

Elm Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Elm Parish Council held at the Portacabin, Begdale, Elm on Wednesday 8th April 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, Cage, Pigden, Pilbeam.

District Cllr Roy, Mrs L Welbourne – Deputy Clerk (minute taker), 1 member of the public.

- 236.25 **Apologies for absence** – Received from; Cllrs South, Welbourne, Fisher, Hopkin and Butcher. Council resolved to accept their reasons for absence.
- 237.25 **Members Code of Conduct** – The Chair reminded members of the need to submit; via the Clerk; any changes to their Register of Interests information.
- 238.25 **To receive declarations of interests (pecuniary, non-pecuniary & other) and any requests for dispensation.**
None declared
- 239.25 **Open Forum** –1 member of the public spoke. The following matters were raised;
1. Coldham Residents Action Group (CRAG) requested funding for a Portaloo at this year's carnival.
 2. Elderly people in Coldham were struggling with lack of transport when roads were closed and bus services stopped running through Elm, Fridaybridge and Coldham.
- 240.25 **Signing of Minutes** – Council resolved to approve the minutes of meeting held 11th March 2026 as a true record of proceedings. P. Cllr Pilbeam , S. Cllr Lee. Resolved unanimously.
- 241.25 **District Councillor's Report** - District Cllr Roy reported as follows;
1. Fenland District Council had submitted option D for the Local Government reorganisation.
 2. Repair to sign at junction of Gosmoor Laner and Main Road had been escalated to County Cllr Fisher.
 3. Redmoor Lane - repairs were being treated as urgent.
 4. Cleaning of gullies from Friday Bridge Clock Tower to the end of High Road, Elm would be completed in July 2026 during school holidays; hence, no disruption to school bus.
 5. Parish online was now free for councils to use until March 2027, as part of the Nature Recovery Project.
 6. A meeting had been held with PECT (Peterborough Environment City Trust); a charity working on sustainable environment projects. The first stage would be an ecology report, plan allotments (Friday Bridge) and look at creating a Forest School; invite Environmental Projects officer to June meeting. Support was requested from EPC to create a Nature Reserve at the Towpath in agreement with Emneth PC.
 7. Reference Agenda item 16 – 2500 purple Crocus bulbs had been provided by The Rotary Club of Wisbech as part of their Polio Eradication Initiative.
 8. BioMarsh – Operator Licence was up for review on 31 May 2026. Comments to be submitted and returned to Environmental@otc.gov.uk.
- 242.25 **To receive report from County Councillor** - N/a
- 243.25 **Clerk's Report**
Mrs Welbourne (Deputy Clerk) reported as follows;
1. Further to enquiry received, FACT Community Transport had been contacted reference the possibility of setting up a temporary service during road closures. Their response advised that this would be at significant cost. Resident informed, adding that the PC would attempt to provide support to vulnerable residents (shopping, prescriptions etc).
 2. De Silva Coaching had collected keys to the small compound and had started their coaching sessions.
 3. Thanks to Cllr Pilbeam for updating the notice boards with details of funding for Green Projects.
 4. Cllr Milham had signed the contract for the MVAS unit in Coldham; unit was being collected tomorrow from Huntingdon.
 5. Cemetery Cottage – Clerks were monitoring refurbishment; additional work was required than initially anticipated. PC to be kept updated.
 6. Deputy Clark had attended second CiLCA training day.
 7. Elm WI was closing and no longer required use of portacabin; group had conveyed thanks for use of premises.
 8. S106 funding for Friday Bridge play area had been approved and received; contractor advised to proceed.

244.25 **Financial Matters**

- i. The Deputy Clerk advised the following sums had been received since the last meeting; Interest £250.53; Cemetery fees £1,045.00, S106 funding £25,905.00, Precept £42,001.50, DeSilva Coaching £200.00.
- ii. To resolve to approve expenditure for April 2026 as detailed below: Resolved; P. Cllr Pilbeam S. Cllr Lee.

| PAYE | DETAIL | NET | VAT | TOTAL |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------|------------|
| Tawny Owl Services | Grounds Maintenance | £1,748.55 | £349.71 | £2,098.26 |
| Tawny Owl Services | Cemetery Cottage Car port clearance | £591.67 | £118.33 | £710.00 |
| Tawny Owl Services | Cemetery Cottage Garden | £625.00 | £125.00 | £750.00 |
| BT | Broadband | £32.95 | £6.59 | £39.54 |
| RLS Restoration Ltd | Elm War Memorial restoration | £1,995.00 | £399.00 | £2,394.00 |
| P & R Smith | Burial Plot refund | £88.00 | | £88.00 |
| Capalc | Membership | £935.38 | | £935.38 |
| P Pilbeam | Expenses (Cllr training) | £29.70 | | £29.70 |
| Salaries | Clerk's & Deputy Clerk salary | £2,313.05 | | £2,313.05 |
| Expenses | Clerk's & Deputy Clerk exps | £315.46 | | £315.46 |
| HMRC | PAYE M12 | £632.83 | | £632.83 |
| Nest | Pension contributions | £184.76 | | £184.76 |
| | | £9,492.35 | £998.63 | £10,490.98 |

Chair

- iii. To resolve on the request from Citizens Advice Rural Cambs for funding. It was resolved to give a donation of £50.00. P Cllr Ferguson, S Cllr Cage. Power to donate provided under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- iv. To resolve to approve content of bank reconciliation report quarter end 31/3/26 Resolved to accept P. Cllr Ferguson S. Cllr Pilbeam
- v. To resolve to approve content of budget update report for the quarter end 31/3/26. Resolved to accept P. Cllr Ferguson S. Cllr Pilbeam.

245.25 **Correspondence:**

- i. E-mail received from Anglian Water informing of replacement pipes from April to June 2026. *Information Only.*
- ii. E-mail received from Parishioner regarding Grove Gardens Ponds. *E-mail sent to Tilia Homes to request update.*
- iii. E-mail Parishioner – Vehicles blocking New Bridge Lane. – *Raised with highways officer.*

246.25 **To receive updates from Working Parties / Outside bodies where appropriate.**

1. Finance Working party – NTR.
2. Christmas Decorations Working Party (Cllrs Milham, South & Welbourne) - Update received, research ongoing regarding sourcing and costing of tree.
3. Emergency Plan WP – To resolve on appointment of members. It was resolved to appoint Cllrs Pilbeam, Pigden, Cage, Milham and Goodley to the Working Party.
4. Street Pride – Cllr Pilbeam reported as follows: 31 bags or rubbish had been collected which equates to 23 man hours. 4 incidents of flytipping had been reported. An audit was being undertaken for flytipping along Belt Drove and Jew House Drive. Dog bin at Gosmoor/Bar Drove was being replaced. Review being undertaken reference installation of new multi-purpose waste bin at Well End
5. Whitemill Fund - Cllr Pilbeam reported: The Closing date for applications was 31/5/26 (with five received to date). Decisions would be made by the Committee on 15th June 2026. Streetpride had applied for funding for planters around the village.

247.25 **Planning:**

- i. **F/YR26/0202/C1490E - Installation of a "Lame Leg" on existing pole (to support heavier transformer) at R0000021 Well End Friday Bridge Cambridgeshire – Resolved to support. P. Cllr Lee S Cllr Cage**

- ii. **F/YR26/0199/TRCA - Fell 14x Cyprus, 2x Laurel, 1x Silver Birch, 1x Cherry and 1x Ash trees, and Works to 7x Sycamore, 4x Cherry, 3x Holly, 3x Yew, 2x Cyprus, 1x Robina and 1x Oak trees in a conservation area at Halfpenny House Rose Lane Elm Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE14 0AF – Council resolved to request additional information, including an arborists report.**
- iii. **F/YR26/0182/F - Erect 2 x dwellings, involving demolition of existing barn at Colletts Bridge Farm Gosmoor Lane Elm Wisbech PE14 0EG – Resolved to support P. Cllr Cage, S. Cllr Goodley**

- 248.25 **Highways & Footways;**
LHI Chicane Project, Fridaybridge Road – It had been confirmed that a Safety Audit was completed for the scheme in 22/23. No further questions raised.
- 249.25 **To consider projects suitable for Whitemill grant funding.** Resolve appropriately - Nothing raised.
- 250.25 **To resolve on installation of “do not litter” sign at Begdale Car Park.** (Cllr Pilbeam). It was resolved not to install any additional signage P. Cllr Ferguson, S Cllr Milham
- 251.25 **To resolve to authorise the planting of Crocus bulbs along The Towpath; subject to confirmation from Emneth PC (request submitted by District Cllr Roy)** It was resolved to support the planting project. P Cllr Cage, S. Cllr Lee
- 252.25 **To receive information regarding Begdale Car Park; resolve appropriately.**
Further to receipt of reports of activity in the car park received from a parishioner, CCTV had been reviewed and findings reported to the Police. Incident logs also updated. It was resolved to leave the gates in the locked open position and continue to monitor the situation. P Cllr Ferguson S. Cllr Cage.
- 253.25 **To receive requests from members for items to be included on next agenda.** – Nothing raised
- 254.25 **To confirm date for next Parish Council meeting and Annual Assembly. (13th May 2026).** Resolved to confirm that the Annual Parish Council Meeting would commence immediately after closure of the Assembly.
- 255.25 **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).**
19.16 It was resolved to enter closed session.
- 256.25 **Staffing matters - (Confidential due to discussion of staff members personal information). To resolve to increase Deputy Clerk’s rate of pay by 1 point on the National pay scale as per contract of employment.**
It was resolved to approve the increase, backdated to 1st April 2026. P Cllr Cage S. Cllr Ferguson
- 257.25 **To resolve to close the closed session.** 19.43 It was resolved to close the closed session.
- 258.25 **Close of meeting.** 19.43 - It was resolved to close the meeting.

Signed
Elm Parish Council Chair

Date