

Elm Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Elm Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 12 August 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, Feaviour, Ferguson, Griffiths, Milham, and Welbourne,
Sutton (FDC) and the Clerk, D Gibbs

061/20	Apologies for Absence <i>Apologies for absence were received and approved for Cllrs Bunting, Dalliday and Hopkin. The Clerk advised members that Cllr Myles had resigned from the Council and the vacancy would be advertised shortly.</i>
062/20	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.
063/20	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. The Clerk noted that the Coldham Playing Field is under the control of the Coldham Residents Action Group Ltd, so directors of that company should declare a non-pecuniary interest before any matters relating to the field are discussed. Members asked the Clerk to locate a copy of the lease to ascertain whether the lease could be transferred to the Council.</i>
064/20	Public Forum No members of the public were present.
065/20	Minutes of Previous Meetings <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8 July be approved as a correct record of the meeting.</i><i>It was resolved that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 23 July be approved as a correct record of the meeting.</i>
066/20	Matters Outstanding <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>Vacancy for Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer - the position has been advertised.</i><i>Children's Playgrounds - Cllr Milham reported that he is picking up litter in the Elm children's playground every morning as a consequence of a group of teenagers loitering there in the evenings. The Clerk will contact the Police to ask them to speak to the group about their conduct. New signage is required to remind</i>

	<p>parents and children to follow Covid guidelines. Members agreed to review their decision to arrange periodic cleaning of the play equipment, as there appears to be no clear benefit. The Clerk advised members that there is a statutory requirement for signage at children's play areas. The Clerk will order the new signs for all three play areas.</p> <p>3. Street Lights - The contractor is working through the latest list of faults.</p>
067/20	<p>District and County Councillor Reports Cllr Sutton (Fenland District Council) reported that the Minor Injuries Unit at the North Cambs Hospital is due to reopen on 17 August from 8.30 to 6.00, Monday to Friday. Cllr Milham mentioned blocked drains opposite the Cemetery. The Clerk confirmed that he had already reported these to Highways.</p>
068/20	<p>Police Matters No report has been received.</p>
069/20	<p>Council Website The Clerk reported that the new website will go live within the next couple of days.</p>
070/20	<p>Birch Grove Open Space The Local Highways Officer has provided a form to request the installation of the bus shelter. This will be completed and submitted shortly.</p>
071/20	<p>Cemetery Members discussed options for the extension of the burial plots in the Cemetery. <i>It was resolved that three additional rows of graves be prepared on each side of the turning circle, with the installation of concrete plinths to support headstones. Levelling of the ground will be required on the south side. A request to fill the dyke will be discussed with the Drainage Board prior to the above works being commissioned to ascertain the extent of the ground available for burials.</i></p>
072/20	<p>Local Highway Improvements <i>Members resolved to submit an application for speed reduction measures between Elm and Fridaybridge and to seek advice from the Highways Officers regarding the options available.</i></p>
073/20	<p>Planning Applications Members considered the following applications: F/YR20/0677/F - Erect a 2-storey 2-bed dwelling involving partial demolition of barn (part retrospective) - Land West of The Coach House, Needham Bank, Friday Bridge F/YR20/0678/F - Erect a dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) involving the demolition of existing dwelling, and a change of use of existing agricultural shed to use for domestic purposes - Amberleigh, 159 Gosmoor Lane, Elm F/YR20/0699/F - Erect a 2-storey extension to front and porch to side of existing dwelling and 1.8m brick wall - Saxby Cottage, 131 March Road, Friday Bridge F/YR20/0701/F - Erect single-storey rear extension and porch to front including conversion of loft to living accommodation and erect a detached garage and detached workshop to existing dwelling - Soffits, Halfpenny Lane, Elm <i>Members resolved to offer no objection to the above applications.</i></p> <p>Members considered the following reconsultation: F/YR20/0508/F - Erect a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling involving demolition of outbuilding - Land North of 39 March Road, Rings End <i>Members resolved to continue to object to the above application as an over development of a small site, out of keeping with neighbouring properties and with inadequate parking for the existing adjacent property.</i></p> <p>One application was received after the agenda had been issued: F/YR20/0724/TRCA - Fell 1 x Robinia Tree in a conservation area - The Limes, Begdale Road, Elm <i>Members resolved to offer no objection to this application. This response will be ratified at the next meeting.</i></p>
074/20	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk provided a draft income and expenditure summary as at 31 July, showing income of £28,233.39 and expenditure of £36,844.39, resulting in a shortfall for the year of £8,611.00 and total funds held of £248,516.00. At the July meeting, Members resolved to open a 95-day notice account with Redwood Bank and to transfer

£80,000 into the new account. The new account will be opened when all of the Councillors have provided their details for money laundering checks.

3. A request for financial support was received from Elm Street Pride. *Members resolved to provide an annual grant of £500.* The water level in The Leam has fallen over the summer months, causing the death of a number of fish. To alleviate this situation, as a matter of urgency, the Chairman arranged for Harrison Agricultural Contracting Ltd to provide 55,000 litres of water, at a cost of £400. Members ratified this item of expenditure. *Members resolved that the expenditure for August 2020 detailed below be approved.*

Ref No.	Cheque No.	Payee	Expenditure	Gross	VAT	Net
13	703041	J Brand	Chairman's Allowance	200.00	-	200.00
14	703042	T Jordan	Audit Fee	318.75	-	318.75
15	703043	D Gibbs	Locum Clerkship service to 31 July	3,000.00	-	3,000.00
August 2020				3,518.75		3,518.75
VAT					-	

075/20

Correspondence

The Clerk reported on items of relevance to members (not otherwise covered by items on the agenda): Fenland District Council re new facility for payment of council bills at post offices and convenience stores, consultation on draft code of conduct, leisure centre reopening, and local plan second call for sites. Cambridgeshire County Council re review of open spaces data, library at home service accepting new referrals, Local Highway Improvements funding deadline on 27 September and temporary traffic orders for Remembrance Sunday events. Clinical Commissioning Group re "BMI Can Do It" public health programme to eat well, sleep well, move more. Freedom of Information request from resident. Extinction Rebellion re wild flowers on roadside verges. The service agreement with Smith of Derby for the clock at Fridaybridge has expired. The clock was serviced on 21 July and payment for this is required now. The option of a three-year or six-year contract is available. *Members resolved to defer this decision until the next meeting.*

076/20

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.

077/20

Items for Future Agendas

Members were invited to put forward items for discussion on future agendas. Training and the Cemetery Cottage were nominated for discussion.

078/20

Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.45pm