

Minutes of Meeting on 7th September 2023
Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

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

Also Present:

District Councillor Gary Scott.

3 members of the public.

Mrs Baxter and Mr Dingwall

Absent: Cllr Gill Williams.

23/175 Chairman's welcome and notifications

Cllr Gladwin shared the very sad news that Mr Nick Bell, a former councillor and chairman, has passed away. Nick did a lot for the village both in and out of the council. The council expresses its condolences for his family and friends.

23/176 Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Gill Williams sent her apologies. District Councillor Ann Wiggins and County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi also sent their apologies.

23/177 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Personal Interests.

Cllr Chable declared a personal interest in item 23/189(ii) due to being employed by Market Field School.

23/178 Approval and signing of the minutes from 17th August 2023.

A change was requested regarding the wording of 23/170.

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 17th August 2023 as true and accurate with the change requested.

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

23/179 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the meeting above not covered in this agenda.

The clerk updated that we have not heard anything about the site meeting Cllr Guglielmi said he would arrange with the North Essex Parking Partnership to look at the Colchester Road/School Road junction.

Cllr Guglielmi did contact Chief Inspector Ella Latham (Tendring District Commander) to ask for speed checks in Elmstead and she has asked the community policing teams and road policing team for some.

The clerk sent Cllr Scott details of the property on Holly Way which was discussed in August and Cllr Scott has forwarded this to TDC officers to look into.

Cllr Hare has not yet been added as a bank signatory.

23/180 Public Speaking

Mr Dingwall (council handyman) had sent a list of items to speak to the council about.

Purchase of salt – we are going to do this.

The verges on Clacton Road have not been repaired, Mr Dingwall is still unable to mow or strim due to the stones. It's from Clacton Road car park to Beth Chatto. Mr Dingwall is getting complaints from residents about the state of it. Cllr Gladwin will take a look and then we'll chase with Gigaclear.

A member of public reported that there is a big hole in the verge near Market Place where they've had large vehicles on there and the ground has sunk.

Cllr Chable spoke about a crack in the Holly Way footpath that needs repairing. He will send photos to the clerk for reporting to Essex Highways.

Minutes of Meeting on 7th September 2023
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Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Mr Dingwall spoke about the 3 waste bins by the bus shelters near and opposite Budgens needing to be replaced with larger bins as they are falling apart and too small. Also, about the suggestion of a bin near where the bench is to be installed on Church Road. It was discussed that the council was not sure on that location, due to smells etc. The clerk is to chase the bus shelter bins with TDC.

The dog waste bins are not being emptied often enough.

A member of public asked about the fly tipping in Clacton Road car park. It was responded that as it's not our car park we can't put signage up regarding CCTV cameras.

Mr Dingwall has spoken to the proprietor of the chip shop about seeing a person in the playing field who had come over from the back of the chip shop who looked like they were fly tipping green waste. He was told that they were there to clear garden waste, and he will have a word with them about what they did with the waste.

Cllr Gladwin asked how Mr Dingwall would feel about a bodycam. Mr Dingwall just wants cameras for the mower, so to have good pictures forwards and backwards. Cllr Gladwin has been recommended cameras for motorbikes as they are waterproof. Mr Dingwall said he has had 2 near misses in a matter of months.

Mr Dingwall reported that on Elmcroft there are 2 dead silver birch trees, another tree which has been set on fire and 2 more silver birches with the bark stripped off. The bark stripping has only been in the past 3 to 4 months. There are 2 dead trees on the South Green and 2 trees on the North Green with dead branches. A tree surgeon is needed, and it would be good if they can be cut back in October/November. There are 6 dead trees in the footpath between Tye Road and Church Road, these have been marked and will be cut down by the landowner.

Mr Dingwall raised the footpath from Pavilion View to Elmcroft car park that needs doing. Also, the VAS sign as you come into the village from Colchester isn't working. This has been reported to Essex Highways on a number of occasions, and they still haven't fixed it. The lights on the speed limit signs aren't working either. There was a query as to whether the VAS on Clacton Road is working, we'll keep an eye on it. The keep left signs at the Bromley Road junction are missing. There's a road sign on the School Road/Clacton Road junction that keep getting knocked around. The clerk is to report this.

The village working party is to arrange a walk around with the handyman in the next few weeks.

The handyman was asked when he will plant the tree on Church Road. The ground is still too hard at the moment. When we get a contractor to install the concrete plinth for the bench can we ask them to dig a hole for the tree?

Mr Dingwall asked about the standpipe as there is no other source of water for watering the planters on the South Green. It was discussed that we might be able to borrow or hire a bowser if needed before the standpipe is installed. Cllr Gladwin will speak to a local farmer. Cllr Scott suggested asking Brightlingsea Bloomers.

23/181 District Councillor report

Cllr Scott went through the written report, this is on the council website at <https://www.elmsteadparishcouncil.org.uk/meeting-reports>

Cllr Scott reported that Cllr Nick Turned has left all committees.

The Pride of Tendring will take place on 10th February 2024. He and Cllr Wiggins can put forward 2 nominations. If we have any suggestions let Cllr Scott know before the end of October.

Cllr Scott took photos of the overflowing dog bins on Elmcroft. He has asked for stickers to say try other bins or takes it home.

Minutes of Meeting on 7th September 2023
Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Cllr Scott reported that Veolia (their waste contractor) is having problems across the District. The renewal will be due in 2 years and there is a working party to consider the issues.

Cllr Gladwin asked about the early collections which Veolia continue to do. Cllr Scott responded that there is a lack of staff and new routes and houses which is causing the early collections. There was a long discussion regarding the problems we are experiencing, with dog and regular waste collections. Other contractors, bringing it in house and working with Colchester Borough Council were suggested.

Latimer will be doing a consultation exercise for the Garden Community.

The clerk is to resend the e-mail to Latimer's communication consultants asking for a meeting.

23/182 County Councillor report

Cllr Guglielmi was not in attendance. His monthly report is on the council website at <https://www.elmsteadparishcouncil.org.uk/meeting-reports>.

23/183 Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community

- i) *To decide on a letter to send to the Garden Community Committee members who are also TDC councillors to ask about Elmstead's representation on the committee.*

Cllr Scott reported that the committee needs a new chairman as Cllr Turner has stood down, but that another Tendring councillor needs to be elected to the committee first. We need to know who this councillor will be.

It was resolved to send the letter once we know who the new member is.

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

- ii) *To discuss a suggestion received from Wivenhoe Town Council to work together.*

Wivenhoe TC sent us their response to the land order consultation, and we shared ours with them.

It was resolved to agree to their suggestion to work together.

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

- iii) *To discuss the concerns raised about the financial viability of the Garden Community and implications if it falls through, and communication of our concerns.*

There have been conversations with residents about concerns with house prices falling and mortgages becoming more expensive. The Garden Community originally was documented as needing a 15% return, then a 10-14% return and now a 9% return. The concern is that they will build the first phase, only half a link road and no infrastructure.

It was resolved to write an open letter which can be sent to every councillor in Tendring and potentially the press raising our concerns.

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

Cllr Gladwin will draft and circulate the letter.

23/184 New Community Centre and Open Space land

An update to include an update on the land transfer.

An informal meeting with Go Homes is planned for next week to talk about the land. There are no updates on the transfers.

23/185 Neighbourhood Plan and Neighbourhood Development Order

- i) *To decide on our preferred examiner to be appointed by Tendring District Council.*

Minutes of Meeting on 7th September 2023
Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

It was resolved that the preferred examiner is John Slater, as recommended by our consultant. Proposed: Cllr Gladwin, Seconded: Cllr Brennan, all in favour.

- ii) *To discuss delegation of authority to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to respond to the examiner's questions.*

It was resolved to delegate authority as above. Proposed Cllr Brennan, Seconded: Cllr Gladwin, all in favour.

23/186 South Green standpipe

Any update?

The clerk has been in touch with Affinity Water as we did not receive any updated information for the connection piping being extended onto the green. They have asked that we provide a map with an exact location of where we want the standpipe to be. The clerk will speak to the handyman about this.

23/187 Speeding in Elmstead

To discuss information received in reference to the purchasing of a speed camera.

Cllr Hare reported that a speed camera would cost about £120k, but that the council could contribute £50k and Essex County Council would pay the rest. There was a discussion as to where it could go as the crossing will slow traffic down at the Colchester end and the Lanswood crossing will slow traffic down at the Clacton Road end. Cllr Hare thinks that the 30mph limit should go further to the east.

Cllr Gladwin reported that Essex Highways will try and do another speed survey, the last one was done in 2018. However, they don't currently have available funding to assist with the purchase.

Cllr Donaldson suggested a campaign to raise awareness as School Road is also bad for speeding. It was added that speeding is also a problem through the village, not just on the main roads and the parking is also bad.

It was left for councillors to have a think about what we can do, and Cllr Gladwin will write a separate article for Upmarket to talk about speed cameras and Speedwatch.

23/188 Finance

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

The finance report was approved. Proposed: Cllr Gladwin, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

- ii) *To discuss the purchase of cameras for the mower and a body cam for the handyman for additional security.*

As previously discussed with the handyman it is cameras for the mower that are needed. Cllr Gladwin will speak to the handyman about the best option.

- iii) *To discuss a quote received from Utility Aid for an alternative electricity provider for the streetlights.*

It was discussed that the quote was a lot higher than the new pricing with Npower, but that the quote would be fixed for 3 years.

It was agreed to stay with Npower.

23/189 Playing Field (behind Market Field School)

- i) *An update on the clearing of the fly tipping being organised by Essex County Council.*

Cllr Gladwin reported that a contractor did come and remove some asbestos, but all the rubbish is still there, and Cllr Gladwin found more asbestos that has not been cleared.

The clerk is to chase Essex County Council about this. The fencing is to remain until the area has been cleared.

Minutes of Meeting on 7th September 2023
Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

- ii) *To discuss a request received from Market Field School to use the field on a Saturday morning (9.30 – 11.30) to run football sessions for their students starting 9th September.*

Cllr Chable left the meeting room due to his declared interest in the agenda item.

It was resolved to approve the request subject to it not causing too much wear and tear on the pitch. The council reserves the right to reconsider the agreement of it does.

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

Cllr Chable returned to the meeting room.

23/190 Pavilion View

Any update on the transfer of the allotment land to the Parish Council.

The council has completed the paperwork required to instruct the solicitor.

23/191 Events

- i) *An update from the working party.*

Cllr Jeggo reported that the working party will have another meeting to make the final arrangements for Halloween. A poster to save the date has been placed into Upmarket and on social media. The event will be similar to last year with the addition of food trucks. For the Christmas Fair we have 12 stallholders booked and 3 food trucks. We need to arrange some music for the carols.

- ii) *To decide upon an A-frame to be purchased to advertise events.*

Cllr Brennan will purchase an A-Frame with a budget of £150.

- iii) *An update on the restarting of the social hub in September/October.*

Cllr Donaldson reported that the volunteers met last week, and there are 4 of them in total. The church group is going to do the 20th September, but there won't be enough manpower available to do the 27th, or they could possibly do a reduced offer. It was discussed that it would be good to buy the hub some of its own equipment. At the moment volunteers are having to bring their own kitchen equipment.

The clerk is to check if we got a grant from TDC for the hub, and how much of the Beth Chatto donation is left.

- iv) *Any update on the commemorative bench (Coronation) and the tree to be part of the Queen's Jubilee Canopy.*

The clerk was unable to get a guideline quote from the builder she spoke to. She knows of a contractor who installed a bench for Alresford Parish Council we can ask for a quote.

- v) *Any other event updates?*

Remembrance Day is in hand with Mr Fairweather and Mrs Lewis organising it.

23/192 Items for the next agenda or for information only

None.

22/193 Next meeting

5th October 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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

Minutes written by Mrs. A Baxter

Contact: 01206 827139

Minutes of Meeting on 7th September 2023
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Summary of Actions and Agreements

Agenda item	Actions from Meeting 7th September 2023	Who
23/179	Cllr Hare has not yet been added as a bank signatory.	AB
23/180	Purchase of salt – we are going to do this.	AB
23/180	Cllr Gladwin will take a look and then we'll chase with Gigaclear.	AG/AB
23/180	Cllr Chable spoke about a crack in the Holly Way footpath that needs repairing. He will send photos to the clerk for reporting to Essex Highways.	JC/AB
23/180	The clerk is to chase the bus shelter bins with TDC.	AB
23/180	There's a road sign on the School Road/Clacton Road junction that keep getting knocked around. The clerk is to report this.	AB
23/180	It was discussed that we might be able to borrow or hire a bowser if needed before the standpipe is installed. Cllr Gladwin will speak to a local farmer.	AG
23/181	Village working party to do a walk around with the handyman.	AG/JC/MW/MJ
23/181	Cllr Scott took photos of the overflowing dog bins on Elmcroft. He has asked for stickers to say try other bins or takes it home.	GS
23/181	The clerk is to resend the e-mail to Latimer's communication consultants asking for a meeting.	AB
23/183	Write an open letter which can be sent to every councillor in Tendring and potentially the press raising our concerns. Cllr Gladwin will draft and circulate the letter.	AG
23/186	They have asked that we provide a map with an exact location of where we want the standpipe to be. The clerk will speak to the handyman about this.	AB
23/187	Cllr Gladwin will write a separate article for Upmarket to talk about speed cameras and Speedwatch.	AG
23/188	Cllr Gladwin will speak to the handyman about the best option for cameras for the mower.	AG
23/189	The clerk is to chase Essex County Council about the remaining asbestos and rubbish on the playing field.	AB
23/191	Cllr Brennan will purchase an A-Frame with a budget of £150.	AJB
23/191	The clerk is to check if we got a grant from TDC for the hub, and how much of the Beth Chatto donation is left.	AB
23/191	The clerk knows of a contractor who installed a bench for Alresford Parish Council we can ask for a quote.	AJB