

**Minutes 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
**Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

Present: Councillors Paul Beard (Chairman), Solma Ahmed, Nick Bell, John Gray, Bob Kavanagh, Mike Kirby, Jean Routledge and Martine Ward

Also Present: District Councillors Rosemary Heaney and Fred Nicholls, Mrs Baxter (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

**18/026 Chairman's welcome**

Cllr Beard welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the councillors, clerk and handyman for their work over the past month. There has been a lot to do, the new bus shelter has been installed and looks fantastic. Cllr Beard thanked Ron Fairweather, Alan Dingwall and Cllr Kavanagh for their hard work installing the shelter.

**18/027 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Triscott sent her apologies as she was unwell.

**18/028 Co-option of a Councillor**

*John Gray has expressed his interest in joining the council.*

Mr Gray gave a brief history of his involvement in village groups when he first moved to the village 8 years ago. He became involved with EMCHAT, and then went on to become chair. He also joined the Parish Council. When he left the village a few years ago he left the PC but has been back for two years now and would like to join again.

It was resolved to co-opt Mr Gray as a councillor. Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

Cllr Beard welcomed Cllr Gray on board and updated the attendees that there are still 2 vacancies on the council.

**18/029 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests**

None

**18/030 Approval and signing of the minutes from 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 as true and accurate.

Proposed Cllr Routledge, Seconded Cllr Kirby, 7 in favour (Cllr Gray was not a member for the January meeting).

**18/031 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

The clerk gave a brief verbal update.

**18/032 Public Speaking**

A member of public asked for an update regarding the parking outside Flair Hair/Autumn House. The PC has informed Ian Taylor of TDC that it has no objection to people parking there and Mr Taylor will have taken this to the NEPP (North Essex Parking Partnership). Cllr Beard said that a resident has contacted us regarding how she could support the day care business at Autumn House. The PC has looked into the problem with the help of our District Councillors and it is a planning issue regarding the number of children that can be looked after in a home residence. There was a previous planning application to change the use of the building to a day care centre but it was turned down. (See item 18/034)

**18/033 County Councillor report**

See appendix 2.

**18/034 District Councillor reports**

Cllr Beard thanked both District Councillors for all the help they provide us with outside of the meetings.

Cllr Nicholls provided some further information regarding the day care business at Autumn House. They are permitted 6 under 8 year olds and there had been a complaint that there

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were more attending. Planning enforcement has visited the business to explain that there is no planning requirement for up to 6 children and as a planning application was refused for traffic and parking reasons they will need to limit their attendees to 6.

In line with the Essex Police Campaign "Speed kills" Cllr Nicholls proposed a motion to TDC to have a 30mph limit through every village and a 20mph limit outside every school. The motion was carried and he will be going to see Cllr Grundy (Essex Highways chairman). Cllr Beard raised the issue of parking outside Market Field School. Cllr Nicholls asked for an e-mail from the PC to request parking restrictions for that area. The item is to go on the next agenda first.

The free parking scheme in Tendring will continue. The Big Society has money that can be applied for for worthwhile causes. The new roundabout on the A120 should be finished by Autumn. The Tendring car rally has been approved.

Cllr Heaney: It's the Pride of Tendring Awards next Friday. Cllr Beard is unable to attend but it was felt that the PC should be represented in support of our award winner. Cllr Bell asked the clerk to check if he and his wife could attend in lieu of Cllr Beard.

**18/035 Planning**

*To hear an update from the planning committee or otherwise regarding planning. Any significant updates?*

- i) *APP/P1560/W/7/3169150 Land adjacent Market Field School, School Road Elmstead. Outline application for the erection of 62 dwellings, associated garaging, parking and infrastructure. Appeal allowed.*

Cllr Routledge has looked through the planning Inspector's report and it's a question of the inspector's judgement on a subjective issue. Cllr Routledge asked, is there any redress?

Cllr Nicholls replied that TDC planning are not in favour of this application but would not be taking it to judicial review. The planning inspector has done nothing legally wrong. It was discussed that some developers are being slow in building houses in order to keep Tendring below its targets for the 5 year housing supply. Cllr Nicholls added that by the time the possible application for 90 houses on Bromley Road comes around the 5 year plan should be signed off. It was discussed that despite the hours the Parish Council put into fighting this application the planning inspector's report mentions our objections only once. Cllr Heaney suggested that the PC complains to Bernard Jenkin MP. This item is to be included on the next agenda of the planning committee or full council.

- ii) *14/01238/OUT Agricultural Field to The North of Meadow Close Elmstead Essex CO7 7HR. Outline application for the erection of twenty dwellings with associated access and pedestrian crossing on Colchester Road. Any update?*

The sales contract for this development has not yet been agreed.

Cllr Beard added that Strutt and Parker has requested that the 5 year plan includes an extra field within the development border. Cllr Nicholls explained that the Tendring part of the local plan will be heard in the next 2-3 months. Developers will push the planning inspector for what they want and can ask to speak. He advised the PC to go and speak at the hearing, to explain what we want. Cllr Heaney advised that we write to Mr Guiver at TDC planning and request to speak. This item is to be included on the next agenda of the planning committee or full council.

**18/036 Church Road Development – New community Centre and other s106 benefits**

*To discuss the outcome of the meeting between Cllr Beard/Mr Fairweather and Gary Guiver (Planning Manager TDC). To discuss next steps for the PC and New Community Centre Committee.*

Cllr Beard reported on the meeting with Mr Guiver: Newells has been to see Mr Guiver and they want to give the PC the money for the community centre. They are deciding whether to put a new application in for more houses. The deal that the original developers had with the landowner included a discount to help with the community centre build. The new developers did not receive that discount. Cllr Beard and Mr Guiver went through the quote that Newell's provided us with for the hall and some items were outside of the £400,000 figure given in the

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section 106 agreement. We can argue to keep the community centre within this development and accept a smaller hall, or part fund it. There is the potential option of the future Charity Field developers providing a hall but as it stands that is not certain. Mr Guiver informed Cllr Beard that he can make it part of a deal that the hall be protected. Newell's can put in a new application for extra houses and no hall, but Mr Guiver says that they would take the planning history into account. Cllr Heaney added that when developers come back for more houses the planning committee don't like it. Mr Guiver advised that we need a good working relationship with the developer providing our community facilities. Other options discussed were an extension to the cricket pavilion but this is not possible with financial constraints, upgrading the current community centre but that would mean the hall would have to close down for a while and customers would go elsewhere and whether TDC could provide us with land to build a hall but the answer was no. There was a discussion over the number of surveys done by the PC, the exhibition provided at the Primary School and the survey and options done at the FV premises and whether those asked the question of where the preferred site for the hall is.

There is only one purchaser left in the process for the Charity Field development sale. A representative of that company has indicated (from a personal opinion) that he thinks they would be happy to take the £400,000 from Newell's and build a hall on the Charity Field site. They may also want to build more homes though and will need to put in a new application. Mr Guiver has said that he will be happy to reverse the layout as previously requested so that the green space is at the North end. Cllr Beard said that there has not been a new community centre committee meeting yet, the PC will meet with Newell Homes first and see what they say.

Regarding the new community centre committee it was resolved that Cllr Bell will leave the committee and Cllr Gray will join the committee. Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Routledge, all in favour.

**18/037 S106 funds to be spent on open space.**

*TDC are holding s106 funds which need to be allocated to a project by March. The PC are seeking quotes for work on the fencing at Elmcroft and discussing alternative ideas. To look at the quotes and make a decision regarding the project to put forward to TDC for their process of approval.*

Cllr Beard reported that he met the GoHomes representative at Elmcroft and he has agreed that they will replace all the fencing, the CEO just needs to sign it off. They also looked at the community centre car park but there is not a lot they can do.

Cllr Kavanagh met one contractor and will call him. This contractor had advised that it all needed replacing. The clerk is to ask the other contractor for a quote to replace the whole lot as the quote provided was to replace a part of the fencing. If Go-homes do agree to replace the fencing there will need to be an alternative request for s106 fund spending.

It was resolved that the PC would request the funds to purchase 3 wooden benches for the use of the village. Proposed: Cllr Kavanagh, Seconded: Cllr Beard, all in favour.

**18/038 Funding**

*A report from Cllr Ward on the Local Services Fund Briefing she attended.*

Cllr Ward: This is money to help the local community. For new projects you can apply for £10,000/year, or for £15,000 for 3 years to employ someone. The project must carry on after. Villages have applied if they have no handyman. If you set up a community café you can employ someone and the revenue will eventually pay for the employee. There is also the Community Investment Fund (CIF) which we can apply to for money for the new community centre. Similarly for the Big Lottery Fund. EALC can help us with funding applications when the time comes.

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**18/039 North Green**

*An update*

The new bus shelter has been installed along with a new litter bin next to the shelter. The PC and the church have agreed on the joint purchase of two wooden noticeboards and they will be ordered shortly.

**18/040 Committees personnel**

**To decide on additional member(s) for the following committees:**

*i) The finance committee is 1 member short*

It was resolved for Cllr Ahmed to join the finance committee. Proposed: Cllr Ward,  
Seconded: Cllr Beard, all in favour.

*ii) The planning committee is 1 member short or to discuss the disbanding of the planning committee.*

It was resolved for Cllr Gray to join the planning committee. Proposed: Cllr Beard,  
Seconded: Cllr Kirby, all in favour.

Cllr Beard queried the need for a planning committee and the response was that as the committee only meets when needed there is no urgent need to look at integrating planning back in to the main meeting.

**18/041 Bluegates Donation**

*An update on the village gateways and VAS signs.*

Cllr Routledge: The gates have been made and delivered to the Tendring Rangers along with the posts for the VAS signs. We are awaiting confirmation of the date of delivery for the VAS signs which will also go to the Rangers' depot. We don't know yet about Essex Highways' moving of the current signage along Clacton Road as approved in January's meeting. The installation of the VAS signs costs £165 which includes a ground survey. This leaves £4,000 of the original Bluegates donation to spend. It could be used to bolster the money spent on North Green. It was discussed that we have two other bus shelters which need a refurbishment. Also the shelter outside Budgens does not have any seating. The clerk is to obtain a quote from a contact of Mr Fairweather's and add the refurbishment of the two shelters to the next meeting.

**18/042 Parking on Bromley Road**

*Residents have brought it to the PC's attention that when cars are parked on the bend it is difficult for drivers to see the road. Last month this was discussed at the PC meeting and it was decided to bring the subject back to the February meeting where more councillors are present to contribute their ideas.*

It was discussed that it is dangerous to park on the corner, we could request double yellow lines but that might move the problem parking. The March upmarket contains a request not to park there. Could we ask the police to enforce it? Cllr Nicholls informed us that the police don't deal with parking, it's the NEPP (North Essex Parking Partnership). Cllr Heaney added that we can ask Darren Deex (Tendring Police Inspector) to arrange for a PCSO to look at the parking there. Cllr Nicholls said that his role at TDC is corporate enforcement and if we want double yellow lines he can instigate this with the NEPP which will require a Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) which may take 9 months to a year to process.

It was resolved that the PC asks Cllr Heaney to contact Darren Deex for a PCSO to come out, and to send an e-mail to Cllr Nicholls requesting that he start the process of requesting a TRO. Proposed: Cllr Kavanagh, Seconded: Cllr Gray, 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

**18/043 Elmstead Playing Field**

*i) Market Field School has provided additional information (circulated) regarding the requested use of the field for a Community Fair on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Does the PC agree to the use of the field?*

It was resolved to approve this event with no fee to be charged. Proposed: Cllr Kirby,  
Seconded: Cllr Beard, all in favour.

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- ii) *Mr Bean Entertainments has requested the use of the field for their Circus Petite event. They are looking at Monday 19th March to Sunday 25th March or Monday 2nd April to Sunday 8th April. To discuss the potential hire of the field for this event.*

It was resolved to approve this event for a £100 fee. There is to be no equipment on the football pitch and no visitor parking on the field. A councillor will direct them to where they can pitch their tent. Proposed: Cllr Kavanagh, Seconded: Cllr Bell, 6 in favour, 3 against.

**18/044 Annual Parish Meeting**

*In recent years this meeting has consisted of a Chairman's annual report and a Finance Report and has been held directly before the May Annual Parish Council Meeting. This meeting must be held between 1 March and 1 June. It must not start before 6pm. It is a meeting of local electors and can include business to be transacted to be voted on by the electors present. It can also include presentations and displays etc, for public interest and/or participation. To discuss the timing and format for this year's meeting.*

It was resolved that the Annual Parish Meeting would be at 7pm on the same date as the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which will be 17<sup>th</sup> May. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will follow with a short break between. The grants are to be handed out at the Annual Parish Meeting. Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Bell, all in favour.

**18/045 Finance**

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

It was resolved to accept the finance report and approve the payments.

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

**18/046 Finance Committee**

- i) *To agree the terms of reference for the Finance Committee.*

It was resolved to agree the terms of reference. Proposed: Cllr Ward, Seconded: Cllr Kirby, all in favour.

- ii) *To discuss timing for grants.*

The deadline for grant applications is to be the 12<sup>th</sup> April. The clerk will contact all the groups who usually apply, and a paragraph will go in the April Upmarket inviting applications from any other groups.

**18/047 Communications** *Items of interest for inclusion in our April Upmarket report in addition to the report of meeting.*

The news of our new councillor, Cllr Gray, and the two vacancies.

**18/048 Items for next agenda or for information only**

None

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

**The meeting closed at 10.00pm.**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**To be held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead**

**Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter**

**Contact: [elmsteadparish@gmail.com](mailto:elmsteadparish@gmail.com) 01206 827139**

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**Appendix 1**

<b>Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report</b>	
<i>Closing Balances to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 are:</i>	
Current Account to end of month	£ 34,825.00
Total Expenses unpaid at end of month	-£ 113.11
Total of expenses below (February payments - request for approval)	-£ 1,950.99
Balance in current account after monthly expenses	£ 32,760.90
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 153	£ 27,719.51
Active Saver Account (Bluegates Donation)	£ 10,076.60
<b>Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit</b>	<b>£ 70,557.01</b>
<i>Income Details for January 2018:</i>	
Zurich Insurance Payout for bus shelter	£ 4,292.50
<b>Total income for the month</b>	<b>£ 4,292.50</b>
Approval is requested for the following payments:	
Community Centre Hall Hire for January x 3	£ 48.00
Signs Made Easy 4 x UPVC Gateways	£ 1,350.00
Cllr Kavanagh – Healey: hire of hydraulic breaker for preparing ground for bus shelter on North Green £55.20. B&Q postmix 20KG x 4 for North Green bus shelter groundworks £20.43	£ 75.63
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd – Pruning Saw	£ 29.99
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd – Paint brush set, teak oil (for noticeboard on Harvest Way), Telescopic Lopper, WD40	£ 99.46
Mr A Dingwall – padlock for community centre bin, 2 x accident report books	£ 19.08
Cllr Ward - attendance at Local Services Fund Briefing 1st Feb. Mileage - 38 miles x 2 @£0.45/mile = £34.20. Parking £3.00	£ 37.20
Mower insurance renewal - Zurich	£ 291.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 1,950.99</b>

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## ECC Report February 2018

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**Secondary school performance tables confirm Essex pupils are achieving  
above the national average in GCSEs**

Secondary schools in Essex have cause for celebration today after new statistics confirmed the county's GCSE pupils again performed above the national average.

About 15,000 young people were entered into GCSEs at schools in Essex last year, which was the first since the Government introduced a new numerical (9 to 1) grading system.

Figures released by the Department for Education, alongside the secondary school performance tables, show the Attainment 8 score for Essex (average grade across a set of eight subjects) was 46.7 – above the national average of 46.4.

As a result of today's data, Essex is ranked 58 of all 151 local authorities.

The 65.3 per cent of pupils in Essex who achieved a standard pass at GCSE (9-4) in English and maths is also above the national average of 64.2 per cent

English language, English literature and maths were the only subjects to be graded under the new 9 to 1 scale, with others continuing to be graded A\* to G. Most other subjects are expected to adopt numerical grades by 2019.

As well as releasing revised Key Stage 4 results today, the Department for Education has published revised A-Level results.

Cllr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said:  
"Secondary schools in Essex are continuing to perform exceptionally well, with about 97.5 per cent currently rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted, compared with a national average of 80.3 per cent.

"The new GCSE grading scales represented an additional test and I would like to once again congratulate schools and their pupils on their excellent achievements in challenging circumstances.

"As a council, we remain committed to ensuring all pupils in Essex receive the best possible education and continue to work very closely with schools."

Up to 22 new schools to be built in Essex over the next decade with 22,000 new school places likely to be needed by 2027

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**More than 22,000 new school places will be needed across Essex over the next decade, according to a new strategy published by Essex County Council.**

The council's ten year plan, *Meeting the demand for school places in Essex 2018 - 2027*, provides the background to school place planning in Essex and outlines the anticipated demand for places in each district, as well as listing likely solutions.

Projections currently show an extra 12,201 new primary school places and 9,915 new secondary school places (22,116 in total) will be needed across the county between now and 2027.

They include:

- 1,235 new places in Basildon (1,085 primary and 150 secondary)
- 1,608 places in Braintree (1,008 primary and 600 secondary)
- 1,264 places in Brentwood (679 primary and 585 secondary)
- 257 places in Castle Point (217 primary and 40 secondary)
- 2,814 places in Chelmsford (1,589 primary and 1,225 secondary)
- 4,942 places in Colchester (2,457 primary and 2,485 secondary)
- 872 places in Epping Forest (217 primary and 655 secondary)
- 1,843 places in Harlow (693 primary and 1,150 secondary)
- 779 places in Maldon (504 primary and 275 secondary)
- 1,020 places in Rochford (595 primary and 425 secondary)
- **2,921 places in Tendring (1,526 primary and 1,395 secondary)**
- 2,561 places in Uttlesford (1,631 primary and 930 secondary)

Essex County Council works closely with partners, including schools, district/borough councils and housing providers, to assess demand for school places and the ten year plan is updated regularly as projections change.

The plan also outlines the projects Essex County Council already has planned to meet the growing needs of the county, along with other potential future options.

The council spent about £74million creating 2,535 new permanent mainstream places across the county for the 2017/18 academic year and plans to create thousands more in the years to come.

In addition to its own projects, the council also continues to support the submission of free school applications to help meet demand.

It is currently estimated that up to 22 new mainstream schools will be needed over the next ten years in Essex, while a number of existing schools will also need to be expanded.

Among the new schools in the pipeline over the next decade are primary schools in Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford.

There are also secondary schools set to be built in Colchester and Harlow, and all-through schools in Chelmsford and Colchester.

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Cllr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "We have an excellent track record of investing in new school places and spent about £74million creating more than 2,500 places ahead of September 2017.

"As a result, we were able to offer a record percentage of primary and secondary school pupils their parents' preferred places for the latest academic year, which is an outstanding achievement in the current climate.

"Despite our successes, we recognise that the county is continuing to grow and a further 22,000 new school places will be needed over the next decade.

"We remain committed to ensuring Essex has the infrastructure it needs to grow and have outlined plans to spend a further £87million on mainstream school projects as part of our ambitious £300million budget proposals."

To find out more about the school places likely to be needed in your area and some of the potential solutions, please visit [https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Delivering-Education-Essex/School-Organisation-Planning/Documents/Meeting\\_demand\\_for\\_school\\_places.pdf](https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Delivering-Education-Essex/School-Organisation-Planning/Documents/Meeting_demand_for_school_places.pdf)

Understanding school place planning:

- **What is the council's responsibility around school places?**

Essex County Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for children between 4 and 16 years old

- **How are decisions made about where new school places are needed?**

Forecast data is used to predict the level of need for school places, including historical trends in school admissions, current numbers on roll, birth data and housing data

- **How are school building projects funded?**

Funding for school building projects comes from a variety of sources, including grant funds from central government, developer contributions, and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding

- **Why don't school places come before new development?**

A detailed database of new housing developments is kept, recording the mix of housing and flats, and the likely number of school-aged children a development will therefore house. Planning new school places is a difficult balancing act, particularly where there is uncertainty about if/when potential new developments will be built. Without certainty about development, there is a risk new/expanded schools will be underused and could end up not being financially viable.

**Binned clothes costing taxpayer £1.5 million to dispose of**

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More than half of the clothes binned in Essex could have been reused or recycled, a move which is costing the Essex taxpayer more than £1.5 million a year.

Every household in the county throws away the equivalent of 36 woolly jumpers each year, according to Recycle for Essex, which is launching a campaign to remind residents that all textiles can be reused or recycled.

Throughout January, Recycle for Essex is temporarily putting piles of old clothes in Basildon, Brentwood, Chelmsford and Colchester to highlight to passers-by how much is going to waste.

Cllr Simon Walsh, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, said: "If you no longer want a particular item or outfit, it's likely someone else will. Unwanted clothes can be resold, rejuvenated, given to friends and family, recycled or given to charity.

"In Essex, all clean clothing and textiles can be recycled, and it's never been easier for households in Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest and Rochford with kerbside collections.

"If you are not able to use kerbside collections, there are more than 150 textile banks across Essex, including those at Recycling Centres, which can take good quality clothing, as well as clean, worn out clothes which could be ripped or even have holes in it."

Textiles are either reused or made into new material and used in everything from cloth wipes for industry to felt and yarn. Items that are reused can be sent to suppliers in other countries, creating jobs for warehouse staff, haulage companies and stall holders.

**County Council announces £300m budget spending plan**

A £300 million investment in roads, schools and new homes will help Essex reach its "enormous untapped" economic potential as the Council's budget was agreed today.

Essex County Council's £1.8 billion spending plan for 2018/19 was approved at Full Council on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, including a 4.99% rise in Council Tax.

Cllr David Finch, Leader of the Council, said: "The budget approved today means we can continue building the future our residents and business deserve.

"Economic growth will improve not only the living standards of people in Essex, but also their health and wellbeing, opportunities and life chances.

"We all know there is enormous untapped opportunity in our economy and an entrepreneurial spirit that is hard-wired into our DNA, which we must capitalise on in the future."

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This includes developing an Industrial Strategy for the county, investing £14 million in superfast broadband, £126 million into major road schemes and maintenance, plus an extra £3 million for pothole and footpath repairs.

The budget also includes £87 million for mainstream schools and £17 million for special schools to create an extra 2,750 school places to ensure our children get the best start in life.

“The Essex population is set to rise by more than 230,000 people over the next 20 years,” said Cllr Finch.

“Therefore we are committed to enabling housing growth in a way that the characteristics of the county we cherish so dearly are protected and enhanced. We want Essex to be a great place to grow up, live and work, therefore we are not just building new homes, we are building communities.

“These communities can act as the catalyst for economic growth.

“In the next year we will work with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to develop a strong partnership approach towards securing new homes and infrastructure in sustainable garden communities.”

The continued reduction in central Government funding, which will disappear completely by 2020, combined with increasing demand for services, increases in inflation, business rates and National Living Wage payments, mean the Council has increased Council Tax for only the third time in the last eight years.

It will rise by 2% through the Government’s social care precept, which will be ring-fenced to adult social care, and 2.99% to support the delivery of vital services such as highways, public transport, libraries and recycling centres.

It represents a £1.12 per week rise for the average Band D property.

Cllr Louise McKinlay, Cabinet Member for Resources, added: “This is only the third tax increase time in the last eight years, which followed five consecutive years of council tax freezes.

“We feel this is realistic and proportionate. Previously we have found other ways to cope with the costs of rising demand on services, along with increases in inflation, business rates and National Living Wage payments.

“Just like ordinary families, we are not immune to pressures like inflation. But our track record of doing the right thing and not increasing tax has seen us keep £161 million in the pockets of Essex taxpayers to spend how they wish.”

Essex County Council’s proposed Council tax levels for 2018/19 are:

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Council Tax Band	2017/18 £	2018/19 £
Band A	775.80	814.50
Band B	905.10	950.25
Band C	1,034.40	1,086.00
<b>Band D</b>	<b>1,163.70</b>	<b>1,221.75</b>
Band E	1,422.30	1,493.25
Band F	1,680.90	1,764.75
Band G	1,939.50	2,036.25
Band H	2,327.40	2,443.50

**Superfast Essex reaches 100k milestone**

The Superfast Essex broadband programme has reached a new high, enabling 100,000 homes and businesses to access superfast broadband.

The new headline milestone is the latest achievement in the fibre infrastructure rollout being co-ordinated by Essex County Council in partnership with network operators Openreach and Gigaclear. It means 100,000 more Essex homes and businesses can now access superfast speeds of 30Mbps and above.

The news comes as the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport announces the nationwide superfast broadband rollout, led by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), successfully achieved its target of providing at least 95% of the UK with access to superfast broadband by the end of 2017.

Superfast Essex has helped contribute to this national target, and the Openreach rollout in the county continues to be three months ahead of schedule. In total more than 385km of fibre cabling has been installed under the subsidised deployment programme across the county – three and a half times the length of the English Channel which is also roughly the same as the distance from Earth to the International Space Station.

Essex County Councillor Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Skills, Infrastructure and the Digital Economy, said: “Superfast Essex has made tremendous progress in helping our county become better connected and reaching 100,000 homes and businesses is a phenomenal milestone. We are not complacent and know there is still more to do but this is a fantastic achievement and one we should be proud of.”

The Superfast Essex programme is ongoing, with work planned to reach more than 144,000 homes and businesses in total by early 2020. Further work, seeking to address the remaining gaps in coverage by the end of 2021 is currently being commissioned.

Minister for Digital Margot James, said: “Superfast Essex has done a tremendous job rolling out superfast broadband to more than 100,000 homes and businesses to

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**Minutes 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
**Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

date. We have now taken superfast broadband to 19 out of 20 UK homes and businesses, but we want everyone to have access to fast, reliable and affordable broadband and we are reaching thousands more properties every single week.”

Clive Selley, Openreach CEO, said: “Everyone at Openreach is determined to deliver decent broadband speeds to every home and business in Britain. That is our mission, and we won’t be happy until every property from Land’s End to John O’Groats has access to decent speeds. Today represents an important milestone in this mission, and it’s important for me to recognise the huge contribution of our engineers and planners in what has been a titanic and complex engineering project in getting superfast broadband to 100,000 Essex homes and businesses at the same time as we celebrate getting it to 95% across the nation. This is on top of the Openreach commercial roll out which has given 600,000 Essex homes and businesses access to the technology.

“More than 27 million homes have been upgraded since 2009, and the UK now enjoys faster speeds, and broader coverage than all of the major EU economies. I’m proud that Openreach people have played the leading role in one of Britain’s great, unsung engineering achievements.”

Brett Shepherd, Gigaclear Chief Operating Officer, said: “This is a fantastic achievement and one we’re thrilled to have been part of. Our focus is ensuring that often forgotten about rural communities have access to the latest and very best broadband technology. Through our full fibre to the premises offering, we have not only delivered on superfast speeds, but have connected some areas in the county to future proofed ultrafast speeds of over 300mbps. This brings Essex into the 21st Century, and stands as an example of the kind of technology that is vital for the UK’s digital economy.”

To find out if your property is due to be upgraded as part of the Superfast Essex programme’s rollout plans, check the Superfast Essex interactive map which displays address level information: [www.superfastessex.org/maps](http://www.superfastessex.org/maps).

Anyone not currently due for an upgrade can register their demand for faster broadband by completing the Make the Connection Survey:  
[www.superfastessex.org/registerdemand](http://www.superfastessex.org/registerdemand)

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