

ELM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

12 March 2019 – 6.00 pm.

Held at the Parish Council office, Begdale Road, Elm

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

In attendance: District Councillor Sutton.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs Davis, Mrs Hopkin, Hopkin, Milham.

164/18 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.

165/18 Disclosure of a Pecuniary Interest in an Agenda Item.

Councillor Butcher confirmed that he had a pecuniary interest in Item 18 and would therefore not be taking part in the discussion and would leave the meeting for that item.

166/18 Minutes of February Meeting

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

167/18 Amendment to November 2018 Minutes

The Clerk confirmed that the financial statement in the November Minutes was incorrect and she had now included the correct information. Members agreed the amendment to the Minutes as discussed.

168/18 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) Play equipment provision in Fridaybridge (Minute 155/18(1) refers

The Clerk confirmed that she had heard from both Contractors about items outstanding and hoped to be able to move forward.

(2) Land at Chapel Lane Elm (Minute 155/18(2) refers)

The Clerk confirmed that a large area of hedging had been cut down by a flail and almost all of the vegetation had been left on the Council's side of the boundary. The Clerk was trying to make contact with the person believed responsible for it and report back in due course.

A small refund had been received from the solicitors acting for the Council in the purchase of the land as the Council had been overcharged.

Public Forum

A member of the public asked about a street light not working in The Stitch. The Clerk explained what the issues were and it was hoped they would be repaired by the end of March. There was also another light in the area which was no longer there and it was asked if that light could be considered for replacement.

A Parishioner said that there had been an urgent matter in the November Minutes which should have been followed up at the December Meeting in respect of the contribution towards the LHI application for 2019/20. The Clerk said that this could be dealt with under the Agenda Item 12(3).

He said there was another issue with payments in respect of Friday Bridge Playing Field but he had not bought the details with him and would contact the Clerk direct.

He asked what the figure of £654.25 was for. The Clerk said that she could not remember the exact details and would look into it further. He asked about the outcome of the LHI 2019/20 and the Clerk confirmed that she had heard nothing further about the scheme.

He said that he would like to thank Brian and his helpers for cleaning the bus shelter at Coldham which looks much better.

Another Parishioner asked if the Perspex could be replaced or moved as it was badly scratched.

A discussion took place about the Councils' window cleaner who has not cleaned the Noticeboards etc. for a while. It was mentioned that a window cleaner had sadly recently died and it could be the same person. Another Parishioner said that a relative was a window cleaner and the Clerk asked that he drop her an email.

The highway signage in Coldham was raised of an issue. The 40 mph sign at Station Road has been down for a number of months. These are just repeater signs and it is not a statutory requirement to have them. One of the chevrons on the corner going out of the village is twisted. This has previously been reported to CCC.

The issue of the street lights was raised. The Clerk confirmed that the company repairing the lights was going to carry out the repairs as soon as possible. The tender for the lights had not been done yet as the Clerk was trying to secure details for the specification required by FDC but she had been unsuccessful. A discussion took place about the matter and the Clerk confirmed that with hindsight if Members had known that the assessment of the lights could have resulted in a number of them going down, she was sure they would have waited until June to have this done.

A Parishioner asked about a replacement MVAS in Coldham. The Clerk confirmed that this was part of a PFI application to CCC and nothing further had been heard thus far. He also asked about the churned up green and the Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to CCC the day after it happened. She had spoken to Stagecoach who had said that the CCC would ask them to repair the area if required. The matter of late and absent buses was discussed. The Clerk had rung the bus company and was told that they needed specifics of the issues otherwise they could not be investigated.

It was further asked about the funding for the Friday Bridge Play Area as the Clerk had mentioned that she had received a request from the contractor for more money than she believed was outstanding. She confirmed that she had emailed them but heard nothing further from them.

A representative for planning application F/YR19/0123/O spoke. The applicants have asked that he put to the Council that they would be happy, subject to any S106 Agreement, if Planning permission is granted by FDC to make a contribution towards the costs of the planned Community Centre in Elm.

169/18 Planning Applications

F/YR19/0108/F – Erection of 2-storey 3-bed dwelling at Land North of Blackberry Farm Back Road Friday Bridge

Members resolved not to support the Application.

F/YR19/0123/O – Erection of up to 6no dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land South of 6 Fridaybridge Road Elm

Members resolved not to support the Application.

F/YR19/0134/F – Erection of a 3-storey 5-bed dwelling with detached double garage with hobby room over at Land North of 79 The Stitch Fronting Bar Drove Friday Bridge

Members resolved to support the Application.

F/YR19/1129/RM – Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission (F/YR16/0136/O) for the erection of a 2-storey 5-bed dwelling and integral double garage with 1-bed annexe over (Plot 3 only) at Land West Of Rowde House Bar Drove Friday Bridge

Members resolved to support the Application.

Community Consultation –Proposed Dwellings – Land adjoining 67 Fridaybridge Road Elm

Members resolved not to support the proposed Application.

For information Only – Outcome of Appeal at The Orchards, Begdale Road Elm Wisbech PE14 0BE

The Clerk confirmed that the Appeal had been allowed.

170/18 Reports from District and County Councillor(s)

Cllr Sutton confirmed that the works at Birch Grove seem to have been successful and the last tree has not been removed.

The works at Back Road Friday Bridge are still ongoing but he was attending a meeting next week about the outstanding issues.

He confirmed that he had met with Cllrs. Stokes and Milham and sites had been chosen for the benches which he hoped would be installed in the next few weeks.

He confirmed that he is going to stand as an independent in the forthcoming elections. He was thankful and humbled by all the support that he had received from Parishioners and from his wife.

171/18 Speedwatch

The previous co-ordinator was expected this evening but had not attended.

The matter was discussed.

It was resolved that it be advertised locally that the scheme would be set up again and asking for volunteers.

172/18 Open Spaces (including the cemetery) within the Parish

A parishioner confirmed that the speeding sign in Elm was not working until vehicles were right on top of it.

The Clerk confirmed that she was waiting to hear further from the Grounds Maintenance contractor about some paperwork to set up them using the Chapel of Rest. She confirmed that she needed to purchase a new door handle.

173/18 Police Matters

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

174/18 Financial Matters

(1) Income and Expenditure since last meeting

ELM PARISH COUNCIL		
Income & Expenditure		
12 March 2019		
Income		
Payer	Description	Amount £
National Savings	Interest Received	95.72
Tenant	Cemetery Cottage Rent	595.00
Total		690.72
Expenditure		
Payee	Description	Amount £
NEST	Clerk Pension	220.46
CL Butcher	Salary & Expenses	559.27
idverde	Grounds Maintenance	1,240.00
Total		2,019.73

Members decided

- (1) that the income of £690.72 be noted and that the expenditure of £2,019.73 be authorised
- (2) Members noted the Bank Reconciliation report for February 2019.
- (3) Members asked the Clerk to look into opening a Business Savings Account
- (4) Members agreed to the allocation of the sum of £654.25 for the 2019/20 LHI application
- (5) Members agreed to the following changes to the earmarked and general reserves:-

Earmarked reserves	£
Burial fees advance payments	4,000.00
Cemetery Development Works	50,000.00
Highway Safety Contingencies	20,000.00
Street Lighting	80,000.00
Sub Total	154,000.00
General Reserves	55,000.00
Total Reserves	209,000.00

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

175/2018 Elections

Nominations open on the 20th March and close on the 3rd April.
Any issues/concerns need to be taken up with the Elections Officer.
Further details are on the FDC website.
Nomination forms need to be hand delivered to Fenland Hall.
Members noted the above details.

176/18 Correspondence

The Clerk confirmed that she recently attended SLCC training and the issue of the death of a national figure head was discussed at length.
Members were asked to think about what they would like to have in place in the event of a death of a senior royal and it could be formally considered at future meetings.

177/18 Date of Next meeting

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting was the 16th April 2019 at 6.00pm.

178/18 Resolution to exclude the Press and Public

Members resolved to exclude the public due to the confidential nature of Items 17 and 18.
Members resolved to exclude the press and public.

179/18 Complaint Received

The complaint was discussed at length.
Clerk to write to complainant with an appropriate letter.

180/18 Parish Council staffing

Cllr. Butcher and the Clerk left the meeting room.
Members considered the papers submitted by the Clerk.
Members resolved to agree to the increase in the Clerk' wages and Pension contributions.

The meeting closed at 19.25.

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

Date:

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