

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 18th May 2017

Elmstead Parish Council

Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Present: Councillors P Beard (Chairman), N Bell, R Fairweather, B Kavanagh, M Kirby, J Routledge, J Snowden, J Triscott and M Ward

Also Present: District Councillor Fred Nicholls, District Councillor Rosemary Heaney, Mrs Baxter (Clerk), and 7 members of the public

17/001 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Anne Smith sent her apologies

17/002 Approval and signing of the minutes from 19th May 2016.

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 19th May 2016 as true and accurate.

17/003 Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Beard updated that since the last Annual Parish Meeting there has been a change of chair and vice-chair. He thanked Cllr Bell who was chair for over 5 years. He also thanked Mr Redding who used to be vice-chair and has since left the council. Three new councillors have joined and more hope to join in the near future.

Planning this year has been hectic, with the developments that have benefits for the village being slow to get started, but other developments being quicker. It has been frustrating but going forwards he will be keen to engage with developers with a view to obtaining amenities for the village.

Cllr Beard gave a summary of the larger developments in Elmstead and thanked everyone for the hard work that has been put in on planning.

There has also been the renewal of the playing field lease as a joint arrangement with Market Field School. We went from a starting point of potentially losing the field to having a large fenced off area to the better solution we have now of the gates being shut during school hours. Well done to all involved and thank you to Cllr Bell for walking the field to keep an eye on the dog mess situation.

Looking to the future we have a village plan. We want to push this forwards but need to pick some key items to focus upon.

As a Parish Council we need to engage more, Cllr Routledge is doing a good job with the Upmarket reports.

Cllr Beard reminded Cllrs that when they speak to others about PC decisions they are part of that decision whether they voted for or against it.

It has been a challenging year for Speedwatch as there has been limited training to get volunteers joining in. We are frustrated that people are driving too fast. If getting the Speedwatch presence out there reduces speed and saves lives it is a very good thing.

Cllr Beard reminded councillors to attend the training, it is very important and is included in the budget.

Cllr Beard gave his thanks to all the councillors, the clerk and the District Councillors who are very supportive to us. He congratulated them on winning the local election.

Regarding the defibrillator it will be going in Budgens.

17/004 Chair of Finance Committee – Annual Report

See Annual Report

Cllr Fairweather asked if there were any questions. There was a question around the overall bank balance going up and the precept going up. There was a discussion around reserves and that the PC are saving for future expenditure by specific items in the budget, and so the overall bank balance will increase. For example we set aside an amount each year to be able to purchase a new

Signature

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mower in the future. Cllr Beard said well done to the Finance Committee and thanked the Personnel Committee too.

17/005 Village Plan – Report of progress this year.

Cllr Beard reiterated that we'll look at progressing a few items. This doesn't have to just be for councillors to do, it can also be parishioners. He is keen to do this.

17/006 Public Question Time

None.

Cllr Beard stated that he is keen to do the giving of the grants during this meeting next year as then more people from the village will hear the chairman's report.

The meeting closed at 7.28pm.

Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter

Contact: elmsteadparish@gmail.com 01206 827139

Signature

Date