

Minutes 15th June 2017
Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

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

Also Present: Mrs Baxter (Clerk) and 9 members of the public

17/119 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Routledge, Kirby, Snowden and Smith sent their apologies. Also District Councillors Nicholls and Heaney and County Councillor Guglielmi were unable to attend due to a TDC Local Plan Committee meeting.

17/120 Co-opting of Councillors

Solma Ahmed would like to join the Parish Council. To hear briefly from Mrs Ahmed before co-option.

Mrs Ahmed told the PC a little about herself and her background. Since she moved to the village she has been made to feel welcome and would like to make a contribution to the community. Cllr Beard welcomed Mrs Ahmed to join the Parish Council. Cllr Beard thanked the other councillors and the clerk for their hard work and efforts over the last month.

17/121 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

None

17/122 Approval and signing of the minutes from 18th May 2017.

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 18th May 2017 as true and accurate. They were signed by the Chairman.

Proposed Cllr Triscott, Seconded: Cllr Kavanagh, all in favour.

17/123 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 18th May 2017.

The clerk made a verbal update. With reference to item 17/111(ii) Cllr Beard updated the PC that the Wivenhoe U12s will start playing on Elmstead Playing Field in August on Saturday mornings 10-12am. They are going to let us know if they also want some evening use.

17/124 Public Speaking

Mrs Valentine spoke about the litter she found between Saresta and the cattery when she was delivering Upmarket. Also that the speeding along the 30mph stretch of Bromley Road is getting worse.

Cllr Kavanagh is to speak to Mrs Valentine.

17/125 County Councillor report

See attached.

Cllr Beard asked about the defibrillator that Lanswood Park is providing for the village and is to be installed in Budgens. Cllr Fairweather replied that it should be delivered this week and the electrical installation is lined up and will possibly be free of charge. The public asked if there were any first responders in the village. It was thought that there is one but it was not known for sure.

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17/126 District Councillor reports.
Not present.

17/127 Planning – Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community – Local Plan
Following on from the May 18th PC meeting, to discuss and agree the letter to be sent to Mrs Cath Bicknell. Also to discuss councillor attendance at the Local Plan exhibition to be held at the community centre on 4th July (2pm-8pm).
It was discussed that the wording of the letter was not strong enough to convey the importance of the potential impact of this development on Elmstead. There was also a discussion about the location of the road which will join the A133 and the A120. Some felt that it was too close to Elmstead and others that it would create a barrier on the far side of the proposed County Park which would inhibit any further development towards Elmstead.
It was resolved to amend the wording to be more strongly put to get the point across. Proposed: Cllr Fairweather, Seconded, Cllr Kavanagh, 6 in favour.
It was moved by Cllr Fairweather and seconded by Cllr Ward to add a paragraph about moving the link road further west, which motion on being put to the vote was declared lost.
The wording of the letter was decided in the meeting, see attached Appendix 2.
Councillor attendance at the TDC Local Plan Exhibition in Elmstead Community Centre on 4th July was discussed and agreed; 2-3pm Cllr Bell, 3-4pm Cllr Triscott, 4-5pm Cllr Ahmed, 5-6pm Cllr Kavanagh, 6-7pm Cllr Ward, 7-8pm Cllrs Beard and Fairweather. The actual public times of the exhibition were unknown, Cllr Fairweather will check.
The clerk is to check the office for name badge holders.

17/128 Planning Applications – To decide comments to return to TDC planning
17/00785/OUT Lanswood Park Broomfield Road Elmstead Essex CO7 7FD Hybrid submission for outline permission for the provision of proposed buildings 7, 8, & 9. Variation of approved planning application 08/01426/FUL to provide two smaller footprint and smaller scale office buildings identified as 5 & 6 as replacement for original building 3. Planning officers have shared their comments – is this a “neutral” or “in favour of response?”
It was unanimously resolved that the response is an “in favour of” response.

Planning Applications - For information only:

17/00866/FUL The Kloof Colchester Road Elmstead Colchester Essex CO7 7EE Alterations to existing dwelling, provision of Hardieplank cladding in lieu of render and provision of pitched tiled roof in lieu of flat roof to two storey element to front/side of the existing dwelling. Planning officers have no objections, no comment made.

Planning Determinations - For information only:

17/00367/OUT Mr D Hunter Turnip Lodge Farm Turnip Lodge Lane Elmstead CO7 7BD Outline planning application for one detached bungalow. Refusal – Outline

17/00511/FUL Mr Philip Robinson 31 Turnip Lodge Cottages Turnip Lodge Lane Elmstead CO7 7BD Ground floor extension to front and side, and demolition of existing conservatory. Approval – Full

17/129 Planning – Minerals and Waste – Tarmac Public Exhibition for extension to Wivenhoe Quarry with new access from B1027 - St Andrews Church, Alresford 2pm-8pm.
To discuss PC attendance, questions to ask and points of concern to raise.

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The PC received an update from a resident whose house will be directly adjacent to the new quarry. At Tarmac's invitation they have been on a site visit to a modern quarry. Observing the machinery, dust and noise has confirmed their concerns. They are also worried about the beeping noise of lorries reversing. The site they visited had no housing within miles.

It was discussed that Tarmac have sent a letter to some Elmstead residents informing them of this public exhibition, but that not everyone had received the letter. The clerk is to ask Tarmac about this and post the information on the website and Facebook.
[Cllr Ahmed left the meeting.]

The increase in traffic through Elmstead was discussed and will be raised as a query. Cllrs Triscott, Ward, Bell and Fairweather are to attend the exhibition.

17/130 Planning – Any informational updates on developments in Elmstead; Church Road, Charity Field, Tye Road or School Road?

Cllr Fairweather reported that there had been a site visit to Charity Field last week. The information from the Charity Field trustees is that they are still resolving issues and not ready to bring the site to market.

For Church Road we have been informed that a purchaser exists, solicitors have been instructed and they expect completion around the end of July.

There is no update for School Road.

For Tye Road we have received an e-mail which the clerk has just circulated. To add to the agenda for next month to discuss.

Cllr Beard asked Cllr Bell to call Cllr Fred Nicholls and ask about the process for the Tye Road appeal.

17/131 Finance

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

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

- 2. Does the PC agree to the cost of the electrical connection for the defibrillator being installed in Budgens? Cllr Fairweather is researching cost. All other costs are to be met by Lanswood and Budgens.*

Cllr Fairweather has previously stated that it is likely the installation will be free, it depends upon whether we need an isolator and we won't know that until we see the kit that comes with the defibrillator.

17/132 Financial Processes and procedures for staff costs

To discuss and agree a procedure for the agreement of staff cost increases.

Cllr Beard proposed that there needs to be a process for changes in staff costs which fits in with the annual calendar for budget setting, to enable to Finance Committee to incorporate projected staff costs into the annual budget and the setting of the precept. Seconded; Cllr Kavanagh, unanimously resolved.

17/133 Strawberry Summer Fayre

An update from the working party on this event. Does the PC agree with the arrangements so far?

The working party had a meeting with the organisers and the notes had been circulated. There was a discussion around whether there should be a charge for the use of the field. It was discussed that it's a community event, they are trying to get it off the ground, but that they are a business and the PC pays a large rental fee for the lease of the field, and has a duty to reduce the precept where possible. It was also argued whether it was too late to charge a fee.

It was resolved to charge £50 for this event, with 4 councillors in favour and 2 against.

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It was also discussed that we will ask Market Field School if their car park can be used for the event.

17/134 Bluegates Donation

An update on the village improvements to be purchased with this donation.

Cllr Guglielmi has helped to get a response from ECC to our request to install gateways signs and radar speed signs (VAS), and we now have someone looking into the case for us. We have been provided with 3 options for the gateway signs and some information regarding the VAS signs. The working party needs to meet to look through these options and make a recommendation to the council at the next meeting. The clerk is to write a letter to Bluegates to explain the delay and request additional time to spend the donation.

17/135 Village Plan

Cllr Ward proposes that the Parish Council organises a survey of the residents. Please see the copy of the Arlesford survey that Cllr Ward has provided for guidance.

Cllr Ward would like to survey the village to find out what our residents think. It was discussed that historically the response to surveys has been poor, that if we have a specific idea that we wish to get an answer to we can put it in Upmarket and that we should look into easier formats for our surveys. There was no seconder for the motion.

17/136 Village Image

An update on Cllr Kavanagh's proposal for improvements to the appearance of North Green.

Cllr Kavanagh spoke to Mr Gooch and he is in favour of the changes.

The salt bin on North Green has been moved behind the bus stop.

The litter bin has been moved but not too close to the bus shelter to keep wasps away from the shelter.

Cllr Kavanagh has been speaking to people using the bench and they were of mixed opinions about keeping the bench, but made the point that if someone is waiting for a bus and doesn't feel comfortable around other people in the shelter the bench gives them an alternative place to sit and wait. Cllr Kavanagh suggested repainting the bench green to improve the look of it.

The phone box is managed by BT, Mr Gooch has to request the removal of the box and has asked that we put the question to the village in the July Upmarket to see if it would inconvenience anyone with its removal. This has been included with the July article. The PC will give a month to receive responses so we'll be able to discuss any feedback in the August meeting.

It was resolved for Cllr Kavanagh to repaint the bench Buckingham Green. Proposed: Cllr Kavanagh, Seconded: Cllr Beard, 5 in favour.

17/137 Emergency Plan

A report from Cllr Ward who attended the recent TDC Community Resilience Workshop. The council needs 3 people to be contacts in case of emergency situation.

The chairman, clerk and Cllr Ward will be the emergency contacts. Cllr Ward explained that we need to make an emergency plan.

17/138 Road Safety

A pedestrian crossing across Colchester Road, near Oatlands and traffic safety during village events.

The pedestrian crossing is part of the agreement for the Meadow Close development, the developers will be funding the crossing.

Cllr Kavanagh explained that road safety is difficult when we have popular events, such as the Garage Sale Trail. He felt that any events the council organises should include a plan for how pedestrians will cross the road. Cllr Beard agreed that we should consider these for future events.

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- 17/139** **Communications** *Items of interest for inclusion in our August Upmarket report in addition to the report of meeting.*
None
- 17/140** **Items for next agenda or for information only**
The village grass cutting

**There being no further public business councillors were thanked for their attendance.
The meeting closed at 10.24pm.**

Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 20th July 2017

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

Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter

15th June 2017

Contact: elmsteadparish@gmail.com

01206 827139

Signature

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Appendix 1

Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report

Closing Balances to 31st May 2017 are:

Current Account to 31 st May 2017	£34,792.12
Total Expenses unpaid at 31 st May	£1,538.58
Total of expenses below (June payments - request for approval)	£1,147.37
Balance in current account after June expenses	£32,106.17
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 153	£27,714.65
Active Saver Account (Bluegates Donation)	£10,057.39
Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit	£69,878.21

Income Details for May 2017:

Total income for May 2017	£ 0.00

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Elmstead Community Centre – hall hire May x 1	£16.00
Renewal of PC insurance with Zurich (year 2 out of a 3 year agreement)	£1,106.10
Mr A Dingwall – Broom handle and brush, grease for mower	£15.85
Mrs A Baxter – refreshments for May meeting	£9.42
Total Cheques	£1,147.37

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO
 12th June 2017

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Appendix 2

Dear Mrs Bicknell

You kindly attended our Parish Council meeting of 18th May to talk to us about the Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community. Following your suggestion we are writing with our thoughts and concerns about the plans.

- We feel very strongly that we want to keep Elmstead Market as a discrete community and retain the village character enjoyed by so many residents - this is of the utmost importance to us.
- It's of paramount importance to us that the amenity area on the Elmstead Market side of the development will be designated a country park, along the lines of Highwoods.
- We cannot see the sense in having the district centre on the A133 and propose that it should go further north into the heart of the community.
- We noted that there was much opposition at the working party on 10th April to any development to the south of the A133 and also in the Salary Brook valley. We feel if development in these areas is moved elsewhere (whilst not necessarily averse to this per se) it is likely to impact on the green buffer between the new community and Elmstead Market, it is imperative that this green buffer is maintained for the good of Elmstead as a village.

Yours sincerely

Paul Beard

Chairman of Elmstead Parish Council

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ECC Report June 2017

New website to help people find an Independent Living home

A new website will help older people with a care need in Essex to access pioneering new homes that support them to live independently.

The website, www.independentessex.co.uk, went live this week and aims to raise awareness of new Independent Living homes, with 24-hour emergency care and support on-site, among people in later life, their friends, relatives and carers.

It offers detailed descriptions and images of each new Independent Living housing scheme in Essex, plus helpful guidance about the Independent Living lifestyle, funding and care.

The website also features the inspiring stories of some of the first Independent Living residents in Essex, including couple Gladys Wilson, 75, and Kenneth Styles, 72, whose new Independent Living home at Rosebank Park in Harwich enabled them to live together for the first time.

Designed in consultation with existing residents, the website also enables people interested in Independent Living housing to make an initial enquiry for themselves, a friend or relative, or someone they care for.

Cllr John Spence, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said: "Independent Living homes enable more people to retain independence in later life, but with the peace of mind of 24 hour emergency care on-site, as well as community facilities which will keep them connected to their friends and neighbours.

"This new website is an important part of our strategy to help more local people understand the benefits of this pioneering housing option in later life."

ECC is investing up to £27.7 million to create 1,800 new Independent Living homes between now and 2021. The investment will help eligible older people in the county - who would otherwise be housed in residential care, or receiving domiciliary care in a home of their own that may no longer meets their needs - to live independently.

Independent Living homes are self-contained, modern, easy to maintain and designed to meet people's changing needs in later life. The primary difference between Independent Living housing and other types of specialist housing for older people is the availability of 24 hour emergency care and support on-site.

The first new Independent Living housing schemes in Essex are Rosebank Park in Harwich, which opened in January 2017, Beaumont House in Walton-on-the-Naze, which will open in July, and Cornell Court in Saffron Walden, which is planned to open in summer 2018.

To apply for an Independent Living home an individual must be aged 55 or over, have a care need of at least six hours per week and a family connection to the local area of the scheme.

To find out more visit www.independentessex.co.uk

Could you go the extra mile for a child in care?

A local man is encouraging Essex residents who are willing to travel across the country to visit a young person in care, to find out more about Essex County Council's Independent Visitors' (IV) service this Volunteers' Week.

The service enables young people, who for lots of different reasons are placed in care outside of Essex, to spend time having fun with a volunteer mentor during monthly visits.

Berny Wheeler, from the mid-Essex area, joined the service six years ago and has no regrets after being matched with a young person placed over county borders.

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Berny, who is in his sixties, said: “Everyone needs someone at the end of the day – we all do – and particularly with young people who are away from what has been a familiar environment, I think there’s even more of a need.”

“It’s been a fascinating experience over the years; my young person is out of the county and I’ve never batted an eyelid or thought is it worth it - it’s overly worth it. I look forward to seeing him and I know he does the same with me.

“I would absolutely, highly recommend it,” he added.

IVs act as dependable role models by building trusting and positive relationships with their young person over time.

Visits can involve day trips and different activities and an allowance is provided to contribute towards travel and other costs.

Berny said: “I found after a while, you develop a bit of an interactive thing and you decide between yourselves, but ultimately, it’s whatever that young person wants to do – within limits obviously!”

IVs are also given full training before being matched with a young person, including hearing first-hand from existing IVs who are already paired with a child placed outside the county and ongoing support afterwards.

Berny said: “I do remember that was part of the sell for me, seeing other people who are already IVs come in and explain what they get out of it.

“It’s not all about us of course, but the fact is, there is a return on it.

“I was also super impressed with the matching process; a bad match can be unsettling for the young person and the IV, but I was amazed from day one.

“Although we’re completely very different characters, and have different backgrounds and life experiences, we clicked and still do.

“It’s all about maximising the success from the outset”, he added.

Anyone considering being an IV will need to commit to regularly travelling to locations across the country, depending on the placement of the young person, over a minimum of two years.

Berny said: “With placements outside of Essex, the young person probably hasn’t chosen that location, but that’s all the more reason to do it so that they have somebody consistent in their life.

“In my own situation with the young person I’ve seen all these years, I’m the one consistent thread they’ve had throughout – I know he appreciates that. So wherever they are, wherever they go, hang on in there.”

Cllr Dick Madden, Essex County Council’s Cabinet Member for Children and Families, said: “We’re committed to supporting children and young people in care in Essex, regardless of where they’re placed, and volunteers like Berny are integral to us being able to continue our work.

“Being in care can be an unsettling time and our Independent Visitors provide consistency and stability for young people, allowing them to be just that – young people.

“I’d urge anyone who thinks they can commit to going the extra mile for a child or young person in care to come forward and find out more about the service.”

For more information about becoming an Independent Visitor, visit <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Business-Partners/Partners/Adult-Social-Care-providers/Pages/Become-an-Independent-Visitor.aspx>

email Doris Lindsell at IV@essex.gov.uk or call 03330 134 259

Conservation Grazing Comes to High Woods Country Park

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A herd of Red Poll cattle has taken up residency in Colchester's picturesque High Woods Country Park. The cattle are from the Legacy Grazing Herd and have been introduced to help maintain the diversity of wildlife by controlling the growth of grass to benefit flowers, and the insects, birds and mammals that depend on them.

As well as being one of Colchester's beauty spots, the County Park is highly significant for nature conservation. With a combination of marshy areas, hayfields and scrubland, High Woods provides the perfect habitat for thousands of different birds, mammals and plant life. It has also held the prestigious Green Flag Award since 2004.

Colchester Borough Council is working in partnership with Essex County Council's Place Services to deliver conservation grazing to benefit the local wildlife and landscape.

Councillor Simon Walsh, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment said that ECC are delighted to be adding High Woods to the growing list of conservation grazing sites. It is hoped that visitors will enjoy the sight of the cattle and the response so far from residents who would like to volunteer as Cattle Lookers had been fantastic.

For more information on conservation grazing or to enquire about volunteering visit www.legacygrazing.org.uk

Festival goers could take their place in the record books as Essex prepares to celebrate county's musical history

Festival organisers are hoping to set a new world record for the number of people taking part in a STOMP body percussion routine as part of a weekend jam-packed with music.

The Sounds of Essex youth music festival will take place in Colchester over both Saturday, 1 July and Sunday, 2 July.

The event marks 60 years of Essex Youth Orchestras and will feature acts to cater for all tastes in music, showcasing youth music from across Essex.

The first day will be held at Lower Castle Park from 10am until 7pm. It will include hands-on music workshops, rock and pop bands from Colchester Institute, jazz groups, African, Samba, steel pan, Chinese and didgeridoo performances, orchestras, choirs and a tribute to famous Essex bands and artists such as Blur and the Prodigy.

There will also be a world record attempt, with organisers from Essex Music Education Hub, which is led by Essex County Council, hoping to get more than 1,500 people taking part in a STOMP body percussion routine.

Food, refreshments and children's rides will also be available.

On the second day, which forms part of Colchester's well-established annual Big Sunday festival, a special 'Grown: a Grime opera' performance will be staged at the Old Bus Station, Queen Street, at 2.30pm and again at 4pm.

It will feature well-known grime MC Eyez, Max Wheeler (Anushka), young rappers and electronic artists, along with backing from Essex Youth Orchestra and the Youth Gospel Choir.

Many of the festivals acts will also be playing in other locations across the town as part of the Big Sunday festival.

Essex has a rich and diverse history of music, and this festival is the ideal opportunity to bring people together and celebrate the influential musicians who hail from our great county.

With the event marking 60 years of Essex Youth Orchestras and school music, it will be a great occasion to showcase the huge range of musical opportunities available to young people in Essex.

For more information about the Sounds of Essex festival, please visit

www.essexmusicclub.org.uk

40 ex-teachers set for return to the classroom as successful programme concludes

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Dozens of former teachers are a step closer to a return to the profession after the successful conclusion of a programme geared at helping tackle the recruitment challenge facing schools. Following a successful campaign by Essex County Council, 40 ex-teachers from various backgrounds started an intensive new Return to Teaching programme in March.

You might remember that I reported this initiative to you half-way through last year, and it is great news that this programme has now concluded and six participants have already been successful in securing teaching posts, while a number of others have interviews lined up and hope to find jobs for September, in time for the beginning of the new Term.

I will now give you some testimonials from those successful individuals.

Kim Winston, who had been doing some long-term supply work at Whitmore Primary School and Nursery in Basildon since before Christmas, was offered a permanent role following the conclusion of the course.

Kim, who lives in the Basildon area, had left the profession to have her two children about six years ago, before turning to supply work in an effort to secure a return to teaching.

She said: "The programme was great in enabling us to get up-to-date with the curriculum and how things have changed.

"I'd been back supply teaching for a term which obviously helped, but it was nice to be able to speak to other people in a similar boat and find out more about how the expectations for teachers have changed. There's certainly a lot more autonomy and freedom to teach in different ways.

"There was also a whole day where we looked at applications and interviews, which everyone found very useful."

Helen Hodges is another of the participants to successfully secure a teaching post and starts at Rickling Primary School, near Saffron Walden, this week.

She had already been working at the school as a teaching assistant for a year, but was keen to get back to teaching, having left about ten years ago to have her three children.

Helen, 43, said: "You lose your confidence after ten years out so the course was very useful in developing my confidence and covered lots of stuff that you would need to know to go back into the classroom.

"Good teaching and practices don't change, but obviously there have been changes to the curriculum and assessment in that time.

"There was lots of good stuff looking at the curriculum and learning plans."

Marie Noble is hoping to find a part-time primary school post in north Essex and is in no doubt that the programme has prepared her well for a return to the teaching profession.

The 36-year-old, who lives in the Colchester area, left teaching about six and a half years ago to bring up her children.

She said: "I found the course really informative and it's definitely given me the confidence to go back to into the classroom and feel less like a newly qualified teacher again.

"It covered a lot of the things I was concerned about, like the changes to the national curriculum, growth mind-set, which is a real buzz word in education at the moment, and even bits about applying for jobs and preparing interviews. We got given a wealth of resources that we could take away and use, which was very useful.

"It was great in just filling in those little gaps in your knowledge that have developed during the years that you've been out."

Essex County Council took the decision of launching its "Return to Teaching Programme" after recognising how daunting the decision to return to the classroom can be, particularly with so many recent changes to the education system.

It aimed to help participants get up-to-date with the curriculum, assessment and teaching practice, and consisted of four days of professional development, including support with job applications and interview preparation.

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The programme was funded by a strategic group set up to explore and implement new teacher recruitment and retention strategies in Essex.

Essex County Council will continue to support this project by working closely with the county's schools to help them with the ongoing challenge of recruitment; there is still a very good number of talented ex-teachers who have already applied and currently mid-way through the programme, and will continue to entice some of those back to the classroom which would be a big boost for the county's schools.

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