Elm Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Elm Parish Council held at the Portacabin, Begdale, Elm on Wednesday 14th January 2026 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), Ferguson, Goodley, Lee, Pigden, South, Hopkin.

District Cllr Roy, Mrs S England (Clerk) Mrs L Welbourne – Deputy Clerk (minute taker), 6 members of the public.

171.25 **Apologies for absence** – Received from; Cllrs Fisher, Welbourne and Cage. Council resolved to accept their reasons for absence.

172.25 **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.

173.25 **To receive declarations of interests (pecuniary, non-pecuniary & other) and any requests for dispensation**
None received.
18.31 Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders

174.25 **Open Forum** – 3 members of the public spoke. The following matters were raised; 1, speeding in Coldham. It was requested that traffic monitoring should be undertaken as speeding resulted in accidents occurring, Clerk to raise request with Safety Audit Team. 2, A request for a multi-purpose bin was received for Well End, 3, Fridaybridge Primary School were holding a quiz evening and donations were requested for raffle prizes.
18.41 – Council resolved to reinstate Standing Orders

175.25 **To resolve on the co-option of candidate to become a member of the Parish Council**. – Deferred to February meeting.

176.25 **Signing of Minutes** – Council resolved to approve the minutes of meeting held on 10th December 2025 as a true record of proceedings. Proposed Cllr Ferguson, Seconded Cllr Lee. Resolved unanimously.
18:43 – Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders.

177.25 **District Councillor's Report** - District Cllr Roy reported as follows;

1. Bio Marsh – Written to Combined Authority regarding reopening Newbridge Lane; no reply received. Fenland District Council had renewed the contract with Biomarsh (from 01.04.26–31.03.28) to remove sewage effluent from FDC assets.
2. F/YR23/0477/0 planning application was refused by FDC to build 250 homes on Half Penny Lane; appeal lodged to be considered by The Sectary State.
3. Flytipping issues continued on Belt Drove; working with the enforcement teams to put up signage and other actions to try and identify the criminals. Streetpride had collected approximately 400 bags since starting in April 2025 and put in over 120 man hours.
4. Consultation on Twenty Foot Road had ended. The junction would be improved with traffic lights and speed reduction signs.
5. Current Fenland Local Plan had been withdrawn and a new plan would be developed to incorporate upcoming planning changes. The new plan was named Fenland 50; details on website.
6. FDC would consult on draft business plan and budget for the next financial year, it would go to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 19th January. Questions to be raised as soon as possible.
7. Following numerous complaints regarding power outages, data had been collated and sent to UK Power. They had responded – the report had been circulated to Council.
8. Concerns raised with owners of the Sportsman Pub regarding parking. They had responded by requesting customers to use the car park (via social media). They had also asked staff to remind people to use the on-site parking facilities.

18:47 - It was resolved to reinstate Standing Orders.

178.25 **To receive report from County Councillor -** County Councillor not present

179.25 **Clerk's Report**

Mrs Welbourne (Deputy Clerk) reported as follows;

- Clarion licence for the FB Bus Shelter had been approved and received. An installation date had been given of the 9th / 10th February.
- Speed cushions outside Elm School had been removed as the bolts could not be re-fitted; now awaiting new speed cushions.
- Bedgale Playing Field entrance height bar was in production and currently with the fabricator.
- Fire Extinguishers had been serviced at the Portacabin
- E-mail confirmation had been received from Zara Holland, to confirm S106 funding was available for Friday Bridge play area safety surface. Awaiting 3rd quotation.
- LHI application had been submitted for joint project with Wisbech Town Council for implementation of speed, weight and width restrictions along Begdale Road, Redmoor Bank and Redmoor Lane.
- Windows in the Portacabin had been sealed to stop further water ingress.

180.25 **Financial Matters**

i. The Deputy Clerk advised the following sums had been received since the last meeting; Interest £560.91; Cemetery fees £550.00, Interest £271.34, Women's Institute £100.00

ii. To resolve to approve expenditure for January 2025 as detailed below: Resolved; proposed Cllr Lee, Seconded Cllr South.

PAYE	DETAIL	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Tawny Owl Services	Grounds Maintenance	£1,638.75	£327.75	£1,966.50
BP	Broadband	£32.95	£6.59	£39.54
GAC Electrical Services	Cem Cottage repairs	£123.00	£24.60	£147.60
Wave	Water	£104.99		£104.99
Norfolk Fire Solutions	Cemetery camera and bracket	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00
Fenland Heating Solutions	Cemetery Cottage boiler repair	£119.00		£119.00
L Green Electrical	Emergency Light test - portacabin	£220.00	£44.00	£264.00
David Clark Builder	Portacabin roof	£1,610.00		£1,610.00
David Clark Builder	Key stone at Elm Cemetery	£250.00		£250.00
Fenland Fire	Extinguishers Service	£53.25	£10.65	£63.90
Salaries	Clerk's & Deputy Clerk salary	£2,326.16		£2,326.16
Expenses	Clerk's & Deputy Clerk exps	£492.75		£492.75
HMRC	PAYE M9	£409.28		£409.28
Nest	Pension contributions	£179.44		£179.44
Tawny Owl Services	Play area repairs F Bridge	£65.00	£13.00	£78.00
Tawny Owl Services	Towpath Winter Works	£460.00	£92.00	£552.00
		£8,114.57	£524.59	£8,639.16

Chair ……..

iii. **To resolve on quotations received in respect of tree works required in Elm.** – It was resolved to accept the quotation received from Tawny Owl services for £2950 plus VAT. Proposed Cllr South, Seconded Cllr Ferguson

iv. **To resolve on quotations received for the restoration of Cemetery railings, gates and benches (for 26/27)** – It was resolved to accept the estimate/quotation received from Martin Works for between £7,500 and £10,000 (dependent on whether gates could be re-used)– Proposed Cllr Lee, Seconded Cllr Pigden

v. **To approve content of bank reconciliation report quarter end 31/12/25 -** It was resold to approve the report – Proposed Cllr South, Seconded Cllr Pigden

vi. **To approve content of budget update report for the quarter end 31/12/25 -** It was resolved to approve the content of the report. Proposed Cllr South, Seconded Cllr Pigden.

vii. **To resolve on 26/27 budget and precept claim –** The Clerk presented details of the draft budget explaining sums allocated to each category. The draft included a 4% increase in the annual precept. It was resolved to approve the budget as drafted. It was resolved to submit a precept claim of £84003.00 for financial year 2026/27 – Proposed Cllr South, Seconded Cllr Lee

181.25 **Correspondence:** i – E-mail received from Fridaybridge Parishioner regarding streetlight on The Stitch. Contractor contacted and light repaired.

182.25 **Planning:**

i. **F/YR25/0986/F - Erect 8 x dwellings and the formation of a new access, involving the demolition of existing dwelling, stable block and barns at Redmoor House 47 Fridaybridge Road Elm Wisbech PE14 0AT -** Council resolved to maintain it's objections in respect of; overdevelopment, not in keeping with streetscene, overbearing effect on adjacent bungalows, loss of heritage assets. Proposed Cllr Ferguson, Seconded Cllr South.

ii. **F/YR25/0992/F - Change of use from 2 x C3 dwellinghouses to 1 x C2 supported living with carer accommodation including the erection of single-storey front, side and rear extensions, and the formation of an access at 186 - 188 Fridaybridge Road Elm. –** It was resolved to support the application, proposed Cllr Lee, Seconded Cllr South

183.25 **Highways & Footways;**

i. **To resolve on detailed design for 24/25 LHI application (additional Chicanes)** - Council resolved to accept the draft design for the application – Proposed Cllr South, Seconded Cllr Ferguson.

ii. **To resolve on location of MVAS and fixing posts for the 25/26 LHI application (Coldham).** – Council resolved to accept the locations recommended by the Highways Team – Proposed Cllr South, Seconded Cllr Pigden

184.25. **To resolve on proposals put forward by Liam De Silva Coaching relating to junior football facilities at Begdale Playing field**. – It was resolved in principle that De Silva Coaching could use Begdale Playing field for junior football and 1-1 coaching sessions subject to the correct paperwork and policies being forwarded to the Clerks and an agreement being in place. It was further resolved that the small compound and small portacabin could be used for storage, this would be for a sum of £200.00 per month.

185.25 **To resolve on action to be taken regarding the parking situation at The Sportsman pub in Elm**.
Cllr Ferguson provided an update on the situation and details of discussions held with the Sportsman Pub. – It was resolved to see if the measures being put in place by the pub; i.e.; adding signage to the bar and toilets and staff informing patrons to use the car park; had an impact. If not, the situation could be review in the future. Proposed Cllr Ferguson, Seconded Cllr South.

186.25 **To receive requests from members for items to be included on next agenda.** – It was requested that a multi-purpose bin be installed at Well End, Clerk to investigate possible location.

187.25 **To confirm date for next Parish Council meeting. (11th February 2026).** Resolved.

188.25 **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).**
20.03 It was resolved to enter closed session.

189.25 **To provide update regarding matters concerning Cemetery Cottage tenancy agreement; resolve appropriately**. – An update was provided on the situation, it was resolved for a new boiler at a cost of £2445.54 plus VAT be installed. Proposed Cllr South, Seconded Cllr Ferguson.

190.25 **To resolve to close the closed session.**
20.26 – It was resolved to close closed session.

191.25 20.27 - **Close of meeting**.

Signed ……. Date …….
Elm Parish Council Chair