

Elm Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Elm Parish Council held at the Portacabin, Begdale, Elm on Wednesday 16th November 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, Cage, Cotterell, Feaviour, Ferguson (Chair), Goodley, Hopkin, Milham, Welbourne, Mrs S England – Parish Clerk. One member of the public.

- 145.22 **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were reported for District Cllr Sutton.
- 146.22 **Code of Conduct** – The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to advise any changes to the content of their Register of Interests forms.
- 147.22 **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 164.22).
6.35pm – it was resolved to suspend Standing Orders to permit the member of the public to speak.
- 148.22 **Open Forum** – The member of the public present raised the following matters;
There had been two accidents at the junction of Wales Bank with Fridaybridge Road, it was suggested that an overgrown hedge could be a contributing factor. The Chair advised that she would raise the matter with the property owner.
6.40pm – It was resolved to reinstate Standing Orders.
- 149.22 **Review and approval of Minutes** – Council firstly resolved to approve an amendment to the minutes of meeting held on 19th October; details as follows; minute ref. 139.22 amended from ‘CRAG would make a contribution’ to ‘former Football Club would make a contribution’.
Council resolved to approve the amended minutes as a true record of proceedings for the meeting held on 19th October.
- 150.22 **Council Membership** – No candidates put forward for co-option.
- 151.22 **Police matters** –
The Chair confirmed that she was happy to attend the Police & Crime Commissioner’s round table meeting due to be held on 21st November.
The Clerk updated Members on an incident involving three youths who had allegedly destroyed 17 trees in Begdale Park. Despite a reliable witness taking clear photographs of the alleged perpetrators the police had decided not to pursue any line of enquiry as it was a ‘complex process’ and ‘the identification process had to be proportionate to the crime’. The police did confirm that; whilst it was not recommended; there was nothing to prevent Council uploading the photographs onto a social media platform.
- 152.22 **District Councillor’s Report** – Cllr Sutton absent from the meeting.
- 153.22 **Clerk’s Report** – The Clerk reported as follows;
Middle Level Commissioners had been in contact concerning plans for disposal of surface and foul water in connection to proposals for the conversion of Elm Chapel. Council’s agent had confirmed he would deal with the response indicating that it would be a straightforward process.
A bouquet of flowers had been delivered to Mr & Mrs Barnes to show appreciation for their efforts in renovating the Elm village sign. Their expenses were included to be authorised for payment later in the agenda.
Dates for training on the newly installed Coldham defibrillator had yet to be confirmed. The delay was due to the requirement for evening or weekend sessions. It was confirmed that the unit had been registered on the nationwide database and details for the unit at Friday Bridge had also been updated.
The Fen Ditching Company had visited the Leam pond in order to advise on the best way to clear overgrown

vegetation. Recommendations included; (i) the road side edge was left alone in order to maintain the integrity of the adjacent pavement and highway and, provide an area of vegetation for wildlife habitat, (ii) clear the remainder with a long reach excavator, the reeds would regenerate in due course. As a rough estimate the clearance work would cost in the region of £2,000.00, additional maintenance would not be required for at least 3 years. It was stressed that further prolonged periods of hot dry weather would mean that low water levels in the pond will be an ongoing issue and using tankers to top up the water may not solve the problem. Official quotation to be considered at December meeting.

An investigation into possible funding sources for a new village sign in Coldham had revealed that organisations were in favour of projects that provided a tangible benefit to the community, sadly, a village sign did not fit the criteria. Cllr Sutton had advised he would check if FDC had any community chest funding which may raise a few hundred pounds. The sign makers had confirmed a 12-15 month lead time for new designs and a sum could therefore be included in the 23/24 budget for the project.

Streetlight upgrade project – Garry Edwards had apologised for the fact that the quote from Cable Test for the streetlight upgrade project was still outstanding, it was hoped that it would be received before Council’s 23/24 budget had been finalised. He also advised that it would be a difficult process to reinstate the streetlight (removed by UK Power Network) along Needham Bank. In the first instance Council needed to prove that it once existed. The Clerk confirmed she would visit Needham Bank to check the exact location and then get in touch with UKPN to seek guidance on the way forward.

The new signs for Begdale car park would be fitted this week.

New Councillor training dates had been advised to Cllrs Lea and Cage; other Councillors welcome to attend if they were interested in a ‘refresher’.

Coldham layby tasks outstanding – finishing edge with grass seed and tree works, both matters had been chased with relevant parties.

154.22 Financial Matters

- i. The Clerk advised the following sums had been received since the last meeting; Burial fees £5732.13; Cemetery Cottage rent £750.00; Interest £117.60; Allotment rent £2261.25.
- ii. Council resolved to approve expenditure for November as detailed below;

PAYEE	DETAIL	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Idverde	Grounds Maintenance	£1,145.40	£229.08	£1,374.48
	Bathroom fan, Cem			
L Green Elec.	Cottage	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00
L Green Elec.	Defib Unit installation	£450.00	£90.00	£540.00
SLCC	Annual Memb. Fee	£186.00		£186.00
FDC	C Tax - Cem Cottage	£48.93		£48.93
Tamar IT	Licence fee	£65.83	£13.17	£79.00
Mr & Mrs Barnes	Sign refurb. Exps.	£88.00		£88.00
Plusnet	Broadband	£22.96	£4.59	£27.55
S England	Clerk's Salary	£933.36		£933.36
S England	Clerk's Expenses	£120.04	£6.40	£126.44
HMRC	PAYE - M7	£226.96		£226.96
Nest	Pension	£48.60		£48.60
		£3,536.08	£383.24	£3,919.32

Chairman.....

- iii. To resolve to accept Finance Report for quarter ended 30.9.22 – Council resolved to accept the Report.
- iv. To resolve to accept the Budget Update Report for quarter ended 30.9.22 – Council resolved to accept the Report.

155.22 Correspondence

For comment and/or resolution;

- i. Email, parishioner – Advising trees overgrowing pavement and also growing into overhead power cables at Chapel Lane – The Clerk confirmed that the pavement had been cleared and a report had been submitted to UK Power Network requesting maintenance to be undertaken.

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

- i. Email, FDC Member Services – Details of Cost of Living Support Events in Fenland.
- ii. Email, FDC Member Services – Recycling Competition for local schools.
- iii. Email, FDC Member Services – FDC considers support for leisure centres during energy crisis.
- iv. Email, FDC – Council takes legal action against Rose & Crown Hotel being used for asylum seekers.
- v. Email, FDC Member Services – Details of Q&A event concerning domestic abuse, interactive online, 6-7pm, 8th December.

156.22 Planning

1. **F/YR22/1168/F** – Single storey side & rear extensions, detached double garage/store at, The Bungalow, Stags Holt Farm, Coldham. Council resolved to support the application.
2. **F/YR22/0289/F** – Revised proposals, hybrid application for proposed Grantham to Bexwell pipeline scheme, all matters reserved except for access at, land along proposed route, Bramble Lane, Elm. Council resolved to raise no objection to the application.
3. **F/YR22/1170/F** - 2 storey, 3 bed dwelling involving demolition of existing scout hut and nissan hut at, Wales Bank, Elm. Council resolved to raise a query concerning WW2 murals which may be present in the nissan hut, requesting that the Conservation Officer investigates before any decision is made on the application.
4. **F/YR22/1219/F** – Front porch, single storey extension to front & rear, render to dwelling, raise height of chimney at, Tall Timbers, Main Road, Elm. Council resolved to support the application.
5. **F/YR22/1215/O** – Up to 2 dwellings (involving demolition of existing building) at, land west of 2 Woodhouse Farm Close, Friday Bridge. Council resolved to support the application.
6. **F/YR21/1443/F** – Revised proposals, change of use of land to form a travellers' site for siting of 2 static caravans, 2 touring caravans and creation of a day room at, land north of Six Acres, Bar Drove, Friday Bridge. Council resolved to object to the application, Clerk to base objection on non-compliance with criteria contained in the Emerging Local Plan relating to Traveller Site applications.
7. **F/YR22/1239/O** – Erect 1 dwelling (matters committed in respect of access) at, land west of Lowlands, Colletts Bridge Lane, Elm. Council resolved to object to the proposals based on response to former application for the site which referred to; no pavements or streetlighting which would not encourage residents to walk or cycle. Lack of public transport facilities which would impede access to employment/local services and encourage the use of motor vehicles.
8. **F/YR22/1235/F** – 2 storey rear extension to existing dwelling at, 55 Main Road, Elm. Council resolved to support the application.
9. **F/YR22/1237/F** – 1 x 3 storey, 4 bed dwelling involving demolition of existing semi-detached bungalow (actually a 2 storey dwelling) & making good 101 Fridaybridge Road, Elm. Council resolved to advise the Planning Department that the adjacent dwelling was a 2 storey property rather than a bungalow and ask for the details to be updated.

157.22 Highways & Footways

Update on outstanding matters;

- i. LHI application – No further progress reported.
- ii. Cleaning of road gullies – It was reported that Birch Grove had been cleaned but other areas were still outstanding. Highways had advised that all gullies would be cleaned by the end of December; situation to be monitored

New matters;

- i. LHI 2023/24 application – It was suggested that a meeting should be held prior to the main December PC meeting in order to hold a full discussion on potential projects for the new application.
- ii. Deer crossing road at Coldham – Clerk to chase Highways for warning signage to be installed.

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

- 159.22 **To resolve on action to be taken concerning WW2 plaque at Coldham** – Cllr Brand confirmed he had located the plaque and suggested it should be taken into the care of the Parish Council until such time a suitable location had been agreed for a permanent fixing. The Clerk advised she would liaise with Cllr Brand in order to make appropriate arrangements.
- 160.22 **To receive requests from Members for subjects to be included on the next agenda.**
No requests submitted.
- 161.22 **To resolve on date for next meeting** – It was resolved to hold next meeting at 6pm on 14th December 2022.
- 162.22 **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])** – 7.20pm
Council resolved to enter closed session.
- 163.22 **Personnel matters** (confidential due to protection of personal data) – To resolve (i) to adopt new Local Government contract & salary scales, backdated to 1st April 2022, (ii) arrangements for Clerk’s Annual Review. Council resolved to adopt the new salary scales and agreed the Clerk’s new hourly rate for SCP 28, backdating to 1st April 2022. Council resolved for Cllrs Ferguson and Feaviour to undertake the Clerk’s Annual Review; to be arranged at a mutually convenient time and date.
- 164.22 **To receive update concerning alleged breach of planning regulations on Canal Towpath** (confidential due to data protection and potential legal issues) – It was confirmed that the situation was being monitored; no further action resolved.
- 165.22 **Close of meeting** - The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed
Elm Parish Council Chairman

Date