

Minutes 16th April 2015
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Present: Councillors Bell (Chairman), Beecham, Brock, Fairweather, Redding, Routledge, Beard and Kirby

Also present: 1 member of the public

15/057 Apologies of Absence

Cllr Nicholls is on holiday and Cllr Heaney has suffered an injury.

15/058 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

None

15/059 Resignation of Councillor Grotier

It was with regret that Cllr Bell announced the resignation of Cllr Grotier and the councillors agreed that her contribution would be missed. It was **resolved** that we buy flowers and a card to express our thanks for her contribution and time.

Proposed Cllr Redding

Seconded Cllr Brock

15/060 Signing of the minutes from 19th March 2015

It was **resolved** to accept the minutes from 19th March 2015 as true and accurate.

15/061 Police Report (Crime information)

See appendix 1

Mrs Baxter explained that she had asked PC Dan Heard who she could contact to find out what kind of crimes contributed to the 68% increase in crime between 13/14 and 14/15 but has not heard back.

It was discussed that at our March meeting Russ Cole, Temporary Chief Inspector, District Commander Tendring committed to attending future meetings.

Action Clerk to follow up with Dan Heard and contact Russ Cole about how often he will attend PC meetings.

15/062 Public Speaking

There is 5 minutes of public speaking

Please note that any questions that are to do with items on the agenda will be answered under the appropriate agenda item

Mr T Vaughan gave us an update on the planning for the old post office. It looks like the application for demolition will be agreed although there was one objection. They are going to clear the inside of the building out first. Tendring have expressed a desire that the replacement building have a commercial element. The front view will be critical, the back is not so important.

The George V post box belongs to Royal Mail, it's just a front with no back. Mr Vaughan is happy to put it into the new building with a plaque.

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Also there is a broken manhole outside Mr Vaughan's house in Church Road. Essex Highways have been out to look but it is not known when it will be repaired. There are traffic cones around it to warn of the hazard.

15/063 County Councillor report
Not provided

15/064 District Councillor reports
District Councillors absent

15/065 Planning
Determinations:
15/00146/OUT Blue Barn Farm Clacton Road erection of three detached dwellings served by new vehicular and pedestrian access – refusal. See appendix 2

Any additional applications or determinations received?
None

15/066 Dene Park
Wivenhoe Town Council have made a further offer to purchase the land for £2,500 plus legal costs. Elmstead Parish Council to consider and make a decision on this offer.

It was **resolved** to decline the offer.

Any update on the decision to contact Colchester Council regarding options for this land?
It was decided that we would write to Colchester Council asking if they had any suggestions or options for the land. It was also decided to make an informal contact with Jenny Moody to see why the plans fell through previously and see if they have any suggestions.

To discuss a first cut of the year and a cutting schedule to arrange with Mr. B Jennings?
It was decided to speak to Mr Jennings about how often the grass needs cutting to be able to continue cutting (as when it gets too long it is very difficult to cut).

15/067 Bluegates Solar Farm £10,000 community benefit payment
To formalise a working party to look at potential schemes to spend the payment on which would benefit the community of Elmstead.
A working party was set up with the members being Cllr Routledge, Cllr Kirby, Cllr Redding, Cllr Beecham and Cllr Bell. An inaugural meeting will be arranged soon.

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15/068 New Community Centre

To establish a working party to look into the new community centre that will be built as part of the Church Road development. What is the purpose and aims of the working party?

Cllr Beecham: There was previously a working party which drew up a wish list and drawings for Knights Developments. The purpose of this working party will be to see this move on. The members are Cllr Beecham, Cllr Fairweather, Cllr Brock and Cllr Routledge.

15/069 Finance

To listen to the finance report and approve the payments for April. See appendix 3.

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

Proposed Cllr Beecham
Seconded Cllr Kirby

Cllr Redding asked when the next Finance Committee meeting should be. It will be arranged after the first quarter to look at expenditure so far versus the budget for 15/16.

15/070 Colne School Bus

To formalise the working party to look at the issue of the increased cost to pupils using the School bus to get to the Colne Community College as of September 2015.

An update from the working party.

Cllr Beard: The working party is as follows: Cllr Beard, Cllr Beecham, Cllr Kirby and Cllr Grotier, Liz Wright, Elaine Tuckwell, Kim Berry, Sasha Phillips, Gayle Lewis and Annette Pasotti. A meeting was held with the above attendees and Cllr Beard reported the following:

Cllr Beard had been in contact with Cllr Julie Young (Essex County Council) who has been fighting for over a year to change the decision for the transport charges. It looks like ECC are not going to change their decision, so the working party is looking at alternatives. Horizon have the contract to provide transport for the school so they can't go to another company. They will speak to Horizon to see if they can reduce the cost of £3.50/day. Wivenhoe have a public bus which costs £2/day.

From September 2015 16 children will be starting at the Colne from Elmstead. In five years' time when there are more children in the same position the position for negotiation will be stronger.

15/071 Market Field

To discuss correspondence received from a parishioner regarding the continued use of Market Field for the village.

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When Cllr Beecham and Cllr Routledge met with Gary Smith (headmaster of Market Field School) it was discussed that if the village did not have other green space available by the time the Market Field Lease is due for renewal in August 2017 we would still want to use the field. Mr Smith did not say at that time that he wanted exclusive use of the field as soon as possible.

It was agreed that EPC is against losing the only playing field in the village and that we will contact ECC about renewing the lease in August 2017. We have always leased it for a block of time before but the ECC reps have said to our councillors that we can renegotiate it for shorter periods of time if we need to.

15/072 Speedwatch

Update from Cllr Beecham: This is starting to work, they are catching people speeding through the village. It's also easier for the volunteers to organise the times they will be doing speedwatch using doodle. They are trying to get agreement that Cllr Beecham will be able to train new volunteers himself for the program.

15/073 Elmstead Primary School Grass Cutting

To decide how we are going to charge for this and if it is ongoing?

It takes two hours to cut the field and go round the flowerbeds so a charge of £25 per cut was agreed to cover the cost of our handyman's time, and a small amount of additional costs.

15/074 Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting

As resolved in our March meeting the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on May 21st. Is it agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting (meeting of electors, not a council meeting) will consist of a Chairman's report and Finance report only and will commence at 7.00pm?

It was agreed to leave the format as above.

15/075 Working Parties – Village Jobs

Are there any additional volunteers for the following: painting white lines in Elmcroft car park, annual maintenance on the bus shelters and noticeboards, looking at the flooding in Stinky Lane and maintenance on the Community Centre. Cllrs Bell, Fairweather and Beecham have volunteered.

Cllr Brock volunteered her husband. Cllr Redding may also help. The jobs will be done when the weather improves.

15/076 Communications

Items of interest for inclusion in our June Upmarket report.

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15/077 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 Fairweather: has spoken to the manager of the Elmstead GP surgery who has not been approached by the Charity Field developers about the possibility of a surgery on their site. They have a long list of reasons why they need a new surgery and still have the plans from when they were going to build a new surgery in the Clacton Road car park. The manager has looked into the procedure and forms required to move the surgery into a developers building.

Meeting was closed at 9.29pm

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Appendix 1

Below are the crime figures for 2014/15 end of financial year for the areas I cover, compared to year before.

ELMSTEAD

2013/14 - 41

2014/15 - 69

(An excerpt from an e-mail from PC Dan Heard)

Appendix 2

Elmstead Market Parish Council

<i>15/00146/OUT Hills Group Refusal - Outline 01.04.2015 Delegated Decision</i>	<i>Erection of three detached dwellings served by new vehicular and pedestrian access.</i>	<i>Blue Barn Farm Clacton Road Elmstead</i>
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- 01 In this case, the proposal is located in a location outside of any defined settlement limits as defined by Policy QL1 of the Tendring District Local Plan 2007 as well as Policy SD5 of the Tendring District Local Plan: Proposed Submission Draft 2012 as amended by the Tendring District Local Plan: Pre-Submission Focussed Changes (2014). Saved Policy QL1 follows established principles for sustainable development and seeks to concentrate new development within established settlements. Elsewhere, only development which is consistent with countryside policies will be permitted.

It is accepted that the Council is currently unable to demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable housing sites but the provision of three dwellings would make only a modest contribution to the supply for the district as a whole. As an adequate supply of land for housing cannot be demonstrated, paragraph 49 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) applies in relation to the three dimensions of sustainable development. In regard to the social impact it is necessary to consider the distance to important destinations such as healthcare, education, convenience shopping and jobs. The nearest established settlement is Elmstead Market the settlement boundary of which begins some 940m to the west. The facilities located within the centre of Elmstead are located further at approximately 1350m from the application site. As such the vast majority of journeys undertaken to important destinations will be via private car. Consequently the proposed development cannot be considered sustainable and therefore fails to meet the test outlined in the NPPF.

The Local Planning Authority is of the opinion that the development, if approved, would result in a development of the site that would lead to residential development outside of the defined settlement limits in an unsustainable rural location with regard to access to facilities such as employment and education, which would set an undesirable precedent and be detrimental to the principles of sustainable development.

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Appendix 3

Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report

Closing Balances from 7th March to 2nd April 2015 are:

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 734	£11,893.37
Total uncashed cheques	£1,110.81
Total of cheques below (April payments - request for approval)	£2,352.65
Balance in current account after cheques	£8,429.91
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 141	£27,690.23
Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit	£36,120.14

Income Details from 7th March 2015 to 2nd April 2015 are:

Interest (savings account)	£3.19
Elmstead Community Centre inv 15/001	£54.25
Elmstead in Bloom donation	£1,608.80
Total income between 7th March 2015 to 2nd April 2015	£1,666.24

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Elmstead Community Centre – Hall Hire March x 1	£15.00
Amberol Limited – 4 x self watering planters for South Green	£1,930.56
Cllr Fairweather expenses – white paint 5l	£54.00
Mrs. Baxter expenses – printer ink x 8 cartridges £159.01, mileage to Clacton 24 miles @ 0.45p/mile = £10.80	£169.81
Market Field School – Gang mowing and sports/line marking	£183.28
Total Cheques	£2,352.65

- 1) April Finance Report for 2014 showed an overall estimated closing balance of £44,174.97 (This included the first 14/15 precept payment of £14,994. Without this payment the balance was £29,180.97)

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO
 11th April 2015

Signature

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