

Elm Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Elm Parish Council held at the Portacabin, Begdale, Elm on Wednesday 19th October 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, Cotterell, Feaviour, Ferguson (Chair), Goodley, Hopkin, Lea, Milham, Welbourne, (Cllr Cage co-opted during meeting), District Cllr Sutton, Mrs S England – Parish Clerk. One member of the public.

124.22 **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were reported for Cllr Butcher; Council resolved to accept his reason for absence.

125.22 **Code of Conduct** – The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to advise any changes to the content of their Register of Interests forms.

126.22 **Disclosable interests and requests for dispensation** – Cllr Goodley advised his interest in agenda item 20 concerning the alleged breach of planning on council land due to his connection to a person involved in the matter. (min.143.22)

6.35pm – it was resolved to suspend Standing Orders to permit the member of the public to speak.

127.22 **Open Forum** – The member of the public present raised the following matters;
Objections raised against proposals submitted under planning applications ref. F/YR22/1123/PIP & F/YR22/1124/PIP; a summary of the details was circulated to Councillors.
What was the speed limit along Bar Drove? Members confirmed that it was the national speed limit, 60 mph.
Concern raised that the whole length of Bar Drove would eventually become one large caravan site.
Could a streetlight in Needham Bank (removed when UK Power Network replaced the pole) be reinstated.
The Clerk confirmed she would investigate the matter.

6.45pm – It was resolved to reinstate Standing Orders.

128.22 **Review and approval of Minutes** – Council resolved to approve minutes of meeting held on 26th September 2022 as a true record of proceedings.

129.22 **Council Membership** – Parish resident, Mr Kevin Cage was introduced as a candidate for co-option onto the Parish Council. Council resolved to confirm Mr Cage's co-option; the Chair welcomed Cllr Cage as a member of the Parish Council.

130.22 **Police matters** – The Clerk confirmed she was continuing to chase the local police team concerning identification of the boys who allegedly caused criminal damage to trees in Begdale playing field.
The Chair confirmed she would be happy to attend another 'policing & crime' information meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner if one was arranged.
The mobile speed camera unit had been present again on the corner of Birch Grove. Members commented that it would also be useful for it to be stationed in Coldham.

131.22 **District Councillor's Report** – Cllr Sutton advised as follows;
Expressed his congratulations to Cllr Cage and welcomed him as a member of the Parish Council.
It was confirmed that the cut-off date for commenting on the Emerging Local Plan had been 18th October.
Cllr Milham raised the issue of blocked gullies in the parish, Cllr Sutton confirmed he would contact Highways requesting them to be cleared.

132.22 **Clerk's Report** – The Clerk reported as follows;
The village sign had been reinstated in Elm, thanks to Cllrs Cotterell & Milham for attending the 'press unveiling ceremony'. Mr & Mrs Barnes (parishioners who had undertaken the refurbishment project) had also attended along with Mr Ian Jones (who originally raised the idea of project).
The Chairman of FEET had advised that planting of a new oak tree along the towpath had not actually taken place as the person donating the tree had not 'turned up'.

It was confirmed that a further query had been raised with Highways concerning when trees located at Coldham layby would be cut back. Still awaiting response.

The quotation for streetlighting upgrades had still not been received, the Clerk confirmed she would chase the matter again with Garry Edwards (FDC Engineering Mgr.) as the figure would need to be included in the calculations for the 2023-24 Budget.

Discussions had taken place with the Fen Ditching Company reference clearance of the Leam pond; meeting to be held on site in mid-November. It had been suggested that the road side of the pond was undermining the highway; further investigation required. November/December would be a good time of year to undertake the work as nesting season was over and therefore; little threat to wildlife. It was confirmed that the water delivered to the pond in August had drained away quickly due to large cracks at ground level, moving forward this may become more difficult to manage.

Council's grounds maintenance contractor had recommended the planting of hawthorn hedging to close the gaps in the hedge at Friday Bridge playing field. Temporary protective fencing would also need to be installed. Access from the car park needed to be checked to ensure it was wide enough for a mobility scooter to enter. The Clerk would shortly be starting work on the 23/24 budget; ideas for projects needed to be raised as soon as possible although streetlighting upgrades and proposals for conversion of the chapel were costly projects that already needed to be included.

A representative from the Bramley Railway Line Trust had advised they were looking for volunteers to clear the line (initially between Waldersea and Coldham). Councillors confirmed they were happy for an advertisement notice to be put up on notice boards in Friday Bridge & Coldham.

The Clerk advised that quarterly finance and budget reports would be issued for approval at the November meeting; the delay was due to her unavoidable absence from work.

133.22 Financial Matters

- i. The Clerk advised the following sums had been received since the last meeting; FDC 50% Precept £15000.00; Burial fees £3125.00; Cemetery Cottage rent £750.00; Interest £96.66; Allotment rent £3012.13.
- ii. Council resolved to approve expenditure for October as detailed below;

PAYEE	DETAIL	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Idverde	Grounds Maintenance	£1,145.40	£229.08	£1,374.48
Scribe	Cem. software ann. sub.	£468.00	£93.60	£561.60
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit fee	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
FDC	Cem - Bin emptying	£201.60		£201.60
A1 Signs	Begdale signs	£167.00	£33.40	£200.40
S Little	Grant for plants	£100.00		£100.00
L Welbourne	Cem records	£208.00		£208.00
Plusnet	P'cabin - Broadband	£22.96	£4.59	£27.55
S England	Clerk's salary	£1,265.48		£1,265.48
S England	Clerk's expenses	£199.54	£9.39	£208.93
HMRC	Tax & NI M6	£74.90		£74.90
Nest	Pension contr's	£108.96		£108.96
		£4,361.84	£450.06	£4,811.90

Chairman.....

134.22 Correspondence

For comment and/or resolution;

- i. Email, Cottage tenant – Request for repairs to shower – MATTER RESOLVED
- ii. Email, Medworth Energy Facility – Notification that application for Development Consent had been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate. The Clerk confirmed Elm PC had been registered as an interested party.

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

- i. Email, FDC Elections – Confirmation the latest PC vacancy could be filled by co-option.
- ii. Email, FDC Member Services – Information relating to Cost of Living support.
- iii. Email, FDC Member Services – Request for details of Remembrance Services (Elm PCC had responded).

135.22 Planning

1. **F/YR22/1093/F** – Conversion of existing building into 1 x dwelling & single storey side extension at, The Chapel, Fridaybridge Rd, Elm. PC's OWN APPLICATION.
2. **F/YR22/1081/F** – 2 storey rear extension & single storey front bay at, 15 Station Rd, Coldham. Council resolved to support the application.
3. **F/YR22/0846/F** - Revised proposals, 2 x 2 storey, 3 bed dwellings at, Adenvale, 188 Fridaybridge Rd, Elm. Council resolved to support the application.
4. **F/YR22/1118/F** – Rear extension at, 3 Belt Drove, Elm. Council resolved to support the application.
5. **F/YR22/1124/PIP** – Brownfield Register App. Residential development of up to 4 dwellings & formation of 4 new accesses at, land west of Railway Carriage, Needham Bank, Friday Bridge. See resolution below.
6. **F/YR22/1123/PIP** – Brownfield Register App. Residential development of up to 9 dwellings involving formation of 9 new accesses at, land east of 'Chardor', Needham Bank, Friday Bridge.
Council resolved to strongly object to proposals submitted under both 1123/PIP and 1124/PIP on the following grounds;
The site was currently utilised for agricultural purposes and fell outside the central area of residential development in Friday Bridge. This was contrary to Policy LP18 in the latest draft of the Emerging Local Plan.
The proposals were also in breach of Policy LP20 'Accessibility & Transport' for the following reasons;
There was a 60 mph limit along Needham Bank, the additional accesses would create hazard for motorists and other road users.
There were no pavements or streetlighting which; in addition to the speed limit; would not encourage residents to walk or cycle.
Lack of public transport facilities would impede access to employment/local services and encourage the use of motor vehicles.

136.22 Highways & Footways

Update on outstanding matters;

- i. LHI application – County Councillor Steve Count had confirmed that the project was progressing.
- ii. Road surface repairs through Coldham – It was confirmed that; finally; the repairs had been completed.

New matters;

- i. CCC Fenland Transport Strategy, Public Consultation – Members resolved for the following issues to be included in Council's response; Roads through the villages were used as a 'rat run' when the A47 was closed; lack of public transport services; excessive number of HGV's; road closures often meant that bus services were cancelled through the parish.
- ii. TTRO – Redmoor Bank, Elm; 9/11-11/11 2022.

137.22 To resolve on response to non-statutory consultation for proposed new reservoir in The Fens

Members voiced their support for the project; it was resolved to submit a positive response to the consultation.

138.22 To receive update concerning application for Definitive Map Modification Order (at Tower Road

entrance to Maltmas playing field) and resolve appropriately – Item deferred pending receipt of feedback from residents.

139.22 To receive information concerning proposals for a new village sign at Coldham

Members had studied the design options and costings (ranging between £5,300-£7,600) sourced by Cllr Brand. It was confirmed that the former Football Club would make a contribution of £1,500 towards the total cost. The Clerk confirmed she would investigate other funding sources and provision would also need to be made in the 2023-24 budget.

- 140.22 **To receive requests from Members for subjects to be included on the next agenda.**
No requests submitted.
- 141.22 **To resolve on date for next meeting** – It was resolved to hold next meeting on 16th November 2022.
- 142.22 **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])** – 7.25pm
Council resolved to enter closed session.
- 143.22 **To receive update concerning alleged breach of planning regulations on Canal Towpath** (confidential due to data protection and potential legal issues) – Cllr Goodley confirmed his interest due to connection to person involved in the matter. Situation to be monitored, no further action resolved.
- 144.22 **Close of meeting** - The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed
Elm Parish Council Chairman

Date