

Elm Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Elm Parish Council held at the Portacabin, Begdale, Elm on Wednesday 11th January 2023 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, Cage, Feaviour, Ferguson (Chair), Hopkin, Milham, Probets (co-opted during meeting), District Cllr Sutton,
Mrs S England – Parish Clerk.

- 187.22 **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were reported for Cllrs Cotterell, Goodley & Welbourne. Council resolved to accept their reasons for absence.
- 188.22 **Code of Conduct** – The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to advise any changes to the content of their Register of Interests forms.
- 189.22 **Disclosable interests and requests for dispensation** – No interests declared.
- 190.22 **Open Forum** – No matters raised.
- 191.22 **Review and approval of Minutes** – Council resolved to approve the minutes of meeting held on 14th December 2022 as a true record of proceedings.
- 192.22 **Council Membership** – Mr Paul Probets was introduced as a candidate for co-option onto the Parish Council. Mr Probets presented a summary of his experience to date which included the role of Vice Chair for another Council. Members thanked him for his interest; it was resolved to co-opt Mr Probets onto the Parish Council (proposed Cllr Feaviour; seconded Cllr Milham). The Chair welcomed Cllr Probets to his new role.
- 193.22 **Police matters** –
The following incidents were reported;
A fatal road traffic accident on the B1101 at Coldham (Near Arnolds Farm); a break-in had occurred at Friday Bridge Church; a hare coursing event had taken place at Coldham; a youth riding an electric scooter had collided into the side of a vehicle in Elm causing significant distress to the motorist; Sgt. Arnold had responded to the report of vehicles parking on double yellow lines adjacent to Elm Primary School, a PCSO had been asked to pay specific attention to the issue; The Chair advised registration details of a vehicle owned by a habitual speeder, Clerk to submit dangerous driving report.
- 194.22 **District Councillor's Report** – Cllr Sutton reported as follows;
Cllr Probets was welcomed as a new member of the Parish Council; The charge for FDC garden waste services would be increased by £1.00 (23/24) for customers paying by direct debit; The monthly payments to households hosting Ukrainian refugees was being increased from £350 to £500; Bulky waste collection (formerly suspended due to new Environment Agency regs.) had been reinstated as the County Council were providing storage pending resolution of the issue; TTRO was being imposed in Mill Way and Oldfield Avenue between 6th & 10th March.
It was confirmed that the legal process concerning Strathmore House was still ongoing; Clerk to request update from Nick Harding.
- 195.22 **Clerk's Report** – The Clerk reported as follows;
Support and Guidance sessions would be provided for Clerks and Candidates concerning the election process and changes arising as a result of the Elections Act 2022; Council's 2034/24 LHI application had been identified as unsuitable as the location did not fulfil criteria set for the installation of a zebra crossing, the project was also cost prohibitive; A funding application submitted to the FDC Leader's Fund for £500 towards a new village sign in Coldham had been successful, the sum would be held in an allocated reserve pending completion of the project; Following a request for an MVAS fixing pole to be installed along March Road in Coldham, advice had been sought from the County Council concerning a suitable location and, the police had

been asked to monitor the area with their mobile unit; Work had been completed at Coldham layby, a meeting with Idverde was scheduled to discuss outstanding work which required completion before the end of the financial year (tree pruning/felling, filling gaps in hedge at Friday Bridge playing field); Providers of the defibrillator at Coldham had confirmed that training would take place in February, exact date to be confirmed; A community 'Cost of Living Information' event was due to be held at the Queen Mary Centre in Wisbech on Monday 6th February, all welcome, no booking required; There had been a request for a meeting to be held to discuss the regulations concerning ornamental decoration in the new lawn cemetery area, Members advised there was no desire to re-visit the subject and the resolution passed at the meeting held on 11th December 2022 still stood (min. ref. 180.22); Attempts to contact Barclays Business Team were proving even more complicated since the closure of the Wisbech branch, addition of new signatory/ies still required.

196.22 Financial Matters

- i. The Clerk advised the following sums had been received since the last meeting; Cemetery Cottage rent £750.00; Interest £180.70.
- ii. Council resolved to approve expenditure for January as detailed below;

PAYEE	DETAIL	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Idverde	Grounds Maintenance	£1,145.40	£229.08	£1,374.48
L Welbourne	Cemetery Records	£52.00		£52.00
Wave (Cemetery & Cott.)	Water rates	£119.64		£119.64
Wave (portacabin)	Water rates	£14.13		£14.13
S England	Clerk's Salary	£1,078.18		£1,078.18
S England	Clerk's Exps (incs printer)	£327.96	£44.07	£372.03
HMRC	PAYE M9	£315.40		£315.40
Nest	Pension	£72.98		£72.98
		£3,125.69	£273.15	£3,398.84

Chairperson

- iii. To resolve on quotation/s received for clearance of The Leam pond – Council resolved to accept the quotation submitted by the Fen Ditching Company for clearance of The Leam pond; £3085.00 + VAT..
- iv. To resolve on quotation received for streetlight upgrade project (replacement of 4 concrete columns and 41 new pole brackets with LED lanterns) – Council resolved to accept the quotation submitted by Cable Test Ltd (via FDC), cost £32,470.41 + VAT. Details of additional costs relating to UKPN connection and street works to follow.
- v. Finance Report, quarter end 31.12.22 – Council resolved to approve and accept the content of the report.
- vi. Budget Update Report, quarter end 31.12.22 – Council resolved to approve and accept the content of the report.
- vii. To resolve on Annual Budget for financial year 2023-24 – Members considered the Budget Report alongside proposals for sums included under each budget category, taking into account how the figures would impact on the annual precept and Council Tax. It was resolved to adopt the draft budget as presented.
- viii. To resolve on annual precept – It was resolved to approve an annual precept of £60,000.00 for financial year 2023-24.

197.22 Correspondence

For comment and/or resolution;

- i. Addendum - Letter, parishioner – request for bin to be installed adjacent to Friday Bridge Post Office. It was resolved for the Clerk to investigate the suitability of the location.

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

- i. Email, FDC – Council urgently seeking solution to change in rules for disposal of upholstered domestic seating.

- ii. Email, FDC – Details of consultation on Council Tax freeze and Business Plan.
- iii. Email, FEET – AGM Minutes.
- iv. Email, FDC – Council supports renters experiencing issues with mould in their properties.
- v. Email, NALC – Legal Update concerning instructions for upcoming elections.

198.22 Planning

1. **F/YR22/1367/F** – First floor extension and installation of photovoltaic tiles at, Longbech, 35 Back Rd, Friday Bridge. Council resolved to support the application.
2. **F/YR22/1383/F** – 1 x 2 storey, 3-bed dwelling, east of site, relocation of access & change of use of land for domestic purposes (for 76 March Rd, part retrospective) at, One Woodhouse Cottages, 76 March Rd, Friday Bridge. Council resolved to support the application.
3. **F/YR22/0226/F** – Re-consultation, 63 dwellings, installation of pumping station and formation of attenuation pond at, land north of 17-31 Gosmoor Lane, Elm. It was resolved to submit a response advising there had been no change in Council’s strong objection to the application.

199.22 Highways & Footways

Update on outstanding matters;

- i. LHI 2022/23 application, to resolve on design – Council resolved to approve the draft design plans as received from the Highways Project Team.

New matters;

- i. TTRO – Fridaybridge Rd, closure between The Stitch and point 20m north, 13/3 to 15/3 2023, 07:30-18:00.

200.22 To resolve on details of grounds maintenance contract due to commence 1st April 2023.

Members considered details of current maintenance contract acknowledging that ongoing costs could increase by 15-20%. It was resolved to maintain the existing level of maintenance with the exception of grass cutting in Coldham playing field which would be reduced from weekly to fortnightly during the growing season. Clerk to make necessary arrangements for invitation to tender.

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

No requests submitted.

202.22 To resolve on date for next meeting – It was resolved to hold next Parish Council meeting at 6.30pm on Wednesday 8th February.

203.22 Close of meeting - The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed
Elm Parish Council Chairman

Date