

Minutes of Meeting on 17th November 2022
Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Present: Cllrs Adam Gladwin (Chairman), Amanda Brennan, James Chable, Sarah Donaldson, Maxine Jeggo, Michael Hare and Martine Ward.

Also Present: County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi, District Councillors Gary Scott and Ann Wiggins, Mr James Drabwell (Essex Highways) and 5 members of the public

Mrs Baxter – clerk.

Absent: Cllr Gill Williams

22/208 Chairman's welcome

Cllr Gladwin welcomed everybody.

22/209 Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Gill Williams sent her apologies.

22/210 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Personal Interests.

Cllr Chable declared an interest in item 22/224(ii) as he is employed at Market Field School.

22/211 Approval and signing of the minutes from 20th October 2022.

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 20th October 2022 as true and accurate.

Proposed: Cllr Gladwin, Seconded: Cllr Brennan, all in favour.

22/212 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the meetings above not covered in this agenda.

The clerk updated that the letter has been sent to Cllr Nick Turner regarding the Garden Community but that no reply has been received. The "Elmstead Parish Council" banner has not yet been purchased. An application has not yet been made for a credit card.

Cllr Scott has not asked TDC about the use of a mobile CCTV camera at the B1027 laybys.

Mr Dingwall has installed the little library into the bus shelter near Budgens.

22/213 Public Speaking

A resident asked what had happened to the independent risk assessment on the proposed football pitch? Cllr Gladwin responded that the report that Mike Carron (TDC) wrote highlighted mitigation strategies that would not be acceptable, such as fencing and therefore we are looking at the other options he suggests. The New Community Centre will be asked to make a recommendation.

The resident asked if the large pitch is not suitable will we be looking at smaller pitches and if so, what are our thoughts? Cllr Gladwin responded that it will be voted upon at the next meeting. He apologised that a meeting has not been held with the residents yet, but there will be something, perhaps a drop in which can address concerns.

22/214 County Councillor report. To include where relevant an update on items in progress.

Cllr Guglielmi introduced James Drabwell from Essex Highways who attended to help provide an update on Highways matters.

The Colchester Road crossing scheme was signed off by the Local Highways Panel (LHP) a few weeks ago, they have agreed to fund the scheme. They have found manpower for the scheme through the integrated traffic signals departments. They hope to get the design and feasibility work back by mid/late March ready for the March LHP meeting. There won't be any update before then. The scheme should be implemented in 2023.

Cllr Guglielmi added that the change in the s106 provision from the bus shelter to the crossing is progressing.

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It was asked whether the link road would have any impact on the installation of the crossing. The response was no, it is far enough away.

A couple of the other LHP schemes need tweaking. Cllr Guglielmi needs to re-present the Bromley Road scheme.

Cllr Brennan asked about the video footage she has of the dangerous driving on Alresford Road, of vehicles driving too close to pedestrians as the road is not wide enough. Mr Drabwell said to send them to him and that he is happy to visit the road.

It was discussed whether the weight limit could be looked at but that it couldn't because of the Brett Aggregate and Lafarge vehicles which have to drive that way. Mr Drabwell suggested speaking to the lorry companies and asking them to speak to their drivers. This is difficult because the drivers are franchised.

Cllr Guglielmi said they would find a time to visit.

Regarding the 20 is plenty scheme (item 22/223) – it is an ECC policy for new developments, but it is unlikely to be extended beyond those. There was a 20 is plenty scheme for schools too. Councils could lobby ECC, but Cllr Guglielmi thinks it's unlikely and doesn't think EALC has had any meaningful conversations with ECC about it.

The Budgens junction was discussed, and Cllr Gladwin stated that the overwhelming feeling is that something needs to be done about it but what? Cllr Guglielmi responded that there is not enough room for a mini roundabout. Mr Drabwell added that they have looked at the parking area outside Budgens and there is very little that can be done. Double yellow lines could be pursued through the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP). Cllr Chable pointed out that there is no signage for the car park, it should be advertised. Cllr Guglielmi responded that the signage can be part of the conversation with Budgens. If the council wishes to pursue double yellow lines it will take 9-12 months. ECC are keen to introduce double red lines, which can be checked by car. Yellow lines require an enforcement officer.

Add double yellow/red lines to the next agenda.

Cllr Guglielmi and Mr Drabwell left the meeting.

22/215 District Councillor reports. Written report – to take questions on the report and provide any additional information not on the report.

Cllr Wiggins read through the written report (see the council website for written reports). Cllr Wiggins added that they have reported tyres and a sofa which have been fly tipped in a layby. A resident has reported a large puddle outside Flair Hair. There have been complaints that people are parking too close to the junction on Church Road.

22/216 Neighbourhood Plan

An update from Cllr Gladwin.

The Steering Group had a meeting last week and looked at the responses to the Regulation 14 consultation. It talked about which policies would apply to the whole of the Parish (including the Garden Community) and those which were not relevant to the Garden Community. There is a lot to speak to TDC about, so we need to arrange a meeting. We hope to sign the NP off in the December PC meeting but if there are any issues it will be January.

22/217 New Community Centre and environs

i) *An update from a meeting held with Sunstone House (Charity Field developers).*

Cllr Gladwin reported that the trigger point for the Church Road funding is 20 occupations. This payment then triggers the Charity Field payment. A separate Charity Field payment is in the process of being triggered and this can be used to pay for technical drawings. Go Homes are looking at the people they use, and we are also speaking to people.

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There are concerns regarding rising costs, at the moment costings are only being guaranteed for 28 days so it is difficult to get a costing until we are closer to works starting. We did have avenues for additional funding before, we may need to look at these again.

We also spoke about keeping the site office where it is to save on costs.

ii) *Any other updates?*

None.

iii) *To approve the sending of an invoice to Sunstone Homes for the £50,000 "supplementary owner's contribution" and receive payment into the Parish Council Active Saver Account.*

It was resolved to send the invoice as above. Proposed: Cllr Gladwin, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

22/218 Colchester/Tendring Borders Garden Community

To consider attendance and speaking at the Joint Committee meeting to be held on 13th December 2022.

Cllrs Gladwin and Brennan will attend. Cllr Gladwin intends to speak but until the agenda is released 2 weeks before the meeting, we don't know what we can say. It was resolved that when the agenda is issued, the questions to be raised by Cllr Gladwin will be agreed by e-mail. Proposed: Cllr Gladwin, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

22/219 Events

i) *A report on Halloween on the Green.*

Cllr Jeggo reported that it went very well, there were lots of people there and there has been lots of positive feedback.

ii) *Christmas event – Carols on the Green.*

Cllr Jeggo reported that the working party has met and spoken about ideas, preparation and posters. They are looking for sponsors. Beth Chatto will supply lights. They are trying to find a Father Christmas. They used water caddies for the hot chocolate at Halloween but will need more. There was a discussion around whether a water urn would be better, but with the event being outside and with children running around it was felt that water caddies would be safer. It was resolved for the council to purchase 2 more water caddies at an approximate cost of £60 each. Proposed: Cllr Brennan, Seconded: Cllr Jeggo, all in favour.

A speaker was also discussed, its possible the community centre are thinking of buying a speaker so we could see if we can go halves. Cllr Gladwin can supply speakers for December. Cllr Jeggo has purchased a machine with a microphone which can Bluetooth to speakers.

iii) *The Christmas tree festival update.*

The tree and lights have been purchased. The tree will be decorated with baubles with photos of councillors' heads in them.

iv) *PC surgeries to be held on 26th November 10.00 – 12.00.*

Cllrs Gladwin and Brennan will attend the first one. We need to do posters to advertise the surgeries.

22/220 Finance

i) *To look through the finance report and approve the payments for November. See appendix 1.*

It was resolved to accept the finance report and approve the payments. Proposed: Cllr Brennan, Seconded: Cllr Gladwin, all in favour.

ii) *To review any requests for overtime to be paid in November.*

It was resolved to pay 1 hour of overtime for the handyman which was worked in October. All in favour.

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- iii) *To note that the 2022/23 council pay scales have now been agreed by the trade unions and released.*

It was noted that this will result in a back payment for the two employees and that they will be on these pay scales going forwards.

22/221 Street naming

To consider the naming of an additional street in the Victory Fields development.

Cllr Wiggins had asked for the name Jordans for historical reasons as it was the name of the field where the open space will be. The council spoke about the name Powell being a name that would fit the development as all the other streets have been named after noteworthy Elmstead residents. Bill Powell was a past chairman of the Parish Council, a local farmer and did so much for the village. Margaret was a long serving trustee of the community centre and also did a lot for the village, particularly the church and WRVS.

It was resolved to request the name Powell. Proposed: Cllr Gladwin, Seconded: Cllr Brennan, all in favour. Powell Way was suggested.

22/222 Personnel Committee

The personnel committee currently only has 2 members and therefore needs at least 1 more member to hold a meeting. This will need to be done for the employee appraisal review.

It was resolved for Cllr Williams to join the personnel committee. Proposed: Cllr Brennan, Seconded: Cllr Gladwin, all in favour.

It was also resolved for Cllr Hare to join the committee. Proposed: Cllr Gladwin, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

22/223 20s Plenty

Does the council wish to support the following motion? To hear from Cllr Ward who attended a webinar on this topic.

Elmstead Parish Council:

- *Supports the 20's Plenty for Essex campaign;*
- *Calls on Essex County Council to implement 20mph in Elmstead; and*
- *Will write to Essex County Council to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout the county where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.*

Cllr Ward reported that the speed limit would be advisory, not compulsory and couldn't be enforced. Some places have done it, it's better for health because of less emissions and it's safer. Cllr Donaldson reported that it was implemented in Colchester but has now been removed. It was discussed that it wasn't thought it would be implemented throughout the village and there was no proposal to support the motion. However, it was discussed that 20mph along School Road would be good, especially with people using the recycling banks and the school. Cllr Guglielmi was working on this previously and we'll follow up with him.

22/224 Planning

- i) *A brief update from the Planning Committee meeting held on 10th November.*

Cllr Chable left the meeting due to a declared interest in item ii).

Cllr Brennan reported that 9 houses at Grange Farm have been refused on appeal. We did send in our objections as part of the appeal process.

Cllr Brennan has spoken to the owner of The Chase. We were going to object to the house being 3 stories, but it had already been allowed in a previous application. We raised a concern about the access point location due to the speed of traffic on Alresford Road.

The reservoir extensions was on the agenda, but is ongoing. The actual application has not been made yet.

Signature

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- ii) *A report from a meeting with Lanswood and Market Field School to receive an update on the Hope Grows project and enabling development. To discuss attendance at an exhibition to be held at Market Field School on Friday 18th November from 4pm to 7pm.*

Cllr Gladwin reported that he, Cllr Brennan and the clerk met with Lanswood and Market Field School to hear an update on their plans. The plans for Hope Grows are now more diverse, it is not being called a farm anymore. There will be an exhibition on the plans at Market Field School tomorrow evening. Attendance was discussed so that councillors can talk to people and find out what they think about the project.

22/225 Community Winter Warmth and Welcome Spaces Fund

To discuss the provision of a warm and welcome space and whether to make an application to the fund. Grants of up to £1,000 are available to community groups and Town/Parish councils. To also consider other ways to help with the financial hardships some residents may face this winter.

The council has been asked whether it would like to book a warm welcome outreach library bus, that provides free hot drinks and biscuits, games, a warm place to sit and books. Various locations were discussed, and it was resolved to ask for a visit in January and a visit in February to the track outside Mr Pools, subject to checking with the landowner and local businesses. Proposed: Cllr Gladwin, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

A once a week hire of the small hall was discussed to provide a warm space for people in the community centre. Volunteers will be needed though. It was resolved that subject to getting interest from volunteers the council would make an application to the fund.

Proposed: Cllr Gladwin, Seconded: Cllr Donaldson, all in favour.

22/226 Speedwatch

An update.

Cllr Ward reported that the equipment has been sent for its annual service. As soon as it comes back it will be returned to the council.

The clerk is to send the names of the volunteers (to include Cllr Chable) to Cllr Ward to arrange training.

22/227 Items for the January Upmarket article

It was discussed that residents don't get feedback from the meeting until a month and a half after the meeting. Would a change in the date of the PC meetings help? To add to the next agenda for discussion.

Also, to add that Cllr Ward needs volunteers for the Neighbourhood Watch.

22/228 Items for the next agenda or for information only

None.

22/229 Next meeting

Does the council wish to provide refreshments after the December meeting?

Christmas jumpers to be worn and refreshments to be provided.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.

There being no further public business councillors were thanked for their attendance.

Minutes written by Mrs. A Baxter

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