

Elm Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Elm Parish Council held at the Portacabin, Begdale, Elm on Wednesday 11th March 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), Welbourne, Goodley, Lee, Cage, Fisher, Pigden, Pilbeam.

District Cllr Roy, Mrs L Welbourne – Deputy Clerk (minute taker), 2 members of the public.

215.25 **Apologies for absence** – Received from; Cllr South. Council resolved to accept his reason for absence.

216.25 **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.

217.25 **To receive declarations of interests (pecuniary, non-pecuniary & other) and any requests for dispensation**

None declared

18.31 Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders

218.25 **Open Forum** –2 members of the public spoke. The following matters were raised;

1. Potholes on Redmoor Lane were a problem and a Streetlight was removed from a telegraph pole in Bar Drove and not replaced. The Member of Public asked if this could be looked into.

2. Member of Public read out an objection to the proposed chicane outside 137 Fridaybridge Road.

18.43 – Council resolved to reinstate Standing Orders.

219.25 **Signing of Minutes** – Council resolved to approve the minutes of meeting held 11th February 2025 as a true record of proceedings. P. Cllr Lee , S. Cllr Fisher. Resolved unanimously.

220.25 18.46 – Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders - **District Councillor's Report** - District Cllr Roy reported as follows;

Fenland 50 (Local Plan) scoping consultation was open until 23rd March; everyone encouraged to comment as it would shape how communities grow. 2. A site scoping consultation was underway, (end date 30 April) for the purpose of identifying areas for potential development (green spaces, residential, commercial or other); everyone encouraged to submit their views. 3. Community Safety Partnership was open for consultation until 23 March; public asked to identify areas within the community that the team could focus on. 4. The Great British Spring Clean would take place 13th-29th March; an opportunity for community to get together to clean up spaces. Street Pride would promote and recruit volunteers. 5. The White Mill Environment Fund had been set up and constituted, once web page was up and running, the Fund would be open to applications from all community groups; next meeting – 15th June 2026 from 12-2 at Tower Hall, Friday Bridge; application deadline 15th May 2026. 6. Planning application ref - F/YR21/0339/F; access to Redmoor Site - Highways would carry out site survey reference the exit considering its close proximity to speed calming measures; Case Officer advised to re-assess. 7. Fenland District Council, Pride in Place – funding for play equipment and refurbishment; information required urgently as funding would be allocated at upcoming cabinet meeting. 8. Biomarsh – Cllrs had been updated; notice was served 20th March, if no appeal; site would be cleared by 20th May . 9. Gullies should have been cleaned from FB Clock Tower to Pocket Park in Elm w/c 23th February. As this had not been actioned, update requested from Local Highways Officer.

18:50 - It was resolved to reinstate Standing Orders.

221.25 **To receive report from County Councillor** - County Cllr Fisher reported as follows;

1. Saxon Pitt Planning Application had been rejected.

222.25 **Clerk's Report**

Mrs Welbourne (Deputy Clerk) reported as follows;

1. The contract for the electricity supply at the Portacabin has been signed with Full Power Utilities, 2. Reports had been made for potholes, damaged signs and streetlights, 3. PAT resting had been completed at The portacabin, 4. Cllrs Lee and Pilbeam had been booked to attend Cllr training, 5. The Deputy Clerk had attended the first CiLCA training day, 7. TTRO had been received for gully clearance, 8. Further refurbishment work had been undertaken at Cemetery Cottage and a new boiler was being fitted 12th March, 9. The refurbishment of Elm War Memorial had been completed, 10. A quotation had been received for the restoration of FB village sign; awaiting confirmation of paint costs, 11. Work had now started on statutory duties required for the Financial Year End. 12. Further repair work was required at Fridaybridge Park as a result of petty vandalism; referred to the contractor.

223.25 **Financial Matters**

- i. The Deputy Clerk advised the following sums had been received since the last meeting; Interest £508.03; Cemetery fees £1,300.00; Cemetery Cottage deposit refund £865.00
- ii. To resolve to approve expenditure for March 2025 as detailed below: Resolved; P. Cllr Cage, Ferguson, S. Cllr Lee.

PAYE	DETAIL	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Tawny Owl Services	Grounds Maintenance	£1,638.75	£327.75	£1,966.50
Tawny Owl Services	Cemetery Cottage Clearance	£1,600.00	£320.00	£1,920.00
Capalc	Councillor Training	£150.00		£150.00
Pure-Pat	Portacabin checks	£94.30	£18.86	£113.16
BT	Broadband	£32.95	£6.59	£39.54
GW Shelter Solutions Ltd	Elm Bus Shelter	£6,588.00	£1,317.60	£7,905.60
GW Shelter Solutions Ltd	Friday Bridge Bus Shelter	£5,486.00	£1,097.20	£6,583.20
Cambridgeshire ACRE	Membership	£62.08	£12.42	£74.50
Salaries	Clerk's & Deputy Clerk salary	£2,383.87		£2,383.87
Expenses	Clerk's & Deputy Clerk exps	£406.73		£406.73
HMRC	PAYE M11	£372.90		£372.90
Nest	Pension contributions	£198.43		£198.43
SLCC CiLCA registration	Deputy Clerk registration	£495.00		£495.00
		£19,509.01	£3,100.42	£22,609.43

Chair

- iii. **Friday Bridge play area – 1. To resolve to remove tractor unit and replace with 1.75m slide. 2. To resolve on quotations received for replacement safety surface, removal of tractor unit and installation of slide (if appropriate).** 1. It was resolved for the removal of the tractor unit and to be replaced with a 1.75m slide P. Cllr Ferguson S. Cllr Lee. 2. It was resolved to accept the quotation from Online Playgrounds of £25,905.38 plus VAT for the replacement safety surface, removal of tractor unit and installation of slide (subject to confirmation of receipt of S106 funding). P Cllr Ferguson, S. Cllr Lee.
- iv. **To resolve on quotations received from Tawny Owl, 1. £1600.00 plus VAT for Clearance of Cemetery Cottage, 2. £710.00 plus VAT for the removal and clearance of Cemetery Cottage car port, 3. £750.00 for Garden Maintenance at Cemetery Cottage.** It was resolved to accept all 3 quotations from Tawny Owl Services. P. Cllr Welbourne, S. Cllr Cage
- v. **To resolve on the grant application received from Mr D King totalling £200.00 for village planting.** It was resolved to grant the funding of £200.00 for the village planters, P. Cllr Lee, S. Cllr Pilbeam

224.25 **Correspondence:**

- i. **E-mail received from Parishioner regarding the 23/24 LHI application for 2 additional chicanes on Fridaybridge Road.** Council confirmed that the project was under the control of Cambridgeshire Highways.
- ii. **E-mail, member of the public – request for permission to undertake metal detecting on council owned land resolve appropriately.** Council resolved to authorise the request; situation to be reviewed in 6 month's time. P. Cllr Fisher, S. Cllr Lee

225.25 **To appoint members / representatives to working parties / committees / outside bodies - receiving updates where appropriate.**

- i. Finance Working party – All Councillors currently appointed to the working party, review at May meeting.
- ii. Christmas Decorations Working Party (Cllrs Milham, South & Welbourne) - To resolve to appoint Cllr Lee to the WP. To confirm working party spokesperson and receive update – It was resolved to appoint Cllr Lee to the WP and for Cllr South to be the spokesperson P. Cllr Milham, S. Cllr Cage. Cllr Milham advised he had been investigating the cost of purchasing a tree (potentially to be planted in front of Cemetery Chapel).

- iii. Emergency Plan WP – To resolve on appointment of members. – Deferred to April meeting
- iv. Street Pride – To resolve to appoint Cllr Pilbeam as PC Representative, receive update where appropriate – It was resolved to appoint Cllr Pilbeam; update on ongoing work provided. P. Cllr Lee S. Cllr Fisher
- v. White Mill Fund – To resolve to appoint Cllr Pilbeam as PC Representative, receive update where appropriate – It was resolved to appoint Cllr Pilbeam as PC representative; update on background and funding provided. P. Cllr Welbourne. S. Cllr Ferguson

226.25 **Planning:**

1. **F/YR26/0106/F - Change of use of land 2 x gypsy traveller's plots involving the siting of 2 x mobile home including the erection of 2 x stable blocks and 1 x tack room/welfare unit, 1.8m (max height) boundary fencing with 2.3m (max height) access gates, and the formation of a manège (part retrospective) at Land South Of Six Acres Bar Drove Friday Bridge.** – Resolved, no further comments to be made.
2. **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** – It was resolved to maintain the strong objections P. Cllr Ferguson S. Cllr Fisher
3. **F/YR26/0161/F - Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing extension at 2 Flints Cottages Jew House Drove Friday Bridge Wisbech PE14 0NU** – It was resolved to support the application P. Cllr Cage S. Cllr Fisher
4. **F/YR26/0153/F - Erect a single-storey front and side extension and single storey detached double garage involving demolition of existing front extension and garage at Little Hermitage Colletts Bridge Lane Elm Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE14 0EE** – It was resolved to support the application. P. Cllr Ferguson S. Cllr Fisher
5. **F/YR26/0142/F - Formation of access to serve dwellings approved under F/YR21/0339/F at Land At Former Redmoor House 47 Fridaybridge Road Elm** - It was resolved to strongly object to the application due to limited space for vehicles waiting at the chicanes, potentially causing RTAs. P. Cllr Ferguson S. Cllr Lee

227.25 **Highways & Footways;**

- i **LHI 25/26 – To resolve on draft design for MVAS unit at Coldham.** – It was resolved to accept the draft design P. Cllr Ferguson S. Cllr Fisher

228.25. **To resolve on project/s to be considered for play equipment funding, (details as circulated in e-mail received from Cllr Roy dated 24th February 2026)** - It was resolved to submit a funding request for replacing the non-compliant equipment at Elm Play Area (including a new safety surface) and, to refurbish the skate park at Fridaybridge Play Area – P. Cllr Lee S. Cllr Pilbeam

229.25 **To receive requests from members for items to be included on next agenda.** – Nothing raised

230.25 **To confirm date for next Parish Council meeting. (8th April 2026).** Resolved to confirm.

231.25 **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).**
19.38 It was resolved to enter closed session.

232.25 **Grounds maintenance contract (confidential due to contractual items) – 1. To resolve on Clerk’s recommendation for Grounds Maintenance Contract 2. To resolve on terms of new Grounds Maintenance contract. 3. To resolve to authorise the Parish Clerk to sign the contract on Council’s behalf.** – It was resolved to accept the recommendations made by the Clerk, accept the terms of the Grounds Maintenance contract and authorise the Parish Clerk to sign the contract on Council’s behalf P. Cllr Ferguson S. Cllr Pilbeam

233.25 **To receive an update on Cemetery Cottage (confidential due to individuals’ details).** Update given from Deputy Clerk – No further questions raised from Council.

234.25 **To resolve to close the closed session.** 19.43 It was resolved to Close the closed session

235.25 **Close of meeting.** 19.43 -It was resolved to close the meeting.

Signed
Elm Parish Council Chair

Date