

Elm Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Elm Parish Council held at the Portacabin, Begdale, Elm on Wednesday 10th December 2025 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 – Milham (Chair), Fisher, Goodley, Lee, Pigden, Welbourne, Cage.

District Cllr Roy, Mrs S England (Clerk) Mrs L Welbourne – Deputy Clerk (minute taker).

- 150.25 **Apologies for absence** – Received from; Cllrs Ferguson, South and Hopkin. Council resolved to accept their reasons for absence.
- 151.25 **Members Code of Conduct** – The Chair reminded members of the need to submit; via the Clerk; any changes to their Register of Interests information. The Deputy Clerk also stressed the importance of this action.
- 152.25 **To receive declarations of interests (pecuniary, non-pecuniary & other) and any requests for dispensation**
None received.
- 153.25 **Open Forum**
No matters raised.
- 154.25 **Signing of Minutes** – Council resolved to approve the minutes of meeting held on 12th November 2025 as a true record of proceedings. Proposed Cllr Fisher, Seconded Cllr Cage. Resolved unanimously.
18:31 – Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders.
- 155.25 **District Councillor's Report** - District Cllr Roy reported as follows;
1. Public meeting held regarding Biomarsh application. Application would be heard on 4th February 2026 -TBC by Planning Committee, Cllr Roy's intention to attend and speak at meeting.
 2. Suggested that Elm Parish Council (EPC) and Wisbech Town Council should submit joint LHI application for speed, width and weight restrictions on Redmoor Lane and Begdale Road.
 3. Tower Hall now had Wi-Fi installed allowing EPC to install cameras if required.
 4. Fly-tipping had increased, liaising with Rapid Response team; prosecutions pursued where possible. Community support requested urging members of the public to take photos of waste being removed/dumped by carriers. Letters sent to residents in Belt Drove. Covert operations taking place.
 5. 5th Jan 2026 - last date for consultation of Twenty Foot Bank 50mph speed restriction.
 6. Highways – speed cushion (outside Elm Schol) repairs authorised. Suggested regular meetings should take place with Local Highways Authority. Gullies - awaiting date for clearing from Tower at Friday Bridge to Elm High Road.
 7. Issue had arisen along Back Road with access and parking due to developments encroaching onto the road; further investigation required.
 8. Finally, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
18:37 - It was resolved to reinstate Standing Orders.
- 156.25 **To receive report from County Councillor**
No matters raised
- 157.25 **Clerk's Report**
Mrs Welbourne (Deputy Clerk) reported as follows;
- Defib. paediatric pads replaced in Coldham and Friday Bridge units.
 - Fire extinguishers serviced at Portacabin.
 - Official valuation had been sought for Cemetery Cottage to aid with accurate assessment of insurance cover.
 - Additional signage had been installed at Begdale Car Park for CCTV cameras
 - CCTV sign and camera installed at Elm Cemetery directed towards entrance gates.
 - Tree in front garden of Cemetery Cottage had been reduced in size away from telephone wires and sign.
 - Shrubs removed from footway boundary of front garden at Cemetery Cottage; replaced with gravel.

- Quotations sought for restoration of cemetery railings, benches and restoration of Elm War Memorial.
- Quotations had been received for repair of the keystone at The Cemetery Chapel (identified as health & safety issue). Council was advised that under the Clerk & Chair's spending powers a quotation received from David Clark builder totalling £350 had been accepted. Council resolved to confirm acceptance of the quote.
- Concerns had been raised regarding the drop in ground level behind bus shelter base in Elm (potential for injury). In view of the health safety concern, Council resolved to install the shelter with the rear enclosed edge facing Birch Grove.
- Work was ongoing for the 2026/27 budget; Finance Working Party to hold further meeting the in New Year.

158.25 **Financial Matters**

- The Deputy Clerk advised the following sums had been received since the last meeting; Interest £560.91; Cemetery fees £2,010.00 Cemetery Cottage Rent £800.00, Allotment Rent £807.13.
- To resolve to approve expenditure for December 2025 as detailed below: Resolved; proposed Cllr Fisher, Seconded Cllr Lee.

PAYEE	DETAIL	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Tawny Owl Services	Grounds Maintenance	£1,638.75	£327.75	£1,966.50
Proedge Construction	Bus stop bases x2	£3,535.00	£707.00	£4,242.00
Tawny Owl Services	Padlock for cemetery gate	£41.35	£8.27	£49.62
Tamar IT	New e-mail set up	£18.00	£3.60	£21.60
Tamar IT	Microsoft 365	£65.83	£13.17	£79.00
SLCC	Membership fee	£190.00		£190.00
A1 signs	CCTV signage	£145.00	£29.00	£174.00
BT	Broadband	£31.72	£6.34	£38.06
Black Cat	Report fee	£41.67	£8.33	£50.00
Black Cat	Section 21 notice	£125.00	£25.00	£150.00
Norfolk Fire Solutions	Cemetery camera and bracket	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00
Salaries	Clerk's & Deputy Clerk salary	£2,188.19		£2,188.19
Expenses	Clerk's & Deputy Clerk exps	£182.82		£182.82
HMRC	PAYE M8	£908.40		£908.40
Nest	Pension contributions	£165.05		£165.05
		£9,306.78	£1,134.46	£10,441.24

The Deputy Clerk advised of five additional payments; A1 signs £30.00 for additional sign fixings; Tawny Owl services for 1. - installation of signs and CCTV cameras, removing Ivy and topping up grave soil total £222.00 and, 2. Reduction of height of tree, £275.00; Fenland Heating for repairs to Cemetery Cottage boiler total £119.00 and, Chris Hannelley for Elm tree survey total £450.00. All including VAT where applicable.

It was resolved (unan.) to approve an amended total of £11,537.24 for payments due for the month of December. (Proposed, Cllr Fisher, Seconded Cllr Cage).

Chair

- To resolve on the quotations received in respect of tree works required along The Towpath.** It was resolved to accept the quotation from Tawny Owl services for £425.00 plus VAT. Proposed Cllr Fisher, Seconded Cllr Lee.
- To resolve to approve the quotation accepted (under Clerk / Chairs spending powers) for parish tree survey, £450.00.** It was resolved to accept the quotation. Proposed Cllr Fisher, Seconded Cllr Cage.
- To resolve on quotations received for resealing Portacabin roof to stop water penetration.** It was resolved to accept the quotation for David Clark Builder for £1,360.00. Proposed Cllr Fisher, Seconded Cllr Cage.

159.25 **Correspondence;**

- CCC – Consultations x2 reference draft Resource and Waste Strategy and Waste Design Guide aimed at developers. *Circulated requesting Councillors to respond.*
- CCC – Proposal for 50mph speed limit on Twenty Foot Road, March to junction with A141 March Road. *Circulated requesting Councillors comments.*

- 160.25 **Planning:**
- i. **F/YR25/0859/F Change of use of milk distribution depot (Class B8) to commercial heavy goods Vehicle depot (retrospective) at Site of Former Dairy Crest Limited Begdale Road Elm Cambridgeshire** – It was resolved (unan) to strongly object to the planning application on the grounds of;
 - Inappropriate and Unsustainable Intensification of Use
 - Severe Highway Safety Concerns
 - Impact on Vulnerable Road Users
 - Accelerated Road Deterioration and Environmental Harm
 - Unsafe Site Access Arrangements
 - Conflict with Planning Policy referring to;
 - Policy LP15 (Transport): The development fails to provide safe and suitable access and results in severe highway safety impacts
 - Policy LP2 (Health and Wellbeing): Increased noise, vibration, air pollution, and safety risks harm the wellbeing of residents and children
 - Policy LP12 (Rural Areas Development): The industrial nature and intensity of the use is incompatible with the rural character of Elm and Fridaybridge
 - Policy LP16 (High Quality Environments): The development causes environmental degradation through road damage and landscape harm
 - Paragraph 116 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024): The proposal results in unacceptable impacts on highway safety.
 - ii. **Variation of 02 (External Materials) and 22 (List of Approved Plans) relating to planning permission F/YR25/0280/VOC (Variation of conditions 3 (External Materials and Detailing), 4 (Surface Water Drainage), 5 (Construction Surface Water Run-Off), 9 (External Lighting), 15 (CEMP: Biodiversity), 18 (Hard and Soft Landscaping), 21 (Levels and Cross Sections) and 23 (Approved Plans and Documents) of Planning permission F/YR21/0339/F (Conversion of existing barns to 1 x 4-bed and 1 x 5-bed two storey dwellings and erection of 8 x dwellings with garaging) to allow change in design) to change window style and amend access.** – It was resolved that Council had no further comments to submit – Proposed Cllr Fisher, Seconded Cllr Cage.
- 161.25 **Highways & Footways;**
- i. **To resolve on application to be submitted under the 26/27 Capitially Funded Highway Maintenance Scheme.** It was resolved to submit applications for 1. Wales Bank and, 2. section of B1101 (between Gatehouse Corner and second 90 degree bend on approach to Coldham) to be resurfaced. Proposed Cllr Fisher, Seconded Cllr Lee.
 - ii. **To resolve on project for LHI application for 26/27** – It was resolved (unan) to submit an application to mirror Wisbech Town Councils LHI for Weight, Speed and Width reductions along Redmoor Lane and Begdale Road.
 - iii TTRO 26-10105 – 5/1/26-9/1/26 Fridaybridge Road, Elm - Water Connection
 - iv TTRO 26-10031– 27/1/26 Molls Drove, Elm - Electrical work
 - v TTRO – 26-10226 23/2/26-27/2/26 – Fridaybridge Road – Gas connection
- 162.25 **To resolve in principle (pending meeting with applicant in January) on the use of Begdale Playing field by De Silva Coaching for the purpose of Junior football facilities.** – It was resolved to accept the proposal in principle and invite De Silva Coaching to the January meeting to provide more information. Proposed Cllr Fisher, Seconded Cllr Lee.
- 163.25 **To resolve on action to be taken regarding the parking situation at The Sportsman pub in Elm.** Item carried forward to January agenda.
- 164.25 **To receive requests from members for items to be included on next agenda.** – No items raised.
- 165.25 To confirm date for next Parish Council meeting. (14th January 2026).
- 166.25 To resolve to enter 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).
- 167.25 **To receive update concerning issues relating to cemetery procedures. (Confidential due to individuals' personal data). Resolve on appropriate action.** Mrs England gave information to Council; discussion was held around procedures and options discussed. Resolution passed to change criteria for burial memorials, caskets and vaulted graves.

168.25 **To receive update concerning Cemetery Cottage tenancy, resolve on appropriate action (Confidential due to individuals' personal data).** Mrs Welbourne gave an update to Council on the matter, Council resolved on appropriate action, further progress update would be reported at the January meeting.

169.25 To resolve to close the closed session.

170.25 Close of meeting.

Signed
Elm Parish Council Chair

Date