

Elm Parish Council

Locum Clerk: Dave Gibbs
358 High Road, Newton-in-the-Isle, Wisbech, PE13 5HS
Tel: 01945 870083 Email: clerk.elmpc@gmail.com

Minutes of the meeting of Elm Parish Council held on Wednesday 8 January 2020 commencing at 6.30pm at the Parish Council Office, Begdale Road, Elm

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Present: Cllrs Bunting (Chair), Adcock, Brand, and McLaughlin, Sutton (FDC) and the Clerk, D Gibbs

163/19	Health and Safety Information regarding the venue. The Chair provided Health and Safety information regarding the venue.
164/19	Apologies for Absence <i>Apologies for absence were received and approved for Cllrs Dalliday and Myles.</i>
165/19	Members Code of Conduct The Chair reminded members of the need 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.
166/19	To receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest regarding items on the agenda: Members of the Council are subject to the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) Regulations 2012. Members were reminded that all dispensation requests must be made to the Clerk prior to the meeting and that unless the member has obtained a dispensation, he or she cannot discuss or vote on the matter and must leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on. <i>There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda.</i> To receive Declarations of Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or a Non-Pecuniary Interest <i>There were no declarations of non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda.</i>
167/19	Public Forum The Chair suspended standing orders at 6.35pm. A resident observed that the school 20mph warning lights on Main Road appear to be on all the time. Members were unsure who is responsible for turning the lights on and off. Cllr Brand reported a large pothole adjacent to the bus shelter in Coldham. The Clerk will investigate. The Chair reconvened the meeting at 6.45pm. Attendees were reminded that at the close of this agenda item members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council.
168/19	Clerkship Arrangements The Chair welcomed the Clerk and introduced him to the meeting. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>It was proposed by Cllr McLaughlin, seconded by Cllr Adcock and carried that David Gibbs be appointed as Locum Clerk until a permanent appointment can be made.</i><i>Members nominated Cllrs Bunting and Brand to work with the Clerk to prepare the necessary documentation to advertise the vacancy.</i>

169/19	<p>Membership of the Council</p> <p>1. Tim Butcher, Marjorie Cotterell, Rosa Hopkin and Robin Milham offered themselves for co-option onto the council. <i>It was proposed by Cllr Bunting, seconded by Cllr Brand and carried that the four individuals named above be co-opted onto the council.</i> Cllrs Butcher, Cotterell and Milham will represent the Elm and Fridaybridge ward and Cllr Hopkin will represent the Coldham ward. Cllrs Cotterell, Hopkin and Milham signed their acceptance of office declarations in the presence of the Clerk.</p> <p>2. <i>The remaining vacancies will be advertised on the notice boards and the website.</i></p>
170/19	<p>Appointment of Vice Chair</p> <p><i>It was proposed by Cllr Cotterell, seconded by Cllr McLaughlin and carried that Cllr Brand be elected as Vice Chair for the remainder of the current civic year.</i></p>
171/19	<p>Confirmation of Banking Arrangements</p> <p><i>Members resolved that there should be three signatories on the Barclays Bank account. It was proposed by Cllr Bunting, seconded by Cllr Hopkin and carried that the three signatories be the Chair, the Vice Chair and Cllr Cotterell. Cllr Bunting will notify the bank of the new arrangements.</i></p>
172/19	<p>Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 5 November 2019</p> <p><i>It was proposed by Cllr McLaughlin, seconded by Cllr Adcock and carried that the minutes be approved as a correct record of the meeting.</i></p> <p>Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2019</p> <p>The minutes of this meeting have not been located.</p>
173/19	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
174/19	<p>District and County Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Sutton (Fenland District Council) reported that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Leader had written to all Fenland parishes regarding the inequity in the current funding arrangements between the parishes and the towns. Discussions are taking place in an attempt to resolve this and further information should be available before the end of the current civic year.. A number of street lights are not working. Details were passed to the Clerk for attention. <p>He welcomed the Clerk and thanked him for taking on the role at short notice to assist the council.</p>
175/19	<p>Police Matters</p> <p>There were no matters relating to Elm in the latest Police report.</p>
176/19	<p>Elm Community Speedwatch</p> <p>There was no report from the Speedwatch Coordinator. Speedwatch are hoping to resume activity in February.</p>
177/19	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>No applications were received.</p>
178/19	<p>Local Highway Improvements (LHI) 2020/21</p> <p>Applicants are invited to present their proposals to the member assessment panel on Wednesday 22 January. <i>It was proposed by Cllr McLaughlin, seconded by Cllr Adcock and carried that Cllr Bunting and the Clerk would attend.</i></p>
179/19	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk reported that he has been unable to prepare an income and expenditure report. <i>It was proposed by Cllr Bunting, seconded by Cllr McLaughlin and carried that the expenditure for January 2020 detailed below be approved.</i> <i>It was proposed by Cllr Bunting, seconded by Cllr McLaughlin and carried that the draft budget be agreed and the precept for the 2020/21 financial year be set at £40,367.</i>

	Ref No.	Cheque No.	Payee	Expenditure	Gross	VAT	Net
	74	703016	Cable Test Ltd	Street light replacement	2,289.66	381.61	1,908.05
	75	703017	Playsafety Ltd	Play equipment inspections	669.00	111.50	557.50
	76	703018	NT Property Maintenance	Cemetery Cottage internal works	550.00		550.00
	77	703019	Idverde Ltd	Grounds maintenance	2,480.00	413.34	2,066.66
	78	703020	Cambridgeshire ACRE	Affiliation fee	57.00	9.50	47.50
				January 2020 VAT	6,045.66	915.95	5,129.71
180/19	<p>Correspondence The Clerk reported on items of relevance to members (not otherwise covered by items on the agenda):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A request has been received for an ashes burial plot for a deceased resident of Redmoor Lane with a family member already interred in the cemetery. <i>It was proposed by Cllr Brand, seconded by Cllr Milham and carried that the council exercise its discretion under the circumstances to accept the parishioner rate for this interment.</i> The Clerk has reported potholes in Wales Bank following a complaint from a resident. The Pride in Fenland 2020 awards have been launched, offering a chance to celebrate the achievements of groups or individuals in the parish. The Clerk suggested that external help be sought to collate, check and file the burial records and other cemetery paperwork and establish a system for future record keeping. 2. Cllr Steve Count, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council has asked to attend a forthcoming meeting to discuss the County Council's budget for the new financial year. 						
181/19	<p>Date of Future Meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of each month, namely 5 February, 4 March, 1 April, 6 May. 2. The Annual Assembly will take place on Wednesday 6 May, before the Annual Meeting of the Council. 						
182/19	<p>Items for Future Agendas: Members were invited to put forward items for discussion on future agendas. They asked that the Birch Grove green/bus shelter issue be revisited.</p>						
183/19	<p>Close of Meeting The meeting closed at 8.00pm</p>						