

Elm Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Elm Parish Council held at Tower Hall, Friday Bridge on Wednesday 11th August 2021 commencing at 6.30pm

[Meetings of the Parish Council may be recorded by the Clerk to aid with minute taking. Any such recording is destroyed once the minutes are agreed].

Present: Cllrs, Brand, Feaviour, Ferguson (Chairman), Goodley, Hopkin, Milham & Welbourne, Mrs S England – Parish Clerk, 1 member of the public.

- 171.21 **Apologies** – The Clerk reported apologies for Cllrs Cotterell and Griffiths; Council resolved to accept their reasons for absence.
- 172.21 **Code of Conduct** – The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to advise any changes to the content of their Register of Interests forms.
- 173.21 **Disclosable interests and requests for dispensation** – None reported.
- 174.21 **Open Forum** – The following issues were raised;
- Poor state of the road surface along March Road between Coldham and the church – it was confirmed that this had been reported and was scheduled for repair work.
 - Overgrown hedge at property located in Redmoor Lane – resident to be politely requested to make arrangements for it to be cut back.
- 175.21 **Review and approval of Minutes** – Council resolved to approve minutes of meeting held on 7th July 2021 as a correct record.
- 176.21 **Police matters** – Details of latest Police/Council meeting to be distributed on receipt. It was reported that a mobile speed monitoring unit had been in place on the main road opposite Birch Grove on a number of occasions.
- 177.21 **District Councillor's Report** – Cllr Sutton advised that potholes in Mill Way had been repaired. Cllr Milham also advised that a severely damaged drain (located near Meadowcourt) had been reported to Highways as an emergency. Cones had been placed on the drain but they kept being removed. Cllr Sutton and the Clerk confirmed they would chase the matter.
- 178.21 **Clerk's Report** – The Clerk reported as follows – An updated Asset Register and Project Report had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Swann Edwards, Architect for the proposed residential development of Friday Bridge Camp had been in touch to ask if they could make a presentation covering details of the proposals – Councillors asked the Clerk to arrange an extraordinary meeting on 18th August at the Tower Hall in order for the presentation to take place. A quote totalling £412.50 + VAT for re-tensioning the zip-wire at Friday Bridge playing field had just been received from HAGS, the original installers – as the amount fell below the £500 threshold for Chairman's approval it was considered appropriate to resolve to accept the tender without notice having been included on the agenda. A quote had also been received for repair and re-fixing of the rocker unit – Council resolved for the Clerk to seek a further quote. It was confirmed that tasks highlighted for action by Council's Internal Auditor were nearing completion. Smith of Derby had submitted two quotations in respect of work to Friday Bridge Clock Tower, (1) £1897.00 + VAT for fitting LED lights and replacement cover glass to the clock faces, (2) £497.00 + VAT for fitting LED lights only. The first quote would incur additional costs for arranging a hoist and a road space booking which Council would have to organise independently. Council resolved to accept the quote submitted for replacement of LED lights only. As the sum fell below the £500.00 threshold it was considered appropriate for the expenditure

to be authorised without prior notice on the agenda.

It was confirmed that the Chairman had authorised the replacement of the height restriction bar at Begdale car park at a cost of £275.00 + VAT.

The Clerk reported that two swing seats (at Coldham) and three sets of goal posts (at Coldham, Friday Bridge & Begdale) were in a poor state of repair – Council confirmed quotes should be sought for their replacement/re-painting. A number of vehicles located on the grass verge in Station Road Coldham had been reported as abandoned, Fenland District Council was investigating the matter.

A Risk Assessment document covering maintenance work (including use of small hand tools) had been completed for the use of FEET volunteers, further policies would be completed for the use of larger mechanised tools. FDC had confirmed it was investigating a suitable location along The Stitch for the installation of a dog waste bin. An application had been submitted for reclaim of S106 funding which would cover the cost of new vehicle access gates at Friday Bridge playing field.

The Clerk was asked to (1) investigate the cost of replacing the bench located at Coldham lay-by, (2) ask Fenland District Council if it might be possible for railings located adjacent to the Pocket Park to be re-painted and, (3) investigate the possible repair or replacement of bench located on the towpath (Cllr Feaviour to supply photographs).

179.21 Financial Matters

1. The Clerk advised the following sums had been received since the last meeting; Cemetery fees £372.00, VAT reclaim £15,122.81.

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

PAYEE	DETAIL	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Warrick Services	Chimney/Stove Cem Cottage	£1,037.50	£207.50	£1,245.00
Ultimate Gardens	Garden maint - Cem Cottage	£787.00	£157.40	£944.40
Ultimate Gardens	Hogweed treatment	£247.00	£49.40	£296.40
CAPALC	Cllr Training	£75.00		£75.00
Bulb	Utilities - Cem Cottage	£15.21	£0.76	£15.97
FB Tower Hall	Hall hire	£35.00		£35.00
L Green Electrical	Elec. Safety work, Cem Cottage	£1,245.00		£1,245.00
Mrs S England	Clerk's Salary	£1,250.80		£1,250.80
Mrs S England	Clerk's Expenses	£162.39	£2.40	£164.79
HMRC	PAYE & NI Month 5	£242.30		£242.30
Nest	Pension	£109.62		£109.62
FDC	Bin emptying - Cem	£172.80		£172.80
		£5,379.62	£417.46	£5,797.08

Chairman

3. To resolve on quotations for refurbishment of Friday Bridge Clock Tower – Council resolved to accept a quote of £1800.00 (net) submitted by LE Exterior Wallcoatings for repairing and re-coating the Clock Tower.
4. To resolve on quotations receive for new safety surfaces at Elm play area – The Clerk requested the item be deferred to closed session due to tenders exceeding £5,000.00. Resolved.
5. To resolve on quotations received for re-decoration of Cemetery Cottage – Council resolved to accept a quote of £660.00 (No VAT) submitted by DC Property Maintenance in respect of decoration works.
6. To resolve on quotations received for electrical works at Begdale portacabin – It was resolved to accept a quote of £2580.00 (Net) submitted by L Green Electrical in respect of safety electrical works at the portacabin. The Clerk advised the expenditure would exceed the sum allocated in the budget category, it was resolved to allocate the excess to the 'Extension to Burial Facilities' reserve heading.
7. To resolve on quotation received for additional concrete beams at Elm Cemetery – It was confirmed that this was an extension to the existing contract and therefore multiple quotations were not required. Council resolved to accept a quote of £4,950.00 + VAT submitted by Proedge Construction for additional beams to be installed on the north and south sides at Elm Cemetery.

180.21 Planning

1. F/YR21/0339/F – Revised proposals (Deletion of one dwelling & response to matters raised by FDC Conservation), proposed development at land north and west of 47 Friday Bridge Road, Elm. Council resolved to confirm objections submitted as a result of previous consultations. Additionally; in respect of the new drainage strategy; it was resolved to strongly object to proposal for water to be piped under Friday Bridge Road and discharged into the ditch on the opposite side of the highway. It was believed that this would increase flood risk for properties currently under construction adjacent to the ditch and furthermore, it was understood that investigations were being made concerning unconsented discharge of water already flowing into the watercourse.
2. F/YR21/0752/F – Construction of 1x 2-storey, 3-bed dwelling, land west of 7 March Road, Friday Bridge – Council resolved to raise no objection to the application.
3. F/YR21/0784/TRCA – Works to trees within conservation area – Council resolved to raise no objection to the application.
4. F/YR21/0880/TRCA – Works to two lime trees within the conservation area – Council resolved to raise no objection to the application on condition that the pruning did not damage the main structure of the trees
5. To consider issues relating to the potential residential development of Friday Bridge Camp – Meeting to be held, see minutes recorded under agenda item ‘Clerk’s Report’ 178.21.

181.21 Reports from representatives of outside bodies;

FEET – Cllr Feaviour reported; FEET had purchased two petrol trimmers and health & safety clothing with grant funding provided by Elm Parish Council; A local resident had destroyed a section of natural boundary (created with logs and vegetation) and flytipped topsoil along a section of the towpath – the Clerk advised that she was in contact with the individual concerned and it was hoped he would reinstate the boundary during the next few days; Complaints had been received concerning horse poo present on the towpath, it was acknowledged the issue would end once kissing gates had been installed.

182.21 To consider issue of speeding vehicles in Coldham and resolve appropriately

It was reported that traffic had been heavier along Station Road since roadworks commenced at Guyhirn. A general discussion took place regarding vehicles travelling at excess speed through Coldham and the associated risks involved. It was pointed out that; despite a huge increase in the volume of traffic using the road through to March; no improvements had been made to highway infrastructure. Clerk to investigate if chicanes could be installed in a 40 mph zone.

183.21 To receive requests from Members for subjects to be included on the next agenda –

1. Possibility of installing adult gym equipment at Begdale playing field.

184.21 To resolve on date and format for next meeting – It was resolved to hold the next Parish Council meeting at 6.30pm on Wednesday 8th September at the Begdale portacabin.

185.21 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])

7.35 pm - Council resolved to enter closed session. The member of the public left the meeting.

186.21 To consider and resolve on quotations received for installing new safety surfaces at Elm play area.

Clerk presented details of tenders received for new safety surfaces at Elm play area. It was resolved to accept a tender of £15,844.00 + VAT submitted by FLPLtd for the installation, work to be completed after children had returned to school.

187.21 The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed
Elm Parish Council Chairman

Date