

ELM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

14 November 2017 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Brand: Chairman; Councillors Mrs Dalliday, Mrs Cotterell, Miss Ferguson (left at 8.35pm), Milham, Mrs Hopkin, Hopkin, Mrs Adcock, Mrs Luffman, Patrick, and Stokes.

In attendance: District Councillors: Ms. Tanfield and Sutton

Public Forum

A Parishioner raised the issue of what actions Councillors take in respect considering planning applications. He had concerns that some residents would like to object to some planning applications but they felt that they couldn't due to lack of confidence. Councillors discussed the matter with the resident. They confirmed with him that they are consultees only and have to follow planning rules. They informed him that a resident could contact the Clerk or the District Council to raise their concerns/objections.

A number of issues were raised by a Parishioner in respect of the finances, Agenda, Minutes, and Freedom of Information requests and due to the time restrictions he was asked to let the Clerk have them in writing.

A Parishioner asked if it was possible for Members of Speedwatch to inform the meeting, how many residents of the Parish had been reported to the Police for exceeding the speed limits. Councillor Adcock, Speedwatch Co-Ordinator, informed the parishioner that they did not have this information due to Data Protection rules.

Apologies: Councillors: Mrs Davis and County Councillor Jan French

92/17 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.

93/17 Membership of Council

Members were introduced to the new Councillor Mrs Ann Luffman.

94/17 Election of Vice-Chair

Councillors Stokes and Patrick were both proposed and seconded. Both candidates left the room and a vote took place. Councillor Stokes was voted in as Vice-Chair 5 votes to 3.

When the two candidates returned to the room, Councillor Luffman raised a concern about the outcome. Members proposed to delay the election of the Vice Chair to the confidential item.

95/17 Minutes of the Meeting of 17 October 2017

Councillor Adcock tabled some amendments. It was agreed that she would let the Clerk have the details and the Clerk would make the amendments and refer them to the Chairman for signature. Thereafter the Chairman would sign them as a record.

Councillor Patrick said that he was very disappointed to have not received his requested copy of the recording of the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that as the Council had previously resolved not to release the copies to anyone requesting them that it did not seem equitable to comply with his request. The validity of the meeting had been raised as an issue due to the Clerk reading a lot of the details out. However both the Chairman, Councillor Milham and District Councillor Sutton all agreed that the Chairman had chaired the meeting and it was therefore valid.

Councillor Patrick confirmed that he was recording the meeting.

96/17 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) Play equipment provision in Fridaybridge (Minute 75/17 (1) refers

The Clerk informed Members that the tender had gone out to any interested Contractors today. She had some additional administrative tasks to do and send back to WREN. The Council were informed that some paperwork that is required by WREN needs to be signed by a representative of the Council. The Council agreed that Councillor Brand be authorised to sign any paperwork required by WREN to be signed on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Tanfield informed Members that as part of the WREN application process, some monies had to be paid to a third party fund. This has resulted in the funds for the project being reduced by £5,400. She requested that the Council agree to replace this funding. Members agreed to consider the issue at the December meeting.

(2) Speeding across the Parish (Minute 75/17(2) refers

Councillor Adcock reported that so far this year 8,878 have been "clicked" of those 615 were speeding equating to 6.9%. 49 sessions had been held across the villages of Elm, Fridaybridge and Coldham. Speedwatch are desperate for new volunteers. It is hoped that some additional sites for Speedwatch sessions will be identified in the near future. A risk assessment has been done at Needham Bank and when the site has been confirmed by Cambridgeshire Police, sessions will be held there. Speeding is still apparent at the sites currently used for sessions.

Two residents have emailed in raising issues of speeding in Low Road, Elm and Fridaybridge. The matter was discussed and further information given to Members by Councillor Mrs Adcock who is the Speedwatch Co-Ordinator.

It was agreed that the Clerk in consultation with Councillor Mrs Adcock would do email responses to the residents.

(3) & (4) Local Highway Improvements schemes – Elm & Fridaybridge (Minute 75/17(3) & (4) refers)

An email was sent in by a resident unhappy with the installation of the speed humps in Elm.

Councillor Mrs Adcock and the Clerk will discuss an email response to the resident.

Councillor Stokes raised his concerns about the placing of the speed bumps by the Cemetery, particularly in respect of motorcyclists, and the fact that the white arrow marking on the bumps are too small.

Members noted the information.

97/17 Police matters – PCSO Sue Clarke

No email was received from the Police prior to the meeting.

98/17 Planning Applications

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

Councillor Patrick informed Members earlier in the Meeting that he had a non-pecuniary interest Planning Application F/YR17/1040/F and would not be voting on the matter.

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

Resolved: Members noted the Appeal but did not wish to comment further.

F/YR17/0968/F – Erection of single-storey side extension to existing bungalow at Estover Lodge Begdale Road Elm PE14 0BE.

Resolved: That the application be supported.

F/YR17/0980/F – Erection of 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with integral garage involving the formation of a new access at Land South of 50 Fridaybridge Road Elm

Resolved: That the application be supported.

F/YR17/0985/TRCA – Felling of 1no Birch Tree in a conservation area (retrospective) at the Sportsman Main Road Elm PE14 0AG

Resolved: That the application be supported. However they were disappointed to note that the application was retrospective.

F/YR17/1009/F – Erection of a 2-storey, 4-bed dwelling with integral garage involving formation of a dropped kerb at Land South of 111 Fridaybridge Road Elm

Resolved: That the application be supported.

F/YR17/1013/F – Change of use of land to domestic garden (to extend curtilage of existing dwelling) (retrospective) at Land North of Appletree House Begdale Road Elm

Resolved: That the application be supported.

F/YR17/1040/F – Erection of a 2-storey, 3-bed dwelling at Land South of 5 Limes Avenue Elm.

Resolved: That as the application was not in keeping with the existing street scene and was an overdevelopment of the site that it could not be supported.

99/17 Reports from District and County Councillors

Councillor Sutton reported that they have had an appeal against the FDC 5 year Land Supply Plan. FDC are taking legal advice on the matter.

He has concerns that developers will look to carry out extensive development in the Villages. In addition he reported that under the Central Government guidance any development over 10 dwellings has to supply a percentage of social housing. FDC had the policy that any development over 5 dwellings should have a percentage for social housing. This has been turned down by the Planning Inspectorate. He is very disappointed by this decision due to a number of residents requiring social housing.

Councillor Ms. Tanfield asked that if anyone did have any concerns about planning issues within the villages to let her know. She has a number of private issues to deal with for Parishioners but nothing further to report at this meeting.

100/17 Open Spaces (including the cemetery) within the Parish

The Clerk reported that she had identified two companies to quote for doing the plans for the Cemetery extension. She would report at the next meeting. She also has details of two contractors who can tender for the works.

The Clerk reported that the sign requesting "NO PARKING" outside the Cemetery gates was no longer in situ. She had made enquiries of one company for a quote and this would be in the region of £50. She was hopeful she could get this for a lower price. Members agreed that the Clerk could replace the sign up to the value of £50.

A lengthy discussion took place in respect of a request for a headstone in the cemetery higher than the regulation height. Members decided unanimously that for this individual request, the permission could be granted and any other requests would be considered on an individual basis.

101/17 Local Highway Improvements (LHI 2018/19)

The Clerk reported that she now had a copy of the LHI application and if anyone would like a copy please let her know. The CCC will look at all applications and carry out feasibility studies. It is then anticipated that they will go to a CCC meeting in January to decide the successful applications.

Councillor Mrs Adcock reported that she had received an email from CCC confirming the Council's third party funding for the speed limit reduction (40 mph to 30 mph on the B1101 between Elm and Fridaybridge) in the sum £3002.23 inclusive of VAT. Members resolved to agree this funding.

102/17 Grants to voluntary and charitable bodies – Cambridgeshire Search & Rescue

Members considered an application from Cambridgeshire Search & Rescue. Members discussed the request and resolved to grant the organisation £150.00.

103/17 Cemetery Cottage

Members had previously been contacted by email, by the Clerk, as the Tenant had requested permission to have free insulation installed at the property under the Government scheme. Those replies received were in the affirmative. Members resolved to ratify that email decision.

104/17 Financial Matters

(1) Income and Expenditure since last meeting

ELM PARISH COUNCIL		
Income & Expenditure		
14 November 2017		
Income		
Payer	Description	Amount £
National Savings	Interest Received	60.41
Peter Heron	Cemetery Cottage Rent	595.00
Richard King Memorials	Cemetery memorial	455.00
Richard King Memorials	Cemetery memorial	222.00
AR Clingo	Interment Fee - Ashes	517.50
Co-operative Funerals	Cemetery memorial	99.00
J Smith	Allotments	1,750.00
Richard King Memorials	Cemetery memorial	222.00
UK Power Networks	Electricity Wayleaves	249.39
Total		4,170.30
Expenditure		
Payee	Description	Amount £
British Legion	Donation	30.00
RJ Warren Ltd	Grounds Maintenance (VAT £287.88)	1,727.27
CL Butcher	Salary & Expenses (VAT £ 5.33)	905.89
P L Adcock	Admin Costs	19.27
Diamond Byte Solutions Ltd	IT Support (VAT £10.83)	65.00
CAB	Financial Support	500.00
Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	17.00
Total		3,264.43

Councillors Brand and Stokes signed the cheques presented by the Clerk as no comment or objections were raised by Members.

As previously agreed Members wished to be reminded of any previously agreed expenditure not yet made and/or invoiced for, which is detailed below:-

- (1) The Council currently have agreed expenditure outstanding in the total of approximately £5,500. It is anticipated that some of these will be invoiced for by the end of the third quarter. This is for the following items:-
 - Works at the Leam
 - Works to the Cemetery Watercourse
 - Works at the Cemetery Cottage
 - Cost of replacement street lighting lantern
 - Placing of two litter bins in Fridaybridge

105/17 Membership of CAPALC (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils)

Members discussed membership of this organisation and decided to delay making a decision until the December Meeting.

106/17 Consideration of implementation of two new Council Policies

Councillor Patrick proposed that the matter be postponed until the meeting in December to allow more time to consider the documents.
Members agreed.

The Clerk informed Members that she had sent Refusal Notices to the recent FIO requests received from a Councillor and Parishioners. Those refusals had been appealed. Members had previously agreed that the Clerk refuse to issue the recordings of the meetings. Councillors Patrick and Mrs Adcock wished to abstain from the vote as they had previously requested recordings.
Members resolved that the Council Policy that they do not release the recordings of the Parish Meetings, which are for the Clerk in respect of the Minutes, be confirmed and the Clerk be authorised to issue further refusals to those requesting the recordings.

107/17 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that she had received prices from FDC for the cost of the refuse bins in Fridaybridge and Elm. Members requested that the Clerk speak to those residents requesting the bins to see where they would like the bins placed.

The Clerk informed Members that a year's Notice had been given in respect of the Allotment in Meadowgate Lane. The Tenant wished to only have use of half of the site. The Clerk advised Members that she had been approached previously about availability of allotment land and she had gone back to the enquirer to see if they were still interested and would report back.
Members had also had a letter requesting if they wished to sell the whole site.
A discussion took place but Members decided that they did not wish to sell the site at this time.

The Chairman had previously circulated, via the Clerk, a quote in respect of bollards to go near the playing field in Coldham to prevent unauthorised parking.
Members requested that the Chairman obtain a further quote given the high costs involved.

The Chairman closed the meeting to the press and public.

Confidential Items

108/17 Consideration of concerns raised by the tenant of Cemetery Cottage

The matter was discussed and Members resolved that the Clerk would talk further to the Tenant and the neighbour and report back to the next meeting as appropriate.

The election of the Vice Chair was postponed until the December meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

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

Meeting finished at 9.35 pm.

Signature :(Council Chairman).

Date: