

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 4 March 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 and Milham, Sutton (FDC)
and the Clerk, D Gibbs

204/19	Health and Safety Information regarding the venue. The Chair provided Health and Safety information regarding the venue.
205/19	Apologies for Absence <i>Apologies for absence were received and approved for Cllr Bunting.</i>
206/19	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.
207/19	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>
208/19	Public Forum Cllr Patrick (Wisbech Town Council and Fenland District Council) circulated an information leaflet published by campaign group Wisbech Without Incineration and addressed members with regard to the proposed waste incinerator in Wisbech. He voiced their concerns regarding air pollution, lorry movements, contamination and proximity of the proposed development to local schools, and asked the Council to agree a motion to object and to write to the Secretary of State. A resident reported that the Council had resolved to purchase a bench and dog bin last July, but had not done so. The Clerk was asked to investigate and report to the next meeting. A resident expressed concern regarding the condition of the grass verge around the bus shelter in Coldham. The Chairman reported that he had met with the Local Highways Officer to discuss levelling the grass and installing bollards.

209/19	<p>Membership of the Council</p> <p>1. Anthony Feaviour and Wendy Ferguson offered themselves for co-option onto the Council. <i>It was resolved that the two individuals named above be co-opted onto the Council.</i> Cllrs Feaviour and Ferguson will represent the Elm and Fridaybridge ward. They 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>
210/19	<p>Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 5 February 2020</p> <p><i>It was resolved that the minutes be approved as a correct record of the meeting.</i></p>
211/19	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>It was noted that the Speedwatch group had been disbanded. There had been no further developments with regard to the bus shelter.</p>
212/19	<p>District and County Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Sutton (Fenland District Council) explained that he had abstained from the vote against the waste incinerator at the District Council meeting, as he did not have sufficient information upon which to base a decision. Having read all of the supporting documentation, he was of the opinion that much of the information in the media is inaccurate and that factual information would be necessary for an informed debate. Zero waste is an important aspiration, but not realistic at present, so a solution is needed. Having considered the scheme in greater detail, he agreed that the proposed development is too large and in the wrong place, so should not be supported. He had received only one expression of concern from a resident.</p>
213/19	<p>Police Matters</p> <p>One residential burglary had been reported in Fridaybridge.</p>
214/19	<p>Adoption of new Standing Orders</p> <p><i>Members resolved to adopt the latest model Standing Orders.</i></p>
215/19	<p>Clerkship Arrangements</p> <p>Members considered the salary and conditions for the position of Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer. <i>It was agreed that the post should be advertised as 50 hours per month at SCP 24-28 on the new scale, working from home with the option of using the Parish Office as and when required.</i></p> <p>Members considered the advertisement, job description, person specification and application form for the vacancy. <i>They resolved to approve all documentation and asked the Clerk to proceed with advertising the vacancy. They further resolved that Cllrs Brand, Ferguson and Feaviour be appointed as the interview panel.</i></p>
216/19	<p>Grounds Maintenance Contract</p> <p>Members considered the revised grounds maintenance contract, including variations agreed at the November meeting. <i>Members resolved to extend the contract, subject to a 3.5% increase in cost.</i></p>
217/19	<p>Coldham Lay-by</p> <p>Cllr Brand reported that he and Cllr Sutton and the Clerk had met with the Local Highways Officer to discuss options to improve pedestrian safety around the bus stop. It had been agreed that the Council would undertake the following works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levelling of the surface where the road meets the verge Installation of wooden posts to delineate the edge of the road surface Cleaning of the bus shelter Explore feasibility of mounting a defibrillator in the bus shelter <p><i>Members resolved to proceed with these works and asked the Clerk to draw up a specification to obtain three quotes.</i></p>

218/19	<p>Tower Hall Fence</p> <p>Cllr Sutton reported that the Tower Hall Committee wish to retain the fence to the rear of their building to provide a secure area for the erection of marquees for events. They are in favour of removing the fence between the car park and the Recreation Ground and replacing it with a suitable vehicle-proof barrier.</p> <p><i>Members resolved to arrange a site meeting to agree a specification for obtaining the necessary quotes.</i></p>
219/19	<p>MVV Medworth Energy from Waste Incinerator</p> <p>The Clerk informed members that a public meeting had been arranged to consider the proposal on 13 March at the Queen Mary Centre, Wisbech, commencing at 6.00pm. The official public consultation programme from the developer will start on 16 March.</p> <p><i>Having heard the views of Cllr Patrick during the Public Forum and Cllr Sutton, members resolved to oppose the proposal and asked the Clerk to write to the Secretary of State to voice their concerns.</i></p>
220/19	<p>Playgrounds</p> <p>Cllr Dalliday expressed concern about the condition of the grass matting in the Elm playground. She has previously obtained a quote to replace this. It is understood that there is £7,000 of S106 money available for Elm which could contribute towards this. The new County Council capital grant fund may also be available for this purpose, although the details are not yet available. Further quotes will be required before a decision can be made.</p>
221/19	<p>Trees between Gosmoor Lane and Birch Grove</p> <p>A resident has reported tree branches coming into contact with telephone lines. BT no longer undertakes preventative maintenance and the trees do not belong to the Council. The Clerk was asked to discuss this issue with the grounds maintenance contractor.</p>
222/19	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>Members considered the following applications:</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><i>Members resolved to ratify their previous decision to offer no objection to the above applications.</i></p> <p>F/YR20/0106/F - Conversion of existing barns to form 3 x dwellings (Barn 2 - 2-storey, 5-bed dwelling with integral garage and the erection of a car port involving lowering the floor level, Barn 4 - 3-storey 5-bed dwelling including erection of a detached garage and Barn 5 - 2-storey, 4-bed dwelling and erection of an attached garage) and erection of detached garage to existing dwelling - Stags Holt Farm, Coldham Bank, Coldham.</p> <p>F/YR20/0114/F - Conversion of garage to form additional living accommodation to existing dwelling - 20 The Oaks, Elm.</p> <p><i>Members resolved to offer no objection to the above applications.</i></p> <p>Members considered the following appeal:</p> <p>F/YR19/0499/F - Erection of a eco tyre 2-bed dwelling; workshop and storage shed and siting of a timber clad caravan (part retrospective) - Land North of Bar Drove, Friday Bridge.</p> <p><i>Members resolved to restate their previous objection to this application as an inappropriate incursion onto agricultural land.</i></p> <p>Two applications were received after the agenda had been issued:</p> <p>F/YR20/0164/TRTPO - Remove 1 storm damaged Ash tree covered by TPO 10/2010 (5 day notice) - TPO at Town Field, West of Low Road, Elm.</p> <p>F/YR20/0168/F - Erection of a part 2-storey/single storey side extension to existing dwelling - 5 Barnard Cottages, Well End, Friday Bridge.</p> <p><i>Members resolved to offer no objection to the above applications. These responses will be ratified at the next meeting.</i></p>

223/19	<p>Review of the Local Plan - Call for Sites</p> <p>Members considered the seventeen sites nominated during the call for sites process last year. <i>They resolved not to support any of the sites as they oppose further development in the Parish due to concerns regarding the lack of infrastructure, highways, school capacity and over-development.</i></p>																																																	
224/19	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <p>1. The Clerk provided an income and expenditure report as at 29 February, showing income of £102,357.23 and expenditure of £62,832.52, resulting in a surplus for the year to date of £39,524.71 and total funds held of £253,000.65.</p> <p>2. An application was received from the Friends of Elm & Emneth Towpath Group for a charitable donation towards the cost of a new lawn mower. <i>Members agreed to make a contribution. Members resolved that the expenditure for March 2020 detailed below be approved. They further resolved that the annual payment to Upwell Parish Council be discontinued and asked the Clerk to convey this information to the Clerk of Upwell Parish Council.</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="209 674 1517 1010"> <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>83</td> <td>703025</td> <td>Hundred of Wisbech IDB</td> <td>Agricultural drainage rates</td> <td>82.30</td> <td>0</td> <td>82.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>84</td> <td>703026</td> <td>Upwell Parish Council</td> <td>Filling of grit bins</td> <td>29.14</td> <td>0</td> <td>29.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>85</td> <td>703027</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>86</td> <td>703028</td> <td>Friends of Elm & Emneth Towpath</td> <td>S137 Donation</td> <td>212.50</td> <td>0</td> <td>212.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td>March 2020</td> <td>1,563.94</td> <td>1,357.27</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td>VAT</td> <td>206.67</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ref No.	Cheque No.	Payee	Expenditure	Gross	VAT	Net	83	703025	Hundred of Wisbech IDB	Agricultural drainage rates	82.30	0	82.30	84	703026	Upwell Parish Council	Filling of grit bins	29.14	0	29.14	85	703027	Idverde Ltd	Grounds maintenance	1,240.00	206.67	1,033.33	86	703028	Friends of Elm & Emneth Towpath	S137 Donation	212.50	0	212.50					March 2020	1,563.94	1,357.27					VAT	206.67	
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225/19	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Clerk reported on items of relevance to members (not otherwise covered by items on the agenda): Ordnance Survey - the Clerk has obtained a Public Sector Mapping Agreement licence for the Council. Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service - promoting Register My Appliance, Safe & Well visits and on-call firefighters. Fenland District Council - new litter bin at Begdale Road to be installed in addition to existing bin. FDC Monitoring Officer - complaint from Mr Keeble. FDC - promoting Community Safety Survey. Cambridgeshire County Council Highways - changes to timing of Local Highway Improvements application process for 2021/22. Keep Britain Tidy - Great British Spring Clean 2020. All Saints Church PCC - meeting to discuss the future of the church on 10 March.</p>																																																	
226/19	<p>Date of Future Meetings</p> <p>1. Future meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of each month, namely 1 April, and 6 May. 2. The Annual Assembly will take place on Wednesday 6 May, before the Annual Meeting of the Council.</p>																																																	
227/19	<p>Items for Future Agendas</p> <p>Members were invited to put forward items for discussion on future agendas. No items were proposed.</p>																																																	
228/19	<p>Close of Meeting</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.40pm</p>																																																	