

Elm Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Elm Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 8 July 2020 commencing at 6.30pm

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, Feaviour, Ferguson, Griffiths, Milham, Myles and Welbourne,
Sutton (FDC) and the Clerk, D Gibbs

035/20	Apologies for Absence <i>Apologies for absence were received and approved for Cllrs Bunting and Hopkin.</i>
036/20	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.
037/20	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>
038/20	Public Forum Following the discussion at the June meeting regarding the future of All Saints Church, Mr Bryant introduced himself as a volunteer working with the PCC to consider options for the building.
039/20	Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2020 <i>It was resolved that the minutes be approved as a correct record of the meeting.</i>
040/20	Matters Arising from the Minutes Wisbech Canal - The Clerk has carried out Land Registry searches of the former canal. Further clarification of boundaries is required at two locations and it was noted that the recent purchase of land includes a small area at the junction of Gosmoor Lane and Outwell Road.
041/20	District and County Councillor Reports Cllr Sutton (Fenland District Council) reported that it had been suggested anecdotally that part of the land retained by the Council at the junction of Gosmoor Lane and Outwell Road may have been to allow for road widening and junction improvements. He reported that the plan to re-open the railway line to Wisbech had taken a major step forward with the final approval of the business case by the Combined Authority indicating the potential re-opening within eight years. Cllr Sutton suggested that the Parish Council considers the establishment of a working group

	to liaise with the Parochial Church Council regarding plans for All Saints Church. The PCC will be arranging another public meeting shortly.
042/20	<p>Police Matters</p> <p>No report has been received, although members noted that a domestic burglary had occurred in Begdale Road during daylight hours. The Clerk reported that a member of the public had expressed concern regarding anti-social behaviour in the car park at Begdale Road Playing Field, especially in the evenings and during the hours of darkness. The Clerk has notified the Police, who will now include the area in routine patrols. The neighbour has offered to be a voluntary key holder to enable the site to be locked overnight but will not challenge people and ask them to leave.</p> <p><i>Members resolved to accept this offer and asked the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.</i></p>
043/20	<p>Vacancy for the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer</p> <p>The Chairman reported that it had not been possible to agree terms with the candidate for the role of Clerk and RFO, so the offer had been withdrawn.</p> <p><i>Members resolved to re-advertise the vacancy and asked the Clerk to place the advertisement.</i></p>
044/20	<p>Council Website</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the new website is now ready for launch, including up-to-date agendas and minutes, but the hosting company will not allow it to go live until they have received the second instalment of the fee. This will be resolved shortly.</p>
045/20	<p>Birch Grove Open Space</p> <p>Cllr Sutton has received confirmation from the County Council that the location of the proposed bus shelter is on land owned by them, so there is no need to involve Clarion Housing. Members asked the Clerk to contact the Local Highways Officer to clarify the process for installing the shelter and to ascertain prices for a suitable shelter.</p>
046/20	<p>Children's Playgrounds</p> <p>The children's play areas have now re-opened. The District Council will be providing a weekly clean of their play equipment and encouraging parents to take suitable measures to minimise risks when their children use the equipment.</p> <p><i>Members resolved to appoint a contractor to undertake weekly cleaning of the play equipment at Elm, Friday-bridge and Coldham.</i></p>
047/20	<p>Street Lights</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had carried out two further surveys of the Council's street lighting to identify lights not working at night and those on during daylight hours. He identified 22 lights in the former category and 8 in the latter, which have been reported for attention.</p>
048/20	<p>Cemetery</p> <p>The Clerk reported that available burial space in the Cemetery is now limited and it will soon be necessary to start using the extension area. Members confirmed their previous decision that the extension will be managed as a lawn cemetery, with simple headstones mounted on concrete plinths laid in the ground. Cllr Griffiths advised members that the heap of excess soil will be removed shortly. Cllrs Brand and Milham will meet the Clerk to measure and mark the first row of graves.</p>
049/20	<p>Local Highway Improvements</p> <p>Members suggested a number of potential projects for the next round of LHI funding, including a pavement in Gosmoor Lane, speeding in Begdale Road, and Coldham lay-by improvements. The deadline for applications has not been confirmed, but members agreed to consider other proposals and contact the Clerk.</p> <p>It was noted that there is no agreed location for vehicle-activated signs on Fridaybridge Road. The Clerk offered to submit a new memorandum of understanding to increase the area in which the signs may be positioned.</p>

050/20	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>Members considered the following applications:</p> <p>F/YR20/0481/VOC - Variation of condition 2 (materials) and 4 (approved plans) of planning permission F/YR19/0717/F (Erection of a 2-storey side and rear extensions to existing dwelling involving the erection of a front porch and integral garage and change of use of land for domestic purposes as well as infilling of drain (part retrospective)) - Stone Cottage, 82 March Road, Friday Bridge</p> <p>F/YR20/0483/RM - Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR17/0731/O to erect a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling with garage - Land South of Railway Cottage, Back Road, Elm</p> <p>F/YR20/0559/F - Erect a two-storey rear extension to existing dwelling - 30 Peartree Way, Elm</p> <p><i>Members resolved to offer no objection to the above applications.</i></p> <p>F/YR20/0508/F - Erect a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling involving demolition of outbuilding - Land North of 39 March Road, Rings End</p> <p><i>Members resolved to object to the above application as an over development of a small site and out of keeping with neighbouring properties.</i></p>																																										
051/20	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Internal Audit Report has not been received. It will be considered at an additional meeting to comply with the external audit deadline. The Clerk provided a draft income and expenditure summary as at 30 June, showing income of £27,545.57 and expenditure of £31,093.23, resulting in a shortfall for the year of £3,547.66 and total funds held of £253,579.34. At the June meeting, members resolved to open a 35-day Business Savings account with Redwood Bank, however this account offer was withdrawn by the bank before the account could be opened. The best offer currently available is a 95-day account offering 1% interest. <i>Members resolved to open a 95-day notice account with Redwood Bank and to transfer £80,000 into the new account.</i> <i>Members resolved that the expenditure for July 2020 detailed below be approved.</i> <table border="1" data-bbox="199 1176 1517 1473"> <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>10</td> <td>703038</td> <td>Fenland District Council</td> <td>Street light recharge</td> <td>5,065.20</td> <td>844.20</td> <td>4,221.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>703039</td> <td>Tamar IT Ltd</td> <td>New website</td> <td>599.40</td> <td>99.90</td> <td>499.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>703040</td> <td>Hundred of Wisbech IDB</td> <td>Drainage rates</td> <td>86.56</td> <td>-</td> <td>86.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">July 2020</td> <td>5,751.16</td> <td></td> <td>4,807.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td>VAT</td> <td>944.10</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ref No.	Cheque No.	Payee	Expenditure	Gross	VAT	Net	10	703038	Fenland District Council	Street light recharge	5,065.20	844.20	4,221.00	11	703039	Tamar IT Ltd	New website	599.40	99.90	499.50	12	703040	Hundred of Wisbech IDB	Drainage rates	86.56	-	86.56	July 2020				5,751.16		4,807.06					VAT	944.10	
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052/20	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Clerk reported on items of relevance to members (not otherwise covered by items on the agenda):</p> <p>A resident of Fridaybridge has reported a loose tile on the roof of the Clock Tower and cracks in the rendering. The Chairman asked the Clerk to arrange for the tile to be replaced and to obtain quotes for sealing and painting the tower.</p> <p>A resident of Halfpenny Lane has expressed concern regarding a hollow tree that overhangs his property. The Clerk has asked the Tree Officer to inspect the tree, but it appears that this has not been done. Cllr Sutton suggested that the Head of Planning be asked to expedite this.</p> <p>The Waste Transfer Note from Fenland District Council in respect of the cemetery bin has been completed and returned.</p> <p>MVV Environment Ltd has issued a newsletter regarding the proposed incinerator in Wisbech.</p> <p>The Chairman informed members that work was required on trees around Coldham Playing Field, including the removal of dead trees and cutting back lower branches on others to facilitate easier access for grass cutting and that he had approached the Council's grounds maintenance contractor for a quote to undertake the work. Cllr Griffiths declared a pecuniary interest in this item as a senior employee of the grounds maintenance contractor</p>																																										

	and took no part in the discussion. As there are safety concerns, members resolved to accept the quote of £370+VAT to allow the work to proceed without delay.
053/20	Date and Format of Next Meeting The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 12 August, either in the Tower Hall or by video-conference.
054/20	Items for Future Agendas Members were invited to put forward items for discussion on future agendas. No items were nominated for discussion.
055/20	Close of Meeting The meeting closed at 8.45pm