

# Elm Parish Council

## Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Elm Parish Council held at the Portacabin, Begdale, Elm on Thursday 21st November 2024 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 – Darker, Milham, Stevenson & Welbourne. District Cllr Roy.  
Mrs S England – Parish Clerk.

It was confirmed that Cllr Stevenson would act as Chair in Cllr Ferguson's absence.

145.24 **Apologies** – Reported for Cllrs Butcher, Cage, Ferguson & Hopkin; Council resolved to accept their reasons for absence.

146.24 **Disclosable interests (pecuniary & non-pecuniary) and requests for dispensation;**  
None disclosed.

147.24 **To resolve to suspend Standing Orders in order to facilitate open discussion during the following Agenda item.**  
6.34pm – Resolved.

148.24 **To consider projects for the County Council Highways Capital Maintenance Scheme and 2025/26 LHI Scheme; resolve appropriately.**

The three 'main gateways' into Elm were considered - (i) Gosmoor Lane, A1101 through to Main Road, (ii) Redmoor (A47 end), linking through to Begdale Road and on to Main Road, and (iii) B1101 from 'China Rose' junction through parish. The latter was considered to already be a priority (due to B1101 being a main diversion route) and would therefore be less likely to attract additional funding.

Factors affecting (i) and (ii) above were noted, including; Fenmarc expansion and operations at Biomarsh were creating more HGV traffic; Redmoor, Begdale and Gosmoor Lane were all peat soil affected roadways; drainage system along Gosmoor was totally inadequate and further strain would be created by current development; Redmoor/Begdale/ Gosmoor was used as a diversion route and 'short cut' by motorists wishing to avoid the 'Elme Hall' roundabout; school children and cyclists faced hazard due to uneven surface of roadways, lack of lighting and pavements.

Members asked the Clerk to stress that as Elm was the largest parish in Fenland, it should receive an appropriate level of funding to support highway infrastructure.

6.55pm Cllr Darker left the meeting.

It was noted that the application portal for the Scheme was prescriptive, i.e. drop-down boxes permitting one option to be selected.

It was resolved to submit an application for the full length of Gosmoor Lane (from A1101), the connecting section of Main Road through to the Begdale Road junction, the full length of Begdale and Redmoor Lane right through to the A47 roundabout. This would involve multiple submissions to include; improvements to highway surface and drainage infrastructure and, installation of new pavements.

Whilst it was acknowledged that the County Council were expecting a single application over a smaller area, Members & Cllr Roy felt it essential that the extent of improvements required needed to be stressed and furthermore, it was impossible to select a project that should be prioritised; all were considered essential.

The Clerk confirmed she would send a covering email to the applications team explaining why the Council had submitted multiple applications.

149.24 The meeting closed at 7.20pm.