

Minutes 16th February 2017
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

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

District Councillors F Nicholls and R Heaney

County Councillor C Guglielmi

Also Present: Mrs Baxter (Clerk) and 15 members of the public

Cllr Beard opened the meeting with a thank you to Cllr Fairweather for his time in purchasing and installing the screen and projector.

17/022 Apologies for Absence

No PC apologies. Mrs Anne Smith sent her apologies (was due to be co-opted) as she was feeling unwell.

17/023 Co-opting of Councillors

Jane Triscott, Anne Smith and Julie Snowden have expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council.

It was resolved to co-opt Jane Triscott and Julie Snowden to the Parish Council.

Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Routledge, all in favour.

Our new councillors were welcomed to the PC.

17/024 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

None

17/025 Approval and signing of the minutes from 19th January 2017.

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 19th January 2017 as true and accurate.

Proposed Cllr Routledge, Seconded Cllr Bell, all in favour.

17/026 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 19th January 2017.

The clerk made a verbal update.

17/027 Public Speaking

Mrs Valentine had provided the PC with some information regarding the Great Big Spring Clean due to happen on the 3-5th March. It was felt that it was too short notice to arrange something but that the PC/village could arrange its own Spring Clean. To be added to the March agenda.

Mr Kavanagh suggested that if anyone found any fly tipping /rubbish that he would be happy for people to contact him and he would use his trailer to pick it up.

To be added to the March agenda.

Mrs Valentine spoke about the damaged bollard outside her house (Bromley Road). Essex Highways have visited 3 times but not fixed it yet.

17/028 County Councillor report

See attached for written report. Cllr Guglielmi added that ECC will pay the bill for additional fly tipping caused by the changes made at Essex recycling centres.

17/029 District Councillor reports.

Cllr Heaney: The TDC budget has been agreed and council tax will increase by £5 for a band D property.

The next consultation on the TDC Local Plan will be in June.

Cllr Nicholls: Cllr Guglielmi is the new finance portfolio holder for TDC. Cllr Guglielmi added that District Councils have their council tax increases capped at 2%.

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17/030 Planning – to hear from Mr Fred McKennon regarding the land to the rear of Budgens.

Mr McKennon presented the council with plans for 2 3 bedroom houses, 1 suitable for the disabled. The porches to the front will be facing School Road and the access in on School Road. There will be parking for 2 vehicles. An application has not been made yet, he wanted to consult with the PC first.

17/031 Planning - for discussion and to decide comments for submission

17/00027/OUT Avonleigh House Clacton Road Elmstead. Proposed 5 dwellings. Respond by 20/02/17

The owners of Avonleigh were present and explained that their property had a very large garden and that with the lack of bungalows in the village it would be a good site for building. Their plans are for 2/3 bedroom bungalows with garages and parking spaces. The access will be across their and their neighbours land. All the landowners whose land is included in the application are happy with the development.

It was discussed that one adjoining neighbour has objected to the proposal, and the public comments for the application were read out. It was discussed that there was a safety issue with narrow access from a busy road. That 5 houses seems too many for the size of the plot. There would be no impact on the street scene or Bromley Road.

It was resolved to object to the application. Proposed Cllr Beard, 7 in favour, 1 abstained.

APP/P1560/W/16/3164433 Land to The North of Bromley Road Bromley Road. Elmstead Residential development of 0.4ha of land to create 5 detached dwellings with associated garaging and parking. Respond by 22/02/17.

Cllr Guglielmi suggested that the PC write to the Planning Inspectorate and reiterate our reasons for objection and write to TDC asking for a copy of their submission.

It was resolved to do the above. Proposed Cllr Beard, all in favour.

APP/P1560/D/16/3165583 The Cottage Broad Lanes Elmstead. Demolition of cottage and erection of four new dwellings. Respond by 22/02/17

It was resolved that the PC were neutral regarding this appeal and would therefore not send a submission to the Planning Inspectorate. Proposed: Cllr Beard, all in favour.

Modifications of the Essex and Southend-On-Sea Joint Replacement Waste Local Plan – public consultation

Cllrs Beard, Routledge and Ward attended the Alresford planning committee meeting which discussed this consultation. Site 2, the proposed

Cllr Guglielmi: Site 1 has always been a mineral extraction site, site 2 now has modifications. The original waste plan did not have enough provision for inert recycling and limited landowners put their land forward. A few sites were identified to make up the shortfall and this was one. There is no planning application for the site yet. Access is not part of the consultation. Tarmac want to start operations in Spring 2018 but it will be 4-5 years minimum. There will be a 17 year life span. The operations will be at the low end of the site away from the house.

It was discussed that the amenity of the adjacent residential property will be severely disrupted. There will be noise and dust. There has been no evaluation as to the impact on traffic this site will have. The site is less than the minimum required 250m away from residential property. If the site goes ahead it should be argued that they maintain the existing access.

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It was resolved to object to the modification in the consultation for the discussed reasons. Proposed Cllr Beard, 7 in favour, 1 abstained.

Cllr Gubielmi offered to broker a meeting between the PC and Tarmac as it would be useful to engage with them.

17/032 Planning – for brief updates

Church Road 20 Houses Outline Planning Permission Received

Knights are considering selling the site to another party rather than developing it themselves. No decision has been made, they are exploring the possibility. Kevin Coleman (Phase 2) and William Anthony (Knights) will attend the April PC meeting with an update.

It was discussed that whatever section 106 agreement is in place would be transferred to the new owners, including the provision of a community centre up to a maximum cost of £400,000.

Tye Road 32 Houses Appeal in process

An Essex highways officer has been to measure Tye Road and said that it is too narrow to support the width needed to construct a pedestrian footway. This information has been passed on to the relevant TDC planning officer and to the Planning Inspectorate. Cllr Nicholls has contacted Matt Tiller at EH to request confirmation and Susanne Ennos (TDC planning) has sent the information to Adam Garland at EH for comments.

17/033 Finance

- i) *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 for February.

Proposed: Cllr Bell, Seconded: Cllr Routledge, all in favour

- ii) *To hear the options for the mower insurance renewal.*

The clerk had received quotes from Aon (current provider) £269.83. John Peers £305.50 and Zurich (our current PC insurance provider) £312.06. As the clerk was not happy with the customer service from Aon she was hoping to get a better quote from Zurich. The clerk is to write to Zurich and ask if they can reduce their quote.

- iii) *Does the PC wish to purchase nameplates for the meetings? Examples to be provided.*

It was resolved that the PC would get nameplates for the councillors. The type of nameplate is still to be decided.

Proposed: Cllr Routledge, Seconded: Cllr Beard, 7 in favour, 1 abstain.

- iv) *The PC has received its renewal letter from the Information Commissioner's Office. It costs £35/year to have mandatory data protection registration. Does the PC agree to instruct the bank to pay annually by direct debit?*

It was resolved to instruct Barclays to pay the data protection registration annually by direct debit.

Proposed: Cllr Bell, Seconded: Cllr Routledge, all in favour

17/034 Market Field

To review and discuss the draft renewal lease for Market Field.

To discuss the dog mess situation and agree further actions to take.

To review the suggested signs and wording (Cllr Routledge to draft) to deter fouling on the field.

Cllr Beard provided some detail regarding the lease:

It will be for 124 years.

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It will initially cost £900/annum (this was queried as the hours of use are being reduced but the response was that it had not previously been increased in line with market rates).

The gates will be locked 8.30am-4pm on school days.

The PC will pay for 50% of mowing costs (previously included line marking, goal posts and nets).

It was agreed that the School would be responsible for providing a key holder.

We tried to include responsibility for the School to help with the dog mess clearing but were told it is not their responsibility. They will let us know when they find it though.

We reduced the length of grass to be kept at 7cm. (This helps with checking the dog mess).

We improved the conditions of termination due to dog fouling from a 1 week notice period to a 3 months improvement notice with a further 2 weeks' notice if the situation does not improve.

We couldn't quantify a "fouling nuisance", Lambert Smith Hampton and ECC will act as intermediaries to decide. If there continues to be dog mess on the field we will lose the lease.

It was discussed that there are 3 options:

- 1) Save the money and lose the field.
- 2) Ban dogs on the field.
- 3) Accept the agreement as it stands.

There were discussions around the difficulty of removing dog mess altogether, the cost of the field with reduced hours, that it would be difficult to enforce a dog ban, that the village needs a playing field and a place for its events. It was suggested that if the situation does not improve the PC could hire a dog warden to walk the field in the morning before the gates are closed.

It was proposed that the PC accept the Heads of Terms proposal that Lambert Smith Hampton has provided us with.

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

17/035 Streetlights

Cllr Routledge has drafted a letter to be sent to those residences close to the streetlights to be upgraded to LED lights. To discuss the letter and which lights should be changed following maintenance done in the past year. See the streetlights summary page.

Cllr Fairweather said that in 2016 we are quoted £1,190 to change all 14 Sox lights to LED. In the meantime 8 of those had their SOX lamps changed as part of routine annual maintenance. It won't cost much less to upgrade the remaining 6 to LED, it might be worth doing all 14 at the same time anyway, The clerk is to check the costs. Cllr Fairweather also pointed out that Church Road is very dark and he is concerned.

17/036 Bluegates Donation

An update regarding the village gates.

The PC have requested EH to give us a quote for the installation of 2 radar signs (Clacton Road and Bromley Road) and village gates (Clacton Road and Colchester Road) and provided locations for those, but EH say that the location is not precise enough. We have asked that they do a site visit and discuss agreeable locations with the PC but we have not heard back. The clerk is to call EH and chase this.

The 2 year timeframe that we have to spend the grant money will finish in March so this is an urgent matter.

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17/037 Speedwatch

An update. A new coordinator is needed – suggestions for a possible replacement for Mr Beecham.

It was discussed that Cllr Routledge is e-mailing the volunteers and Cllr Bell is holding the equipment. The police have not got back to Cllr Ward to give her a contact for Speedwatch training.

A resident said that he had volunteered over a year ago but not heard anything back – Cllr Routledge took his contact details.

It was decided to add Speedwatch to the March agenda for further discussion.

17/038 Annual Parish Meeting

To discuss options and dates for the annual parish meeting. It must be 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.

It was resolved to follow the same format as last year – hold the Annual Parish Meeting before the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May with a Chairman's report and Finance report. Next year the meeting will be considered earlier.

Proposed: Cllr Beard, all in favour.

17/039 St Anne & St Laurence Church

i) Request for contribution to the burial grounds.

To discuss under what powers the PC are able to contribute and whether any further information is needed.

It was discussed that the church serves the village with a lovely building and grounds regardless of your religion and that is it a focal point. In order to make a contribution under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the PC needs to ensure that the direct benefit accruing to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. It was discussed that the PC does not know the annual upkeep figure for the burial grounds in order to establish an appropriate grant figure so someone would speak to Mr A Downton regarding that. Cllr Bell will do this.

ii) Request for the provision of a notice board for the Church on the North Green in Elmstead.

Cllr Beard would like to see a purpose built permanent sign put on the North Green, in the location that the church has suggested for their sign. It was decided to postpone the discussion.

17/040 Tendring District Local Plan – East Colchester/West Tendring fringe garden community

An update. Also to discuss communication from Will Lodge (reporter East Anglia Daily Times) to review how the group of councils' campaign is going.

Cllr Bell spoke to the Chairman of Ardeleigh PC – it's on the backburner at the moment.

17/041 Communications *Items of interest for inclusion in our April Upmarket report.*

In particular does the PC wish to include full Minutes, abridged Minutes, a councillor report or other format in the monthly Upmarket?

It was resolved that a summary report of the meeting would be provided each month. Cllr Routledge is happy to do this.

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

17/042 Items for next agenda or for information only

Cllr Routledge went to the exhibition on the A120/A12 improvements and has brochures if anyone would like to see them.

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Cllr Fairweather would like Charity Field on the next agenda.

Cllr Triscott asked about the flagpole not working.

Cllr Bell said that at the next TDALC meeting the police commissioner will be present. If anyone has any questions to ask please send them to Cllr Bell.

17/043 Exclusion of press and public

To resolve that pursuant to S.1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the meeting be closed to the public and press for the following items of business.

17/044 Clerk's Contract & hours

To agree the clerk's contract and discuss and agree a change to the hours.
It was agreed to hold this item over to the next meeting.

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

The meeting closed at 10.08pm.

Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 16th March 2017

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

Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter

16th February 2017

Contact: elmsteadparish@gmail.com

01206 827139

Signature

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Appendix 1

Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report

Closing Balances to 31st January 2017 are:

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 823	£27,246.94
Total uncashed cheques	£1,631.36
Total of cheques below (January payments - request for approval)	£1,563.42
Balance in current account after cheques	£24,052.16
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	£61,824.20

Income Details for January 2017:

Elmstead Community Centre – 50% share of 707 waste disposal	£168.02
Active Saver interest	£36.78
Total income for January 2017	£204.80

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Elmstead Community Centre – hall hire January x 3	£48.00
Information Commissioner's Office – Data Protection Registration	£35.00
EALC Chairman's Training Cllr Beard 4 th Feb 17	£85.00
EALC Gavel	£25.00
Market Field School – Grounds Upkeep 51% of gang mowing and sports/line marking	£903.06
Cllr Fairweather: Purchase of Projector and Screen for PC meetings, associated mounts, cables and adaptors total £433.62. Community centre to be charged for 50% of net cost = £186.82, £59.99 VAT to be reclaimed. Total net cost to PC of £186.81. (£200 was agreed January PC meeting.) Mains extension tower for PC office, wireless doorbell for PC office, gift for Cllr Bell.	£467.36 (£246.81 to be refunded)
Total Cheques	£1,563.42

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO
 14th February 2017

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ECC report mid-February 2017

Sunnymead

The earlier version of the Plan was predicated on the Sunnymead site (Site 1) being suitable for inert landfill and the recycling operation (now site 2) was to take place on Wivenhoe Quarry. The operator has now indicated that Wivenhoe quarry is broadly complete, and their intention is to move all mineral operations to the Sunnymead site (site 1) in the future. As a result, they have indicated that operationally, the waste recycling operation would be better located on Site 1 to prevent double handling between Wivenhoe Quarry and their planned operations on the Sunnymead site. Furthermore it **may be** in the operator's interests to cease use of Wivenhoe completely, to allow full restoration and an alternative to be completed.

The operator has raised the potential for a new access but that the Waste Local Plan process has not assessed this access because no details were provided and a current suitable (safe and available) access exists. If this existing access is not suitable from an operational perspective, the site operator may choose to propose a new access through a planning application in future.

No formal pre application discussions have taken place between the County Council and the current operator, Tarmac, and no timescales for the submission of a planning application for mineral extraction or waste development are available. It is likely that the company are awaiting the final adoption of the Waste Local Plan before making their planning application- as this would give them more certainty about ECC's position on the Sunnymead site.

The proposed use is likely to be for uses under the umbrella of inert waste recycling- similar to rubble crushing, soil screening etc. There is no current permission on this site, it is identified in the Mineral Local Plan as a site for sand and gravel extraction and this mineral activity will need to commence before the waste recycling (on site 2) and waste landfill (for restoration of the wider site 1) could be started.

In practice, it seems sensible for the operator to put in an application proposing the sand and gravel extraction and the restoration of the land through the landfill/waste recycling operation.

The inspector confirmed that the modifications listed as part of the current consultation are necessary in order for the Plan to be deemed sound. This includes the identification of site 2 at Sunnymead, which was a site identified initially through a consultation in June 2015 (revised preferred approach).

Council launches new programme to encourage former teachers back into the classroom

Former teachers are being encouraged to consider a return to the profession, following the launch of a free Return to Teaching programme.

According to the latest Department for Education statistics, about 14,000 former teachers return to the profession in England every year.

But after a few years out of the classroom, the decision to return can be a daunting one, particularly with so many recent changes to the education system.

Essex County Council has therefore launched a new Return to Teaching programme, which aims to give former teachers the confidence, knowledge and support to go back to teaching.

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Starting at the end of next month, the intensive course is suitable for both primary and secondary-trained teachers and is free to participants.

It aims to get them ready for a post starting in September and will include three full days of professional development, covering curriculum changes and classroom management, as well as support with job applications and interview preparation.

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

The group includes representatives from Essex County Council, the Association of Secondary Headteachers in Essex (ASHE), the Essex Primary Headteachers' Association (EPHA), Essex Special School Education Trust (ESSET) and the Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust. ECC is continuing to actively support schools with the ongoing challenge of recruitment and attracting talented teachers back to the profession will be a big boost to education in Essex.

Whether people have taken time out of the profession to raise a family, pursue another career, or for any other reason, this new programme could give them the help and support they need to return to teaching, and with nine in ten Essex schools currently rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted and many schools offering flexible and part-time roles, there has arguably never been a better time to return to the classroom.

Applications for the Return to Teaching programme must be made by Friday, 10 March.

For more information or to register, please visit

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/ReturnToTeaching.aspx>

Council calls on residents to dispose of asbestos correctly following discovery at waste plant

The Council is calling on residents to ensure waste is disposed of appropriately following the discovery of small traces of asbestos at the Tovi waste plant.

Items that are suspected to contain hazardous substances must not be disposed of in household rubbish bins or in the general rubbish bins at recycling centres. Residents should instead visit www.recycleforessex.com/disposing-of-asbestos or call Essex County Council's Waste Management Helpline on 0345 603 7625 for advice.

Following the discovery, drivers transporting waste to the Tovi processing plant in Basildon have been advised to wear face masks as a temporary measure after air quality monitoring tests revealed small traces of asbestos in the delivery hall at the site.

Essex County Council has put the precaution in place following the results of tests carried out at the end of last year.

They revealed asbestos levels in the air which were within the legal limit. However, as there is no acknowledged safe level, the Council has been advised that precautionary measures should be enacted whilst further testing takes place.

A small number of drivers who delivered waste to the plant and took part in the tests or were present in the delivery hall during the testing period are being informed of the results and offered advice as a result. The Council is also contacting employees of other councils and waste transfer contractors previously involved in delivering waste to the site to inform them. Although the risk to health is minimal, the Council is contacting those concerned because any occupational health issue like this is of the utmost importance.

The Council is also reassuring residents that asbestos has only been detected within the confines of the plant and there is no evidence of any wider issue.

It is believed the asbestos could have found its way into the site after being illegally dumped at one of the County's Recycling Centres for Household Waste. It is not unusual for small amounts of asbestos to be discovered among materials deposited for recycling, despite the possible health risks to staff in the waste supply chain. We are liaising with the operator of the facility to address these issues.

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Residents will notice no difference to how their waste is collected as a result of the precautionary measures.

Councillor Simon Walsh, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, said: “The safety of Council workers and contractors is our No1 priority.

“Although these air readings from the tests were within safety guidelines, we decided to take precautionary measures until further testing has been carried out.

“We are moving quickly to inform all those affected by these results and offer advice and support.

“This is a sensible and proportionate response to remove any potential risk while we await the results of further testing. I would like reassure members of the public that these results pose no health risk to the wider community.

“Asbestos is a common problem due to its wide usage as an insulator in homes and other buildings until 1999. We are investigating how it found its way into the Tovi plant.”

ECC budget “building a foundation for the future” – Council Leader

Cllr David Finch, Leader of Essex County Council outlined the 2017/18 budget in his speech to Full Council on Tuesday 14th February.

The Leader did highlight how, despite a reduction in government funding, the council will be spending:

- £524m on adult social care
- £127m on children and families
- £668m on education and lifelong learning
- £233m on highways, infrastructure and public transport
- £92m on health

His speech set out the ambition to more than double the local economy to £60 billion by 2025. This will be achieved by raising skills and qualifications by investing in schools and further education; improving transport infrastructure to help people travel across the county more easily; supporting local businesses to grow through investment in innovation centres; and investing in new and affordable housing.

The council has also taken the decision to implement the Government’s Social Care Levy, increasing council tax by 3%. This will raise an extra £17m to support vulnerable residents, in recognition that this is the biggest area of pressure for the local authority, with the older population set to grow by 21%.

Cllr Finch explained that this budget “will delivers public services that are not only high quality, but are sustainable well into the future.”

“We will do this by joining up public services so that we are in a position to respond strategically to the challenges we know we will face down the line. We are working with partners to agree a vision for what this County needs to look like, so that in an increasingly competitive world Essex can speak with one voice and punch above its weight where it really matters.”

LED streetlights set to be installed on the A127

Work to replace all-night lighting along the A127 with new energy-saving LED lamps is set to begin this week.

So far 6,200 LED lamps have been installed, offering a brighter light which uses less electricity and lasts much longer, resulting in reduced maintenance costs.

This week work will start to replace the all-night lights on the A127 with LEDs. All work will be completed using overnight lane closures to reduce disruption to the travelling public.

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Upgrades to all-night lighting in Basildon, Rochford, Castle Point, Uttlesford and Chelmsford are now largely complete. Braintree is next on the list, with Tendring to follow.

The changes come as part of a two-year programme to upgrade 19,000 all-night streetlights across the county. When complete, it is expected to save the taxpayer £600,000-a-year.

As part of the programme, many streetlights requiring repair are being upgraded to LEDs to reduce maintenance costs.

Over 10,000 lights have been repaired in the last three months to December, an increase from 8,247 to September.

The A127 is one of the busiest routes in the county; therefore these works will be taking place overnight, outside of peak hours, in a bid to create as little disruption as possible for the driving public as there will be a requirement for some lane closures

The LED rollout focuses on all-night street lighting as it runs throughout the night and offers the largest energy savings for the taxpayer.

Signature

Date