 ½ hours. 3,050 vehicles had been “clicked” with 217 reported for excessive speed. This represented 7.1%.

Members decided that the details be noted

- (b) Members were reminded that attempts were being made to have the 40 mph speed limit on the B1101 between Elm and Fridaybridge reduced to 30mph. Although there was opposition by the Constabulary, Cllr Pinnock advised that he had a meeting scheduled with the Traffic Management Officer – Cambridgeshire in an attempt to resolve issues.

Members decided that the details be noted

(3) Local Highway Improvements scheme – Elm (Minute 144 /16 (3) refers)

The Chairman confirmed that this matter had been discussed with Cambridgeshire County Councillor Steve Count as part of the Annual Assembly. In response to many questions from the public as to why the Elm speed reduction scheme appeared to be making no progress despite apparent good progress to early January, Cllr Count advised the meeting of County policy and undertook to make such enquiry in order to fully acquaint himself, the Council and residents with the current position.

Cllr Pinnock confirmed that he would supply Cllr Count with copies of all relevant documentation.

(4) Local Highways Improvements Scheme - Fridaybridge (Minute 144 /16 (3) refers)

Cllr Pinnock advised that the statutory consultation period ends the following day and will bring Members up to date at the next meeting.

(5) Elm Football Club (Minute 144/16(7) refers)

The Clerk reported that she had heard nothing further from the contact from Three Holes football club.

Members decided that this be noted and the situation be reviewed when the football season begins again in September.

7/17 Police matters – PCSO Sue Clarke

No member of the Constabulary was in attendance and the Clerk reported that no written report had been received.

8/17 Planning Applications

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

1. F/YR17/0373/F - Erection of 2-storey 1-bed annexe with conservatory ancillary to existing dwelling (part retrospective) – 75 Main Road Fridaybridge Wisbech Cambs

Resolved: That the application could not be supported. Members felt it was not in keeping with the character of the surrounding area and could set an unwelcome precedent for similar development in the future.

2. F/YR17/0396/TRCA – Works to 1no Turkey Oak Tree 1noYew Tree and 1 no Plum Tree in a conservation area – The Old Vicarage Main Road Elm.

Resolved: The application be supported.

9/17 Reports from District and County Councillors

Clr Sutton attended towards the end of the meeting due to prior commitments. He confirmed that he had been contacted in respect of overhanging hedges along Fridaybridge Road Elm and had reported this to the relevant officer at the County Council.

10/17 Open Spaces

Members discussed issues at The Leam. There were concerns from residents that the area needed tidying up generally including lopping of trees. There were reports that children were mistreating fish that they had caught. It was also felt that The Leam required attention to its weed control.

Members agreed that the Clerk should approach Fen Ditching for a contract price and timescale for the works to be carried out.

11/17 Financial Matters

- (1) Income and Expenditure since last meeting

ELM PARISH COUNCIL	
Income & Expenditure	

23/05/2017		
Income		
Payer	Description	Amount £
Fenland District Council	Precept	27,614.50
National Savings	Interest Received	83.23
Maxey Grounds	Cottage Rent	523.60
Richard King Memorials	Cemetery memorial	455.00
Richard King Memorials	Cemetery memorial	165.00
W Bailey & Son	Interment Fee - Ashes	972.50
Richard King Memorials	Cemetery memorial	455.00
Co-operative Funerals	Interment Fee - Burial	412.00
Co-operative Funerals	Cemetery memorial	165.00
Total		30,845.83
Expenditure		
Payee	Description	Amount £
Came & Co	Insurances	2,596.43
CL Butcher	Salary & Expenses	631.30
Fenland District Council	Wheelie bins emptying	184.27
RJ Warren Ltd	Grounds Maintenance	1,699.48
Turner Contracting Ltd	Roof Repairs - Chapel	60.00
Cancelled	(blank)	
Hundred of Wisbech IDB	Agricultural Drainage Rates	73.79
R Kierman	Notice Boards cleaning	45.00
Total		5,290.27

Members decided

(1) that the income of £30,845.83 be noted and that the expenditure of £5,290.27 be authorised;

- (2) that the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank and savings accounts as at 30 April 2017 of £188,649.49 be noted.
- (3) to note that, after allowing for the Parish Council's ear-marked reserves (totalling £127,550.00) at 30 April 2017, the actual balance available to the Parish Council at 30 April 2017 was £61,099.49. Making further allowance for a general contingency (at the level of 104% of the 2017/18 Precept, which equates to £55,000) reduces the actual balance available to the Parish Council at 30 April 2017 to approximately £6,099.49
- (4) Members agreed in principle and subject to protocols to be established that when the internet banking is set up for the Council, the Clerk could transfer funds not required in the short term to the NS&I account to maximise income from interest.

12/17 Workplace Pensions

The Clerk was requested to provide additional information for the next meeting.

13/17 S137 Request Elm Parish Council

Members received a request from the Parish Church for a contribution towards the cost of removing vegetation from the churchyard after maintenance work had been carried out. The Members discussed the issue but decided that they felt that they could not support the request.

14/17 Correspondence

A resident in Abington Grove had raised concerns about the state of the ditches between her property and the Cemetery. She stated there is considerable overgrowing of vegetation and she was not in a position to carry out clearance work herself and requested that the Council arrange for the work to be done.

The rules relating to riparian rights were discussed and it was accepted that the Council was responsible for the land on the Cemetery side up to the middle of the dyke. The middle of the dyke to resident's boundary was not the responsibility of the Council and it would set a very onerous precedent if the Council paid for works done for a private house owner. The question of whether this work was ultra vires was considered.

It was accepted that the Council's side did require attention and Members agreed that a Contractor be approached for a quote to be considered at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for 20 June 2017, to commence at 7.00pm, at the Parish Council office Begdale Road, Elm.

Meeting finished at 8.35pm

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

Date: