

**Minutes 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
**Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

Present: Councillors Paul Beard (Chair), Nick Bell, Amanda Brennan, Pam Cowell, Sally Fairey, John Gray (Vice Chair), Stephen Walsh and Martine Ward Gill Williams.

Also Present: Mrs Baxter (clerk)

County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi

Absent: Cllrs Ali Charnick

**20/093 Chairman's welcome.**

Cllr Beard welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting.

**20/094 Apologies for Absence.**

None received but Cllr Charnick was off-line at the time.

**20/095 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Personal Interests.**

None.

**20/096 Approval and signing of the minutes from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020.**

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 as true and accurate.

Proposed: Cllr Gray, Seconded: Cllr Walsh, all in favour.

**20/097 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 not covered in this agenda.**

Mrs Baxter provided a brief update.

**20/098 Public Speaking**

No public present.

**20/099 County Councillor report. Written report – a short verbal report.**

See attached for written report.

Cllr Guglielmi reported that he has written to the owners of Whitings to request a meeting regarding Finch Lane.

The NEGC Board needs to decide the next steps since only one of the 3 garden communities has been approved. 4 authorities have contributed financially but Braintree has nothing approved in its District. The NEGC can either go ahead with just the Colchester/Tendring border or start from scratch.

There will be a chance to question the plans when the DPD (Development Plan Document) is prepared.

Cllr Bell questioned the buffer zone between the link road and Elmstead, saying that we are keen to remain a village. Cllr Guglielmi responded that nothing has been decided yet, other than the link road. The PDP will decide where the buffer zone goes. Nothing has been decided on where the houses will go. Catherine Bicknell indicated in a previous Elmstead PC meeting that there would be a big buffer zone and Cllr Guglielmi advised that we need to argue for it.

Cllr Bedford asked why TDC has not had a Local Plan for so long. Will the building in Elmstead stop?

Cllr Guglielmi explained that the Localism Act of 2011 had put an extra burden on councils in having to demonstrate a 5+ year land supply and very few could comply. There was a Local Plan ready in 2011 but if it had been submitted it would have been found unsound. The Planning Inspector agreed in January that TDC can demonstrate a 5 year land supply, once the Local Plan is approved that will provide a strong defence against additional building.

**20/100 District Councillor reports. Written report – a short verbal report.**

Not present. The clerk read through Cllr A Wiggins report.

- Ian Davidson has been sending out daily updates on the Covid 19 situation.

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- Cllr Scott has had regular weekly Group Leader Meetings.
- There has been 92% uptake of business grants and TDC is still connecting with businesses. The grants are for up to £25,000.
- Council Meetings are taking place virtually.
- Cllr Wiggins has visited Elmstead residents about a housing matter.

**20/101 North Essex Garden Community and A120/A133 Link Road**

*i) What are we going to do next?*

There is a CALC (Colchester Association of Local Councils) meeting this evening which they will try to record and share with us.

Cllr Cowell suggested putting something in Upmarket or a leaflet to gauge interest from the public. Also to have an open meeting when we are able. This was supported and discussed.

Cllr Williams suggested setting up a working party as it's hard to give the matter the attention it deserves in the full council meeting. It was resolved that a working party be constituted of Cllrs Bell, Bedford, Cowell, Ward and Williams.

Proposed Cllr Williams, Seconded: Cllr Beard, all in favour.

*ii) It is proposed that we invite Bernard Jenkin MP to the next meeting of the council to discuss the NEGC and buffer zone between the link road and Elmstead.*

The above was resolved. Proposed: Cllr Bedford, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

*iii) It is proposed that we write to Mr Gary Guiver, and our District and County Councillors about the NEGC and buffer zone.*

The above was resolved, Cllr Bell will draft something for the council to review.

Proposed: Cllr Fairey, Seconded: Cllr Cowell, all in favour.

**20/102 Neighbourhood Plan**

*To discuss what steps need to be taken next.*

Cllr Fairey advised that to get the support of the community they need to know what it involves. It was discussed whether we'll need a NHP once the NEGC is in place and whether it will give us a more robust defence of planning applications.

It was resolved to set up a working party constituted of Cllrs Fairey, Walsh and Ward to find out more about what it involves. Proposed: Cllr Ward, Seconded Cllr Fairey, all in favour.

The clerk will also arrange for a local planning consultant to speak to the full council about NHPs.

**20/103 Painted Stone Snake**

*Residents of Elmstead have made a snake of painted stones on the North Green, as a community endeavour during Covid-19. They have asked if this can be permanently set in concrete as a memorial.*

There was a discussion around the location for the stones, some were not keen on the North Green and preferred the New Community Centre site. Now has not been a good time to speak to Go Homes though, and that location will involve a wait. We have to consider the impact on the handyman's grass cutting and strimming depending on location. We can ask the school and check with the WI regarding the area they look after on Old School Lane. We can also explore the New Community Centre idea further.

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**20/104 Benches on Church Road**

*Residents have asked if the Parish Council can provide 2 benches along Church Road so that elderly and infirm people who walk along Church Road have someone to rest along the way. It would also be nice for all residents to be able to use the benches.*

Cllr Gray suggested that we could ask Newell Homes if they can put a bench in. There are landowner issues along Church Road. Cllr Ward warned of crime issues with installing a bench at the top end.

It was resolved that we check with Essex Highways if there is EH land along Church Road that we would be permitted to install a bench on.

Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

**20/105 Elmstead Playing Field**

- i) *Colne Athletic Football Club has requested permission to use the field for training every Tuesday and Thursday evening during the summer months.*

It was resolved to give the above permission and permission for Wivenhoe Town youth football team to use the field on a Sunday morning 10.00 – 12.00am. Also to give permission for a local fitness instructor to use the playing field for small and socially distanced fitness classes subject to an insurance check.

Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

- ii) *Market Field School proposes to install a cycle track around the Field. Is the council in agreement?*

It was discussed that MFS needs to ensure a full size football pitch can still fit in (to FA league specifications) and provide detailed drawings and dimensions. The council were in favour subject to the above assurances and information. Proposed: Cllr Bell, Seconded: Cllr Williams, 5 for, 2 against and 1 abstention.

**20/106 Dene Park**

*Cllr Evans (Wivenhoe Town Council) has proposed that the strip of land between the kerb and the path on the land opposite Millfields School has a rockery installed to stop the dangerous parking on the verge.*

This was held over as Cllr Evans is still looking into ownership of that verge.

**20/107 Committee Membership**

*Cllr Fairey would like to stand down from the Finance Committee. Does anyone wish to join the committee? The committee has 2 members and 2 substitute members, with terms of reference stating 4 members with 1 substitute member.*

It was resolved that Cllr Beard and Gray join the finance committee. Proposed: Cllr Fairey, Seconded: Cllr Walsh, all in favour.

**20/108 Council Communications**

*The procedure for communications from the council.*

If councillors communicate with other parties it is as an individual, not as a councillor, unless that communication has been resolved by the council. Councillors should not sign off as councillors on personal communication. Most communication from the council goes through the clerk.

**20/109 Future meetings**

*Conduct and content for future meetings. Does the council wish to develop an action plan for the next 12 months to prioritise specific objectives?*

Cllr Bedford explained that on ELAC training they realised other councils have very different meetings to ours. Councillors need to put things on the agenda and be more specific so that we can achieve more as a team.

The objectives of the council are to go on the next agenda.

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**20/110 Planning Committee update**

*To receive a short update of the planning committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020.*

Cllr Gray explained the difficulties the committee has had with calling in a planning application. This is because although we get extra time to comment, we don't get extra time for a call in, and so missed the deadline.

Cllr Gray summarised the meeting for the council.

Cllr Williams left the meeting as her phone battery had run out.

Cllr Beard asked whether the council agreed with Peter Potter as a name for a street in the Tye Road development. We asked TDC to consider this name in the past. It was agreed to do this. Proposed: Cllr Walsh, Seconded: Cllr Beard, all in favour.

**20/111 Finance Committee update**

*To review the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter/end of year finances for 2019/20.*

The clerk summarised the end position of the finances. It was resolved to accept the report.

Proposed: Cllr Bell, Seconded: Cllr Walsh, all in favour.

**20/112 Finance**

*To look through the finance report and approve the payments for June. See appendix 1.*

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

**20/113 Items for next agenda or for information only.**

Cllrs will let the clerk know.

**20/114 Date of next meeting**

*The next meeting will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7pm.*

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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

Minutes written by Mrs. A Baxter

Contact: 01206 827139

Signature .....

Date .....