

ELM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

12 February 2019 – 6.00 pm.

Held at the Parish Council office, Begdale Road, Elm

Present: Councillor Mr Brand: Chairman; Councillors Milham, Mrs Cotterell, Feaviour, Butcher, Stokes, Ms Ferguson, Mrs Hopkin, Hopkin,

In attendance: District Councillor Sutton, District Councillor Ms Tanfield.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs Davis

152/18 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.

153/18 Membership of the Council

Members briefly discussed the resignation of Councillor Luffman and membership of the Council. It was decided that as the local elections are to be held in May, no further action would be taken at this time.

154/18 Minutes of January Meeting

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

155/18 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) Play equipment provision in Fridaybridge (Minute 140/18(1) refers

An email had been received from the Contractor who did the skate park. This was in respect of the works outstanding and payments due. The Clerk confirmed that she had replied to this email and was awaiting a response.

(2) Land at Chapel Lane Elm (Minute 140/18(2) refers)

The Clerk confirmed that an article had gone into the Elm Parish Magazine asking for volunteers to help with maintenance and planting etc. on the purchased land. A poster had also been put out on the site. It was hoped that a meeting could be arranged in March for any interested parishioners to organise a plan of action. A discussion took place about some maintenance works required on part of the site and that the Clerk speak to the Council's grounds maintenance contractor and Emneth Parish Council.

Public Forum

A parishioner raised the matter of continued speeding and poor driving coming into Coldham. In addition the red reflector posts coming into the village are not reflecting at all.

A parishioner asked the question what was going to happen to Speedwatch in light of the resignation of Cllr. Luffman. The Clerk confirmed that the previous Co-ordinator of Speedwatch had asked that the item not be on the Agenda for this meeting and it would be on the Agenda in March. He also asked about discussions about the Cemetery and whether the works required planning permission. The Clerk confirmed that the works to the Cemetery did not require planning permission. He also asked about when the public were consulted about the works. The Clerk confirmed that it was on the Agenda for the December meeting and no members of the public remained for that part of the meeting so it was not formally discussed. It was suggested that discussions had happened in secret. The Clerk confirmed that no discussions concerning the Cemetery had taken place in secret and had only been held over the last year at Council meetings. He also asked about the funding for the project and the Clerk confirmed that the money for the project was left over from the street lighting reserves. The Clerk confirmed that the matter of the earmarked reserves would be added to the March meeting Agenda. Two parishioners asked that the applications for the grave furniture be considered favourably by the Council. It was also raised that there have been thefts from graves in the Cemetery. The Chairman confirmed that like everyone he was disgusted by this situation but in reality there was very little that could be done to resolve the situation.

156/18 Planning Applications

F/YR19/0078/F – Change of use of land to a traveller’s including the formation of 7 x static caravan pitches for the siting of 7 x mobile homes, 7 x touring caravans involving the formation of a bridge for a new vehicular access at Land South of New Bridge Lane Caravan Park New Bridge Lane Elm

Members resolved to support the Application.

F/YR19/0106/TRCA – Works to 1no Silver Birch within a Conservation Area at the Old Vicarage Main Road Elm PE14 0AB

Members resolved to support the Application.

157/18 Reports from District and County Councillor(s)

Cllr Sutton confirmed that two officers from the County Council had been to a site visit at the sink hole site he mentioned at last month’s meeting and confirmed he was awaiting their report.

The vegetation that was overgrowing at the end of Collett’s Bridge Lane forms part of the land that the Council recently purchased in partnership with Emneth Parish Council. He was pleased to report that Emneth Parish Council had arranged for the area to be cut back and was now much improved.

He had received an email about the tree and ditch works at Birch Grove and confirmed that these would be taking place on the 18th February.

In respect of the benches for the villages he was waiting to hear further from officers about this.

He confirmed that on a recent site visit with Cllr Tanfield they had noticed that 7 marker posts at the junction near Jewhouse House Drive and March Road were missing or broken. He had reported this and was awaiting a response.

He was pleased to report that there were 70 visitors at the Golden Age Fair today.

Cllr Tanfield confirmed that she felt that the Sportsman Pub in Elm was looking good and it was great to have the village pub open again.

She asked that it be highlighted to Fenland District Council Planning Department and to Parishioners how important it was to keep the drainage ditches cleared of rubbish and not to have structures, fencing etc. too near them as they were so important to prevent flooding in the area.

Replacement Trees in the Parish

A discussion took place about where members would like to place trees in the parish that were being offered by the County Council to replace the trees previously removed in Birch Grove. Cllr Sutton said he would email the relevant officer and copy the Clerk into this.

158/18 Open Spaces (including the cemetery) within the Parish

A request was received for a sign banning dogs from the play area in Grove Gardens. A discussion took place that it was believed that the area was owned by the Developer Kier Homes. The Clerk confirmed that she would contact the Developer.

A request had been received for a clothes recycling bin in the parish. A discussion took place and it was agreed that one could be considered for the play area at Begdale Road.

Members considered the request to extend the maintenance contract for a further two years. It was resolved that it be awarded for another two years to the current contractor.

The two requests for grave furniture not in keeping with the Cemetery Regulations, previously submitted to the Clerk in writing, were discussed by Members and it was agreed that they could be installed as per the application. It was confirmed that they would not be allowed in the new area.

159/18 Police Matters

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

160/18 Financial Matters

(1) Income and Expenditure since last meeting

ELM PARISH COUNCIL		
Income & Expenditure		
12 February 2019		
Income		
Payer	Description	Amount £
National Savings	Interest Received	95.72
Tenant	Cemetery Cottage Rent	595.00
Richard King Memorials	Memorial Inscription	165.00
Peter Barnes Funerals	Burial	990.00
D Bates	Agricultural Holdings	812.50
J Smith	Agricultural Holdings	2,625.00
Richard King Memorials	Interment Fee - Ashes	222.00
Richard King Memorials	Memorial Inscription	99.00
HM Revenue & Customs	Vat refund	5,220.70
Total		10,824.92
Expenditure		
Payee	Description	Amount £
NEST	Clerk Pension	213.37
Idverde (VAT£206.67)	Grounds Maintenance	1,240.00
Upwell Parish Council	Health Centre - Grit bin refill	29.14
SLCC	Membership Fees	136.00
Fenweb Ltd	Website Admin	664.00
CL Butcher (£1.33)	Salary & Expenses	619.77
Total		3,502.28

Members decided

- (1) that the income of £10,824.92 be noted and that the expenditure of £3,502.28 be authorised
- (2) Members noted the Bank Reconciliation report for January 2019.
- (3) Members agreed to the Quotation for the repair of the street lights.

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

161 /18 Correspondence

No other correspondence had been received to discuss.

Date of Next meeting

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting was the 12th March 2019.

162/18 Resolution to exclude the Press and Public

Members resolved to exclude the public due to the confidential nature of Item 16.

163/18 Complaint Received

Details were given to Members of an incident on 31st January 2019.

The matter was discussed and it was resolved that the Clerk be asked to write a letter to the party concerned.

The meeting closed at 19.15.

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

Date:

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