

Elm Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Elm Parish Council held remotely on Thursday 6th May 2021 commencing at 6.40pm
[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, Butcher, Cotterell, Feaviour, Ferguson, Goodley, Griffiths, Hopkin, Milham & Welbourne, District Cllr Sutton, Mrs S England – Parish Clerk.

- 94.21 **To elect a Chairman for 2021-2022** – It was proposed to appoint Cllr Wendy Ferguson as Chairman to the Council. Seconded and resolved.
- 95.21 **Chairman to confirm signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office** – Cllr Ferguson thanked Council for appointing her as Chairman and confirmed that she would forward the signed Declaration to the Clerk.
- 96.21 **To elect a Vice-Chairman for 2021-2022** – It was proposed to appoint Cllr Tony Feaviour as Vice-Chairman to Elm Parish Council. Seconded and resolved.
- 97.21 **Vice Chairman to confirm signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office** – Cllr Feaviour thanked Council for his appointment and confirmed that he would forward the signed Declaration to the Clerk.
- 98.21 **Apologies** – None received.
- 99.21 **Code of Conduct** – The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to advise any changes to the content of their Register of Interests forms.
- 100.21 **Disclosable interests and requests for dispensation** – Cllr Feaviour advised his interest in any items relating to FEET. Cllr Goodley advised his interest in agenda item 24.
- 101.21 **Open Forum** – No members of the public present.
- 102.21 **Review and approval of Minutes** – Council resolved to approve minutes of meeting held on 8th April 2021 as a correct record.
- 103.21 **Police matters** – Cllr Griffiths advised he would forward the report from the recent Police/Council meeting on receipt. Concern was raised at the number of vehicles being parked on double yellow lines in Abington Grove and Gosmoor Lane during school pick up times; Clerk to report the issue to the local police team.
- 104.21 **District Councillor's Report** – Agenda item deferred. See minute ref. 108.21.
- 105.21 **Clerk's Report** – The Clerk reported as follows – A meeting had taken place with a playground equipment contractor concerning new safety surfaces for the Elm play area, two further meetings were scheduled for the coming week. Cllr Ferguson had received the necessary information to facilitate online banking. A fire risk assessment would be taking place at the portacabin on 7th May, any recommendations concerning electrical works would be added to the work already approved and scheduled to be undertaken by the appointed electrician. A meeting had been arranged with a representative from Came & Co in order to consider policy requirements for Council's insurance, the updated asset register would assist in calculating cover requirements under each category. Work had commenced on collating information for Council's internal audit. A briefing note had been circulated from '20's Plenty For Us', a campaign group pushing for a default 20mph speed limit to be implemented in Cambridgeshire urban and village settlements – Councillors confirm their wish to support the campaign; item to be included on June agenda. Face to face meetings would be resuming from 7th May, the Tower Hall could be used in order to ensure

Implementation of appropriate social distancing measures.

The Clerk had attended a two day course in cemetery management which had been very informative. The Cemetery Regulations would need to be amended as a result of the information provided.

The annual play area inspections ad been carried out; quotes would be sought for any necessary improvements.

106.21 Financial Matters

1. The Clerk advised the following sums had been received since the last meeting; Annual Precept (50%) £15,000, Burial fees £207.00, Cemetery Cottage rent £650.00, Interest £1.64,

2. Council resolved to approve expenditure for May as detailed below;

PAYEE	DETAIL	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Idverde Ltd	Grounds maint. Apr 21	£1,145.40	£229.08	£1,374.48
CAPALC	Annual Fee (inc. data prot.)	£802.80		£802.80
CAPALC	Cemetery Training	£120.00		£120.00
ROSPA	Play equip. Safety Reports	£323.00	£64.60	£387.60
Cambs C. C.	FB Playing Field - Ann. Rent	£375.00		£375.00
Anglia Locksmiths	Begdale - new locks x 3	£145.00	£29.00	£174.00
Mrs S England	Clerk's Salary	£1,153.21		£1,153.21
Mrs S England	Clerk's Expenses	£169.98	£2.40	£172.38
HMRC	Tax & NI - Month 2	£169.97		£169.97
Nest	Pension Contr. 6/5-5/6	£91.05		£91.05
		£4,495.41	£325.08	£4,820.49

Chairman

107.21 Correspondence

1. Email, Neighbourhood Watch Elm – Copy of email sent to Crosskeys Homes highlighting road safety issues in Atkinsons Lane, Elm. Whilst Councillors confirmed their support generally for road safety concerns, it was confirmed that in this instance the matter would have been considered as part of the planning decision making process.
2. Email, DFL-UK – Approval request for Cambs County Council to replace; and take on future maintenance of; streetlight located adjacent to the bus shelter in Rings End (as part of the A47 improvement works). Council resolved to approve the proposal.
3. Letter, Freshwater Habitat Trust – Request to take water sample from pond at The Leam. Council resolved to approve the water sample/s being taken for determining the presence of great crested newt DNA.

FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES;

1. Email, CAPALC – Details of ruling on virtual meetings after 6th May 2021.
2. Email, Cambs CC – Covid19 Update.

(For further information relating to the above items, refer to parish website or, contact the Clerk.)

7pm – District Councillor Sutton joined the meeting.

108.21 **Council resolved to receive the District Councillor's report** (Agenda item 11 c/f)– Cllr Sutton advised as follows; He would investigate options concerning highway safety at Atkinsons Lane, tyres had been flytipped along Back Road, Friday Bridge; a repair order had been issued for the junction of Bar Drove and Gosmoor Lane, the road surface was extremely dangerous for cyclists.

109.21 Planning

1. F/YR21/0339/F – Application for 13 dwellings (2 x 2-storey 3-bed, 9 x 2-storey 4-bed, 2 x 2-storey 5-bed) and associated works, involving demolition of existing dwelling and barns at land north and west of 47 Fridaybridge Road, Elm. Council discussed the application at length taking into account objections/concerns raised by residents and professional body consultees. It was resolved to strongly oppose the application on the following grounds;

Presence of protected species (bats) and lack of consideration for protection of biodiversity.

Highway safety concerns – Wales Bank only wide enough to accommodate width of one vehicle at junction; entrance to proposed site too close to the junction with Wales Bank.

Style of housing not in-keeping with neighbouring properties, many of which are bungalows. The proposed site design would create an overbearing effect, smaller, affordable housing would be more appropriate.

Disposal of surface and foul water – taking into the flooding which had occurred further along Wales Bank during the winter of 2020-21, proposals for water drainage were inadequate.

The Clerk confirmed that she would also investigate whether the barns located on site could be somehow protected from demolition; whilst not in a conservation area or listed; they were a valuable and attractive asset to the village.

Additionally, the Clerk would investigate the Fenland Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework in order to assist with compiling a comprehensive objection response to the proposals.

2. F/YR20/0940/F – Revised proposals in respect of acoustic fencing – Change of use of land at The Sportsman Public House, Elm. Councillors restated their support for the application.

110.21 Highways and Footways

Update on outstanding matters;

1. Elm Low Road junction – the boundary hedge located at a property adjacent to the junction had been removed, it appeared that it was being replaced by a wooden fence. Ivy had been removed from the telegraph pole. The Clerk confirmed that she was continuing to chase the Road Safety Audit Team in order to arrange an on-site meeting.

To report any new matters;

1. Peartree Way, damaged fencing – The Clerk confirmed that repairs had been requested but there had been no response to date. Cllr Sutton advised a further point of contact who would be able to assist.
2. Pavement adjacent to Elm School severely damaged – the Clerk confirmed that the damage had been reported to Cambs Highways, all Councillors were encouraged to submit an online report in order to add pressure for the issue to be dealt with.

111.21 Streetlight maintenance – Details of Mr Gibbs' (former Locum Clerk) streetlight survey and findings report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting along with details of the FDC Service Level Agreement.

Council expressed their gratitude to Mr Gibbs for undertaking the survey.

It was resolved to adopt the FDC Service Level Agreement.

It was resolved to seek further advice and tenders for recommendations included in Mr Gibbs' report.

112.21 Canal Towpath – Council expressed their desire to move forward amicably with all parties involved with management of the towpath land. The following projects were discussed;

1. Implementation of measures designed to deter use of quad bikes - It was resolved to approve the installation of signage, one to be fixed at each of the access points subject to confirmation of approval of Emneth PC. The Clerk presented details of a quote received for supply and installation of two kissing gates (one at Collets Bridge end of towpath, one at Chapel Lane access) and a stile (at pocket park access). It was reported that Emneth PC were not in favour of the project, as a goodwill gesture, it was resolved to enquire if Emneth PC would approve the installation if Elm PC funded the project in full, total cost £1620.00 + VAT.
2. Installation of owl box and livestream camera – The Clerk advised that contrary to the advice received from Fenland Planning Dept, Emneth had been advised that planning permission was required for the project. It was resolved to approve installation on the Elm side of the towpath subject to receipt of a location plan and risk assessment from FEET.

3. Proposals for installation of path – Acknowledging that significant funding needed to be raised, it was resolved to support in principle the laying of a path along a section of the towpath.
4. Installation of two noticeboards – Council resolved to approve the installation of two noticeboards (one at Colletts Bridge end and one at pocket park end).

113.21 **Cemetery Chapel** – Councillors considered draft plans received in respect of the Chapel conversion project. It was resolved for the Clerk to arrange a meeting onsite with the architect in order to gain more insight.

114.21 **Installation of dog waste bin** – It was resolved to submit a request for a dog waste bin to be installed in Fridaybridge Road, Elm at the junction with The Stitch.

115.21 **To receive requests from Members for subjects to be included on the next agenda** – No requests put forward.

116.21 **To resolve on date and format for next meeting** – It was resolved for the next meeting to be held in person at Tower Hall in Friday Bridge on Thursday 10th June at 6.30pm. Clerk to investigate and implement appropriate risk assessment/health & safety measures.

117.21 **To resolve on entering closed session in order to consider the following agenda items on the grounds of confidentiality by virtue of The Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960 s. 1[2])** – Council resolved to enter closed session.

8.20 pm – Cllr Goodley left the meeting due to his interest in the next agenda item.

118.21 **Canal Towpath** – The Clerk provided an update on the situation concerning an alleged breach of planning on the towpath and confirmed that she was working with the Clerk of Emneth Parish Council in an effort to resolve the situation.

8.23 pm – Cllr Goodley rejoined the meeting.

119.21 **To consider matters relating to the lease at Coldham playing field** – Item deferred to June agenda pending receipt of information.

120.21 **To receive an update concerning cottage tenancy** - The matter was discussed, Council resolved for the Clerk and Chairman to deal with the matter. Subject to be discussed further at the June meeting.

121.21 The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed
Elm Parish Council Chairman

Date