

Minutes 15th October 2015

Elmstead Parish Council

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

Present: Councillors Bell (Chair), Beard, Beecham, Kirby, Routledge and Ward
Also Present: Mrs Baxter (Clerk), Mr Wadham (Tree Warden), Cllr Frostick (Great Bromley PC) and 3 other members of the public

15/179 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Fairweather and Redding had sent their apologies as had District Councillors Heaney and Nicholls and County Councillor Guglielmi

15/180 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

None

15/181 Approval and signing of the minutes from 17th September 2015

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 17th September 2015 as true and accurate.

Proposed: Cllr Beecham, Seconded: Cllr Kirby

15/182 Police Report (Crime information)

There was a discussion around the future reduction of PCSOs in Tendring, and whether we could justify paying for a PCSO. It was suggested that we wait to hear from Russ Cole at our meeting next month first. Councillors are to send their questions for Mr Cole to the clerk so that we can send them to Mr Cole before the meeting and ask that the information he gives us is tailored around our questions.

15/183 Public Speaking

It was reported by residents that there has been an increase in heavy goods traffic along Tye Road. There are heavy goods vehicles accessing Allen's Farm regularly. It is making Tye Road hazardous where the verges of the road are collapsing into the ditches. They have been in touch with TDC planning regarding the agreed planning use of the biomass converter on Allen's Farm. The clerk is to ask our District Councillors regarding the planning, and our county councillor regarding the destruction of the road.

Hugh Frostick told us that he has recently joined Great Bromley PC as a councillor. He is a member of the Tendring Local History Recorders who record what's happening today to document what will be history in the future. He asked if we can find someone who is interested, it's not an onerous role. He has sent an e-mail with more information to the clerk for sharing with the PC.

15/184 County Councillor report

See appendix A

15/185 District Councillor reports

(Sent by e-mail) The main item of interest is the Local Plan. The next meeting of the Local Plan Committee is on Thursday 12th November at Clacton Town Hall commencing at 6pm.

It is worthwhile for somebody from the council to attend and listen to what is being debated.

15/186 Tree Warden Report

Michael Wadham reports that it is likely we will lose most of the Ash trees in Elmstead to a disease known as "Ash Dieback". He recommends that we purchase a "disease recovery pack" from the Woodland Trust for £60 inc VAT and delivery. This pack will enable us to plant more trees in Elmstead to replace over

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time the ones that we will lose. We will also be able to apply to have half of the cost refunded through the TDC Tree Planting Grants Program.

Michael has offered to help with the administration and Nick Brock has offered to help find homes for the trees.

The public green spaces are full so we will be looking for people to adopt trees for their gardens or possibly for farmers to take some.

It was resolved to support this project and purchase the "disease recovery pack".

The trees will be beech, birch, hornbeam, oak and wild cherry.

Michael will put in the claim for the grant on EPCs behalf, and EPC will receive an invoice from the Woodland Trust.

15/187 Planning (for information)

Applications:

15/01361/DETAIL Mr M Willis Barnfield Lodge Clacton Road Elmstead. Reserved matters application for the erection of two detached dwellings

15/01447/FUL Mr & Mrs Karl Dyer Larks Rise Alresford Road Wivenhoe. Ground and first floor extensions and new roof.

Determinations: 15/01115/FUL Mr Robert Correia Blue Barn Farm Clacton Road Elmstead. Change of use from farm/pet shop to used car sales. Approval - Full

Any other applications or determinations received after the agenda was issued? No

15/188 TDC Planning training

Cllrs Bell, Beecham and Fairweather attended training on planning issues run by TDC. To provide feedback on the training.

Cllr Beecham reported that the training was very constructive and gave an insight into what you could object to. The training notes provided a list of possible objections.

There is another planning training session on 25th November which Cllr Ward will be attending and others are welcome to attend.

15/189 Finance

To see if there are any questions regarding the finance report and approve the payments for October. See appendix B.

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

Proposed: Cllr Beecham, Seconded Cllr Beard.

There was a discussion around the cost of emptying dog bins. It was suggested that we provide some information in Upmarket to encourage people to use the bins that are paid for.

Cllr Beard thought that councillors could possibly fine people for not picking up their dog's mess, this is something we will look further into.

15/190 Clerk's hours

Cllr Beecham proposes that the clerk's contract is updated to allow for some additional hours to be worked in any given month at the clerk's discretion. This overtime could be for examples such as: There are a lot of additional meetings, reducing the amount of time the clerk has in the office and increasing the output of work to do. There are tight deadlines for preparing a report. There are particular projects that cannot be completed within the usual hours. The clerk will keep a record of the overtime hours and the reason for them.

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It was resolved that the clerk may work up to an additional 10 hours a month as and when required.

Proposed Cllr Beecham, Seconded Cllr Kirby

15/191 Clerk updates and correspondence

Data protection:

Cllr Routledge was reminded at her recent training that the only person who is covered to hold data under the DP act is the clerk, therefore councillors may not keep any e-mails on their computers which include parishioners' e-mail addresses. These should be deleted, but can be forwarded to the clerk first. (Remember to delete the sent e-mail too).

Elmstead Marketeers.

Cllr Bell to attend the November meeting of the Marketeers as an EPC representative.

Post Office

We received an e-mail from Laura Tarling, public affairs manager for the Post Office Ltd, in response to our communication regarding residents' complaints about the Spar branch. She apologises and goes on to say that additional training has been provided and staffing hours have been increased. Cllr Kirby noted that there does seem to have been an improvement.

It was agreed that we would take note of any complaints going forward and feed them back to Laura Tarling.

15/192 Junction of School Road and B1027

Cllr Ward has been approached by Alresford Parish Council. Do we support Alresford Parish Council in the siting of a sign to slow traffic down at the junction between School Road and the B1027?

Cllr Ward explained that there have been a few accidents at this junction and in the most recent one a lorry was hit by a car and the road was closed by the police. Alresford PC are campaigning to have a vehicle activated sign (VAS) installed on the grass verge outside Mitchells Farm shop on the B1027.

It was agreed that Elmstead Parish Council support Alresford Parish Council in their campaign and the clerk is to e-mail their clerk with confirmation of this.

15/193 Transport – Number 77 bus

Is there any update on the possible loss of this bus service? Does the council wish to take any further action regarding this?

Cllr Bell informed the council that Horizon had issued a statement to say that the bus service will cease as of 20th December. Cllr Routledge explained that Great Bentley PC had met with Horizon to discuss this but Horizon can't do anything about it as they can't afford a new bus. Great Bentley PC have asked Cllr Routledge for our support but the clerk has e-mailed their PC to offer support and not heard anything back. She's contacted the transport group that she attends as transport officer but does not think they will be able to do anything.

It was agreed that Cllr Bell is to contact the chair of Great Bentley to discuss the problem.

15/194 Market Field Lease

To discuss the proposal we have received from ECC via Mr Parbury regarding the future use of Market Field.

Have we had a response from Mr Parbury regarding a meeting with EPC?

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What are EPCs next steps?

The clerk reported that Mr Parbury has been in contact to say that ECC needs to understand the views of the PC on his proposal before a meeting is arranged. Cllrs discussed the proposal, it would adversely affect the bonfire night to have such a small space, from a H&S perspective you couldn't put the bonfire that close to the corner. You couldn't do an evacuation, get the rides in or get vehicles in. With regards to the fence there would still be two cut throughs in the hedges so it does not solve the problem of keeping the students in. For the dog mess, there has not historically been a problem with people reporting dog mess on the field.

It was resolved that we ask the parishioners' views of the plan and see what the feedback from the village is. We will do a leaflet drop with a copy of the plan and the clerk is to put together something to circulate. The clerk will let Mr Parbury know what we are doing.

Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Beecham

15/195 **Essex Air Ambulance**

We have been asked to consider making a contribution to Essex air ambulance. This is possible under LGA 1972 sec 137. In the last financial year EPC contributed £100.

It was agreed to contribute £100 under LGA 1972 sec 137.

15/196 **Community Rehabilitation Company**

Cllr Beecham proposes that EPC apply to this company to clear some of our overgrown hedges and paths around the parish. They are a company that delivers work related activities for past offenders, who do community payback as part of rehabilitation into society on leaving prison. They do things like redecoration or clearing overgrown woodland.

After a discussion it was decided that Cllr Beecham will contact the company and ask for more information about the tasks we have available.

15/197 **Communications**

Items of interest for inclusion in our December Upmarket report.

Information regarding grants.

15/198 **Items for next agenda or for information only**

To hear from councillors any items that they would like on the next agenda or of interest only.

Cllr Beard passed on a request for electronic signs at the bus stops for the Bluegates donation money.

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

Meeting closed at 9.42pm.

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 19th November 2015.
To be held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead**

Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter

15th October 2015

Contact: elmsteadparish@gmail.com

01206 827139

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Appendix A

ECC Report October 2015

What sounds are distinctively ‘Essex’ for you?

The Essex Sound and Video Archive is looking for suggestions for the Heritage Lottery Funded “You Are Hear”, sound and a sense of place project.

Whether it is the hustle and bustle of Chelmsford market, screams and laughter at Sky Ropes in Great Notley, the relaxing sound of waves lapping at Frinton-on-Sea beach or something else entirely – all ideas are welcome.

The project team will be running public survey events across the county in the forthcoming months to find out what sounds remind you of home. Which sounds are important to you, or which sounds represent twenty-first century Essex?

Inspired by this feedback, a Sound Recordist will then record places and events to capture the sounds of Essex in 2015 for permanent preservation in the Essex Record Office. These new recordings will also be uploaded to an online map of Essex Sounds.

The survey events will give an opportunity to try a prototype of this map and to learn more about the project.

Once recorded, these sounds will be posted online for all to enjoy. Together with historic recordings already in the Archive, people will be able to compare what Essex used to sound like with what it sounds like today.

The Essex Record Office holds the key to over a century of our county’s sounds, from local accents to a nationally significant collection of folk music, and thanks to National Lottery Heritage Funding Projects this scheme will be supported to enable even more people to benefit from this immersive connection to Essex’s heritage as well as ensuring that these sounds will be heard by generations to come.

Further survey events will be held at Grays Shopping Centre (29-31 October) and High Chelmer Shopping Centre, Chelmsford (19-21 November). Alternatively, suggestions of what to record can be sent to the Project Officer at sarahjoy.maddeaux@essex.gov.uk

China’s new health links

Essex County Council is leading the way in helping China’s healthcare system through the International Trade Department, Essex International (EI).

The department is helping primary healthcare in China’s Jiangsu Province by opening doors for a range of partners interested in doing business in the country.

This includes community care centres, hospitals, training colleges, elderly care providers, universities and GP surgeries.

EI have developed a training programme for senior practitioners in China to help them develop a new healthcare system.

Working with the ICENI centre (more details in Notes below) in Colchester, as well as unique and well-established links in China and the UK, EI developed a GP training

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programme that attracted keen interest. As a result, they are now delivering a month-long training programme to GPs from China.

This month, 15 GPs from various hospitals in Wuxi City in Jiangsu Province are attending seminars by leading subject experts, followed by site visits.

Dr Sun Ming, head of the GP delegation, said: "After decades of practice, the NHS system in the UK has accumulated rich experience. The NHS provides decent and free health care to the public, which can offer significant guidance for China's current medical reform.

Essex International, from Essex County Council, has designed a comprehensive study programme, invited medical experts with great experience and knowledge to give lectures, set up site visits to hospitals and GP practices and arranged a dialogue with UK medical practitioners.

China is currently undergoing a reform of its healthcare service, and is looking at how the NHS works in order to learn how to relieve the pressure on Chinese hospitals. After detailed consultation with experts in the NHS, and other UK healthcare professionals, EI designed a training programme specifically for GPs visiting from Wuxi City.

This initiative falls under the partnership working agreement between Wuxi Municipal Government and ECC, with whom there are some well-established business links and a unique 26-year relationship with Jiangsu Province.

EI is able to provide unique access and offer the right connections to help organisations and businesses develop partnerships to help increase their presence in the Chinese market.

The overall aim is to exchange expertise and to deepen and broaden the links between the two organisations, as well as give a detailed understanding of the role of the GP within a complex system.

Notes about the ICENI Centre

The ICENI Centre is a joint venture between Colchester Hospital University Foundation Trust and Anglia Ruskin University housed in a purpose built Research and Education Centre in Colchester. The influence of the ICENI Centre is seen across the Eastern region and the centre now acts as a focus for surgical research and training in conjunction with partner hospitals within the Anglia Ruskin postgraduate medical community.

Gritters prepare for winter in Essex

Summer might only just be over, but the fleet of gritting lorries and snowploughs are now being checked over in preparation for winter.

Essex County Council has fully stocked up on salt in all its depots, drawn up rotas for drivers and serviced all its gritters, with further "dry runs" on key routes planned for later this month to make sure they know the routes and are aware of any potential problems.

County-owned local salt bins have also been topped up.

The Council currently has approximately 15,500 tonnes of salt in stock and would expect to use about 18-20,000 tonnes in an average year.

Winter officially begins for highways maintenance engineers on Monday, October 26, starting with a "low-risk" period before moving up a gear into "high-risk" season in December.

The fleet of more than 60 vehicles covers about 2,000 miles of Essex highways including all major traffic routes and selected A and B roads. It uses around 200 tonnes of salt on each run, with each route on its salting network being treatable in a maximum of three hours.

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Overhanging trees and branches

Landowners responsible for trees which overhang roads or pavements are being asked to check branches and cut back if required in preparation for autumn storms.

Essex County Council is reminding landowners they should make sure their trees do not pose a threat to motorists and pedestrians and they have a duty of care to take responsible steps to prevent the risk of injury or damage.

Strong winds make it more likely trees will shed branches or even blow over altogether, blocking the highway and potentially putting lives at risk.

The Council has the power to issue enforcement notices to landowners with branches and vegetation found to be obstructing the highway, compelling them to carry out any necessary work if they do not ensure trees and vegetation on their land is safe.

Essex County Council's Highways figures show that the most common safety problems come from overhanging branches reducing the road width, blocking sightlines and road signs, as well as reducing height clearance for tall vehicles such as double decker school buses.

Overhanging trees also hamper the council's ability to carry out planned roadworks, effectively lengthening delays and inconvenience to drivers.

People are advised to ensure the footway is clear of vegetation to a height of 8ft (2.5m) and the road is clear to a height of 17ft (5.1m) and 1.8ft (0.5m) from the edge of the road towards their property.

Furthermore the Council recommends the use of fully qualified and insured contractors to undertake any necessary work.

Grants available to help protect residential properties from surface water flooding

Grants to help protect properties against surface water flooding are now available for residents.

Applications for Property Level Protection (PLP) grants, of up to £5,000, can be made by individual homeowners via the Essex County Council website and are available for residents to apply for now.

Grant recipients will be residential homeowners who have been flooded internally within the past three years from ordinary watercourse, groundwater and surface water flooding and can provide demonstrable evidence of the impact of the flooding event.

The purpose of the grant is to provide assistance to residents who have suffered from flooding in Essex by helping them to become more resilient and resistant to future flooding. By providing residents with grants it is intended for them to choose the most suitable installed Property Level Protection equipment to help them to help themselves against further threat of flooding.

The type of PLP equipment that could be installed with the support of the grant includes:

- Flood resistant doors
- Airbricks
- Passive flood barriers
- Pumps
- Temporary or demountable aperture barriers
- Flood safety door

Aquobex, the preferred supplier of PLP products, were recently commissioned by Essex County Council to conduct some surveys and install PLP equipment to protect some homes in Rawreth and Little Waltham. This was a trial commission and the outcome has proved

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successful with the installation of demountable flood barriers, anti-flood (SMART) airbricks, back flow sewer and appliance valves, numerous sealing and waterproofing works and minor civil works to protect 22 homes.

The grant is intended to improve the resilience of internally flooded residential properties by funding PLP measures and, where appropriate, communities can pool their grants together in order to undertake community resilience measures (i.e. terraced houses).

To find out more about the grants and to fill out an online PLP application form please visit www.essex.gov.uk/flooding and look under the ‘Apply’ tab.

- The grant is not intended to cover standard repairs or to provide compensation to flooded property owners.
- The grant is not payable to the recipients; this would be administered by a third party supplier on behalf of Essex County Council and homeowners would have a choice as to which PLP manufacturers they would prefer to purchase their flood protection product from.

Councils offered free webcasting service

Parish and Town Council meetings could be broadcasting live into resident’s homes thanks to a new audio webcasting app.

Developed by Essex based company Audiominutes, the app allows for audio to be streamed and recorded through a mobile phone. These recordings are then made available as minutes following the meeting.

The company has recently won the contract to provide online webcasting services to Essex County Council, who has now negotiated an option for all Town and Parish Councils in Essex to be offered the mobile service free for the first year.

The Council wants to ensure that public meetings are as accessible as possible, and over the coming year there will be hundreds of hours of audio being made available from Full Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings.

The issue with this technology has always been the cost, with the necessity of having to employ someone to monitor and run the system during meetings and having to archive large amounts of data, but this new system requires no additional staff time, is good value for money and will provide further transparency to the democratic process.

As it can be used simply through a mobile app, it is an ideal tool for parish and town partners who have the opportunity to engage more through the digital channels that their residents are using.

Showcasing of the technology took place at the recent AGM of the Essex Association of Local Councils.

A common comment at the AGM was that the subject of webcasting has been on Parishes agendas for some time now but a simple solution like this could not be found and it’s great that Essex County Council have taken the initiative.

For further information please contact

Jonathan.Phillips@essex.gov.uk

03330 133400

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Appendix B

Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report

Closing Balances to 30th September 2015 are:

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 759	£15,870.03
Total uncashed cheques	£1,555.50
Total of cheques below (September payments - request for approval)	£938.12
Balance in current account after cheques	£13,376.41
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 144	£27,697.40
Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit	£41,073.81

Income Details for September 2015:

Business Saver Account Interest	£3.45
Total income for September 2015	£3.45

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Elmstead Community Centre – Hall Hire September x 3	£45.00
Tendring District Council – Election Expenses	£75.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP – Audit Fee	£240.00
EALC – Social Media Course A Baxter	£47.00
Veolia – emptying 8 dog bins March 15 – Feb 16	£531.12
Total Cheques	£938.12

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO
 15th October 2015

Signature

Date