

# Elm Parish Council

Locum Clerk: Dave Gibbs  
358 High Road, Newton-in-the-Isle, Wisbech, PE13 5HS  
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## Minutes of the meeting of Elm Parish Council held on Wednesday 5 February 2020 commencing at 6.30pm at the Parish Council Office, Begdale Road, Elm

Meetings of the Parish Council are recorded by the Clerk to aid the Clerk with minute taking.  
The recording is destroyed once the minutes are agreed.

Present: Cllrs Brand (Chair), Butcher, Cotterell, Dalliday, Hopkin, Milham and McLaughlin,  
Sutton (FDC) French (CCC) and the Clerk, D Gibbs

184/19	<b>Health and Safety Information regarding the venue.</b> The Chair provided Health and Safety information regarding the venue.
185/19	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <i>Apologies for absence were received and approved for Cllr Bunting.</i>
186/19	<b>Members Code of Conduct</b> 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.
187/19	<b>To receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest regarding items on the agenda:</b> 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> <b>To receive Declarations of Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or a Non-Pecuniary Interest</b> <i>There were no declarations of non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda.</i>
188/19	<b>Public Forum</b> <i>No members of the public were present.</i>
189/19	<b>Membership of the Council</b> The Clerk reported that Cllr T Adcock had submitted a letter of resignation, creating a vacancy in the Rings End Ward. Cllr Butcher signed his acceptance of office declaration in the presence of the Clerk.
190/19	<b>Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 8 January 2020</b> <i>It was proposed by Cllr Milham, seconded by Cllr Cotterell and carried that the minutes be approved as a correct record of the meeting.</i>
191/19	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b> The Clerkship vacancy will be advertised shortly. The mandate change form has been received from Barclays Bank and is awaiting completion.

192/19	<p><b>District and County Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><u>Cllr French</u> (Cambridgeshire County Council) reported that the Council's budget-setting meeting is on 11 February. The budget includes a new fund of £5m for capital grants for community projects covering a wide range of themes. Match funding will be required. There is an additional £6.36m for highways and an extra £200,000 for the Local Highway Improvement scheme. The Council will also invest £15m in decarbonising 69 council-owned buildings. The Council Tax will rise by 1.59% plus an additional 2% for adult social care.</p> <p><u>Cllr Sutton</u> (Fenland District Council) reported that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A resident had contacted him regarding a public notice board in All Saints Close that has not been updated for four years. The Clerk offered to investigate.</li> <li>2. Some issues reported on the Highways online system three months ago have not been addressed.</li> <li>3. A Section 215 notice has been served on the owner of Strathmore House, requiring them to take action to make the site safe and secure by 14 February. If no action is taken by the owner, the District Council will board up and fence off the property.</li> </ol> <p>Cllr Dalliday asked whether the Parish Council should object to the proposal to construct a waste incinerator in Wisbech. Cllr Sutton outlined some of the arguments for and against the proposal and members agreed to include this on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>
193/19	<p><b>Police Matters</b></p> <p>No report was received.</p>
194/19	<p><b>Elm Community Speedwatch</b></p> <p>Cllr Dalliday read a statement from the Speedwatch Coordinator following their annual general meeting on 4 February. There have been no further sessions due to the inclement weather and a shortage of volunteers. Speedwatch activity has been suspended until further notice.</p>
195/19	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p>Two applications were received after the agenda had been issued.</p> <p>F/YR20/0085/VOC - Variation of condition 3 (plan schedule) to enable amendments to approved planning permission of F/YR19/0363/F (Erection of a part 2-storey part single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing conservatory and erection of detached garage) in relation to position and height of garage. - The Cedars, 64 Fridaybridge Road, Elm.</p> <p>F/YR20/0098/TRCA - Fell a Lime tree in a conservation area (5 day notice) - Elm House, Main Road, Elm.</p> <p>Members reviewed both applications and offered no objection. It was suggested that the latter application might include a condition to plant another tree, possibly in a public space in the Parish.</p> <p>These responses will be ratified at the next meeting.</p>
196/19	<p><b>Local Highway Improvements (LHI) 2020/21</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that he and Cllr Bunting had presented the LHI proposal to the assessment panel on 22 January and that the panel's recommendations would be ratified by the Highways and Infrastructure Committee on 10 March.</p>
197/19	<p><b>Bus Shelter</b></p> <p>The Clerk has requested clarification of the width of the highway strip on which the bus stop is located in order to ascertain whether a shelter can be erected on public land.</p>
198/19	<p><b>Street Lighting</b></p> <p>Cllr Sutton reported that he had met with the Leader, Deputy Leader and officers to discuss the disparity between town and parish council street lights. The Leader has written to parishes confirming his commitment to doing something to redress the imbalance, but no details have been released. It may be possible for Elm Parish Council to join the District Council's contract for repairs, maintenance and energy procurement. Further clarification will be required.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had conducted a drive-by inspection of all of the Council's street lights. A total of 42 lights were not working. Of these, 12 were either included in the previous replacement contract or are under warranty from another contractor. The cost of extending the existing contract to include inspection and repair of</p>

	<p>the remaining 30 lights is £1,244.49. It was proposed by Cllr McLaughlin, seconded by Cllr Milham and carried that the existing contract be extended to incorporate the additional 30 lights.</p> <p>Members considered the questions posed by Cllr Boden in his letter of 4 February. They expressed the view that the parishes should never have been treated differently from the towns and that the District Council should reimburse the parishes for all expenditure incurred as a result of this disparity.</p>																																																	
199/19	<p><b>Financial Matters:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Clerk reported that he is still unable to prepare an income and expenditure report.</li> <li><i>It was proposed by Cllr Butcher, seconded by Cllr Milham and carried that the expenditure for February 2020 detailed below be approved.</i></li> </ol> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ref No.</th> <th>Cheque No.</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Expenditure</th> <th>Gross</th> <th>VAT</th> <th>Net</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>79</td> <td>703021</td> <td>Cambridgeshire CC</td> <td>Highways works, Fridaybridge</td> <td>8,468.70</td> <td>1,411.45</td> <td>7,057.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80</td> <td>703022</td> <td>Cambridgeshire CC</td> <td>Highways works, Elm</td> <td>3,451.70</td> <td>575.28</td> <td>2,876.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>81</td> <td>703023</td> <td>Idverde Ltd</td> <td>Grounds maintenance</td> <td>1,240.00</td> <td>206.67</td> <td>1,033.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>82</td> <td>703024</td> <td>Fenland District Council</td> <td>Election recharge</td> <td>4,404.72</td> <td>0</td> <td>4,404.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">February 2020</td> <td>17,565.12</td> <td></td> <td>15,371.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">VAT</td> <td></td> <td>2,193.40</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ref No.	Cheque No.	Payee	Expenditure	Gross	VAT	Net	79	703021	Cambridgeshire CC	Highways works, Fridaybridge	8,468.70	1,411.45	7,057.25	80	703022	Cambridgeshire CC	Highways works, Elm	3,451.70	575.28	2,876.42	81	703023	Idverde Ltd	Grounds maintenance	1,240.00	206.67	1,033.33	82	703024	Fenland District Council	Election recharge	4,404.72	0	4,404.72	February 2020				17,565.12		15,371.72	VAT					2,193.40	
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200/19	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported on items of relevance to members (not otherwise covered by items on the agenda):</p> <p>The Police &amp; Crime Commissioner has launched a Youth &amp; Community grant fund for projects working to divert young people away from crime and to support those already in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Fenland District Council has accepted the suggested road name of Thomas Aveling Close for the new development north of Henry Warby Avenue.</p> <p>The Towpath Committee has requested access to the Parish Office for their meetings. Decision pending whilst keyholders are clarified.</p>																																																	
201/19	<p><b>Date of Future Meetings</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of each month, namely 4 March, 1 April, and 6 May.</li> <li>The Annual Assembly will take place on Wednesday 6 May, before the Annual Meeting of the Council.</li> </ol>																																																	
202/19	<p><b>Items for Future Agendas:</b></p> <p>Members were invited to put forward items for discussion on future agendas.</p> <p>They asked that the proposed waste incinerator be included.</p>																																																	
203/19	<p><b>Close of Meeting</b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.50pm</p>																																																	