

# Elm Parish Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Elm Parish Council held at the Portacabin, Begdale, Elm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 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, Butcher, Ferguson (Chair), Goodley, Hopkin, Milham, Welbourne, District Cllr Sutton, Mrs S England – Parish Clerk. One member of the public.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman advised that a minute's silence would be held in remembrance of the late Mrs Iris Lankfer, a former member of the Parish Council.

- 99.22 **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were reported for Cllrs Cotterell & Feaviour; Council resolved to accept their reasons for absence.
- 100.22 **Code of Conduct** – The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to advise any changes to the content of their Register of Interests forms.
- 101.22 **Disclosable interests and requests for dispensation** – None reported.
- 102.22 **Open Forum** – The member of the public present raised the following matters;  
Had planning proposals for Friday Bridge Camp been considered by the Planning Committee? Members confirmed that no decision had been made.  
Could speed deterrent measures through Coldham be considered for the 23-24 LHI application? Double white lines between Stags Holt & Friday Bridge Camp and, 'anti-slip' road surface between Overstone Road & Station Road were suggested.  
Trees growing on Coldham layby needed pruning. The Clerk confirmed that Highways had raised an order for the work to be undertaken.  
Conifers were overhanging the carriageway at Asholt Corner in Coldham. The Clerk confirmed she would contact the landowner concerning the matter.
- 103.22 **Review and approval of Minutes** – Council resolved to approve minutes of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 as a true record of proceedings.
- 104.22 **Council Membership** – Cllr Exell's resignation from the Parish Council was confirmed. No candidates had been identified for the existing vacancy.
- 105.22 **Police matters** – It was reported that anti-social activity in and around the vicinity of Begdale car park. Vandalism to trees at Begdale field had been reported to the police and a crime report had been raised. Attempts were being made to identify the alleged perpetrators from photographs taken by a witness.
- 106.22 **PRESENTATION** – Installation of full fibre broadband across the East of England, James Ingham (UPP Community Liaison Manager).  
The Chairman welcomed Mr Ingham to the meeting. Mr Ingham advised as follows;  
The project's main undertaking was to install fibre connections between outdoor street cabinets and residents' properties (replacing the existing copper connections) throughout the East of England. This would result in matched upload and download speeds (up to Gigabit level) thereby providing increased reliability for multi-device households and those people working from home.  
Where possible, existing infrastructure would be utilised.  
It was hoped that the service would go live in Elm within the next year; entry packages were currently £26.00 monthly with no installation fee. UPP were keen to build a relationship with the community and support was available for local community groups if required.  
Members thanked Mr Ingham for the information received and welcomed the arrival of the new service.
- 107.22 **District Councillor's Report** – Cllr Sutton advised as follows;  
Thanks to Mr Darren Exell for the contributions he had made during his time as a Councillor, he would be sadly missed. The recent Boundary Review had failed to split Elm and Christchurch, common sense had prevailed; thanks to all who had made representations. No specific date had been set for the closure of Tower Road in order to undertake resurfacing work. FDC's next Golden Age Fair would be held in Chatteris between

11am and 2pm on 30<sup>th</sup> September, it provided an excellent opportunity for directing vulnerable people to services/benefits they were entitled to. All welcome.

108.22 **Clerk's Report** – The Clerk reported as follows;

Elm Village sign – The refurbishment project had been completed, arrangements would now be put in place for re-installation and an 'unveiling ceremony' to be covered by the local press.

Bramble Lane – had been widened adjacent to the junction with Needham Bank and hedging & trees had been cut back. The Upwell Parish Clerk had conveyed her thanks to Elm PC for its support in getting the task completed.

Coldham defibrillator – Arrangements had been made to install the unit and arrangements for training would be set up in due course. The portacabin was suggested as a venue for the training.

External Audit – PKF Littlejohn had completed Council's 2021/22 external audit concluding that 'no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met'.

Chapel Planning Application – Council's agent had passed on apologies for his lack of communication and confirmed that all outstanding documents had now been forwarded to the Planning Department.

Trees, Coldham layby – Cambs Highways had confirmed that an order had been raised to cut the trees back.

Coldham layby, finishing edge – Idverde had confirmed in July that the edge would be properly finished and seeded. Clerk to chase.

Begdale, new signage – A draft design was circulated to Members, it was confirmed that the Chair & Clerk had confirmed acceptance of a quotation of £167 + VAT for supply and fitting. This would also include fitting of 'HM The Queen's Green Canopy' sign.

Tree felling & fly tipping, Canal Towpath – A resident living adjacent to the Towpath had felled a number of small trees and dumped the debris on Towpath land. Clerk to request Ementh PC to write to the property owner advising that they should not have felled the trees without permission and, dumping the branches was classed as flytipping.

Allotments – Annual rent letters had been issued.

Cemetery records – Work was progressing well, another area (in the old section) had been mapped and several unmarked graves had been identified.

VAT – the annual refund application for 21/22 had been submitted and reclaimed.

Streetlight upgrades – Still awaiting quotation from FDC.

109.22 **Financial Matters**

- i. The Clerk advised the following sums had been received since the last meeting; VAT reclaim £13950.98; Burial fees £1500.00; Cemetery Cottage rent £1500.00; Interest £169.69; Streetpride (grant return) £373.05.
- ii. Council resolved to approve expenditure for September as detailed below;

PAYEE	DETAIL	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Fenland District Council	Streetlight Re-charge	£10,552.25	£2,110.45	£12,662.70
Idverde	Grounds Maintenance	£1,145.40	£229.08	£1,374.48
Fenland Dist. Council	New waste bins x2	£475.14	£95.03	£570.17
L Welbourne	Cemetery records Admin	£149.00		£149.00
Plusnet	Broadband	£22.96	£4.59	£27.55
S England	Clerk's salary	£1,067.25		£1,067.25
S England	Clerk's expenses	£184.62	£6.40	£191.02
HMRC	Tax & NI M5	£54.04		£54.04
Nest	Pension contr's	£71.12		£71.12
		£13,721.78	£2,445.55	£16,167.33

- iii. Council resolved to verify payments due in August 2022 (as resolved by Cllrs Ferguson, Milham, Goodley & Welbourne), details as follows;

PAYEE	DETAIL	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Sharman Fabrications	Tower Hall gates	£1,900.00	£380.00	£2,280.00

Idverde	Grounds Maintenance	£1,145.40	£229.08	£1,374.48
Defib Sales & Training	Defibrillator - Coldham	£1,249.00	£249.80	£1,498.80
Fenland DC	Bin emptying - Cemetery	£172.80		£172.80
Fenland Fire Apps.	Appliance servicing	£112.00	£22.40	£134.40
Steve Hanslip	Clean n'boards & shelter	£65.00		£65.00
Plusnet	Broadband	£22.96	£4.59	£27.55
S England	Clerk's salary	£1,040.79		£1,040.79
S England	Clerk's exps	£194.75	£8.42	£203.17
Nest	Pension contributions	£66.00		£66.00
HMRC	PAYE & NI M4	£114.02		£114.02
		£6,082.72	£894.29	£6,977.01

Chairman .....

## 110.22 Correspondence

### For comment and/or resolution;

- i. Letter, parishioner – Disbanding of Streetpride. Deferred to agenda item 15, see minute ref. 113.22
- ii. Email, parishioner – Complaint concerning road surface through Coldham (deferred to 'Highways).

### For information purposes (see website or contact Clerk for further details);

- i. Email, FDC – Final recommendations for the Fenland Electoral Review.
- ii. Email, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn – 'Modernising our Hospital' Newsletter.
- iii. Email, FDC 'Pride in Fenland' Awards 2022.

## 111.22 Planning

1. **F/YR22/0405/F** – (Revised proposals) 1 x 2-storey, 3-bed dwelling at, land east of The Lodge, 84 March Road, Friday Bridge. Council resolved to maintain the objections submitted in respect of the original application – overdevelopment of the site and lack of amenity space.
2. **F/YR21/0852/O** – (Revised proposals) Construction of up to 102 dwellings, community building & sports changing facilities at, Friday Bridge Camp, 173 March Road, Friday Bridge. Council resolved to maintain the objections raised in September 2021 stressing that the proposals would result in the creation of an isolated community with; limited public transport facilities; many issues relating to highway safety and lack of access to employment opportunities.
3. **F/YR22/0226/F** – (Revised proposals) Construction of 63 dwellings, installation of pumping station & formation of an attenuation pond at, land north of 17-31, Gosmoor Lane, Elm. Council resolved to maintain the objections raised in response to the original application. It was noted that Council's concerns relating to flooding were supported by the response from the LLFA which currently recommended refusal.
4. **F/YR22/0969/F** – (Part retrospect.) Replace thatched roof of existing dwelling and replace with tile at, 1 Grove Gardens, Elm. Council resolved to object to the alterations to the property as it was understood that the thatched roof was a condition of the development of the Grove Gardens estate.
5. **F/YR22/0965/LB** – Internal & external works to a listed building to create additional living accommodation at, The White House, Main Road, Elm. Council resolved to support the proposals.
6. **F/YR22/0964/F** – Conversion of attached barn to create additional living space at, The White House, Main Road, Elm. Council resolved to support the proposals.

Draft Local Plan Public Consultation – Resolve on response. Council raised concerns relating to the larger development sites proposed for Elm and Friday Bridge commenting that; without substantial improvements to local infrastructure; the villages would not cope with the significant growth in population.

Addendum to agenda, Strathmore House - It was reported that the gate was open again at Strathmore House; children were regularly seen accessing the building. The Clerk confirmed she would contact Nick Harding (Head of FDC Planning) requesting an update on the enforcement process.

## 112.22 Highways & Footways

### Update on outstanding matters;

- i. LHI application – No further information received.

### New matters;

- i. Temporary closure of Elm footpath no.13 due to flood embankment works, 15/9-23/12 2022.
- ii. Two serious accidents had occurred at the junction of Wales Bank with Main Road in Elm.
- iii. Street furniture located outside the entrance to Elm Cemetery had been replaced.
- iv. Elm footpath no.8 was in a dangerous state, Clerk to raise the matter with Mark Peck and representatives from the Diocese.
- v. Cllr Sutton had reminded Highways that a meeting was required with the Safety Audit Team.
- vi. Ongoing concern expressed connected to the poor road surface through Coldham, it was hoped that the upcoming road closure was for the purpose of completing the work. The Clerk confirmed that the issue was raised with Highways on a regular basis.

## 113.22 To resolve to (i) take responsibility for Streetpride planters, (ii) authorise former members of Streetpride to maintain planters.

The Clerk presented details of a letter received from former Streetpride members explaining why the group had been forced to disband. It was resolved for the Parish Council to take on responsibility for the planters and also, to authorise former members of Streetpride to undertake ongoing planting and maintenance. Clerk to circulate risk assessment policy to volunteers outlining health & safety measures to be implemented during general maintenance work.

## 114.22 To receive update concerning application for Definitive Map Modification Order (at Tower Road entrance to Maltmas playing field) and resolve appropriately – Item deferred due to Cllr Lea’s absence.

## 115.22 To resolve on action to be taken concerning gaps in hedge at Friday Bridge playing field.

It was resolved for the Clerk to seek advice from Council’s grounds contractor concerning suitable hedging which could be planted to fill the gaps.

## 116.22 To resolve on arrangements for managing The Leam pond.

It was resolved to make arrangements for vegetation to be removed from the pond; Clerk to make suitable enquiries.

## 117.22 To consider arrangements for training on the new defibrillator at Coldham, resolve appropriately.

It was resolved for defibrillator training to take place at the portacabin; up to 10 volunteers would be able to take part.

## 118.22 To resolve on planting of oak tree along the Canal Towpath.

It was resolved to authorise the planting of an oak tree along the Canal Towpath on condition that a suitable location could be identified, i.e. no overhead power lines and space for the tree to grow to maturity.

## 119.22 To receive requests from Members for subjects to be included on the next agenda.

No requests submitted.

## 120.22 To resolve on date for next meeting – It was resolved to hold next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

## 121.22 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] – 7.55pm Council resolved to enter closed session.

## 122.22 To receive update concerning alleged breach of planning regulations on Canal Towpath (confidential due to data protection and potential legal issues) – Situation to be monitored, no further action resolved.

## 123.22 Close of meeting - The meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed .....  
Elm Parish Council Chairman

Date .....