

**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Monthly Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

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

Also Present: District Councillors Fred Nicholls and Rosemary Heaney, Mrs Baxter (Clerk), 5 members of the public and Stephen Williams – Senior Developments Manager of Hills Building Group (developers for item 16/101 ii) and iii))

**16/093 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Guglielmi (ECC) sent his apologies, he has a clash of meetings.  
Mr Roberts (item 16/098) apologised for not attending but his wife had surgery very recently.

**16/094 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests and any requests for dispensations.**

Cllr Beard declared a non pecuniary interest in item 16/101iii)

**16/095 Approval and signing of the minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016 as true and accurate.  
Proposed: Cllr Routledge, Seconded Cllr Beecham

**16/096 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016. (Actions of Minutes 19<sup>th</sup> May)**

The clerk went through the report. Queries raised: It was reported that the clerk had not had time to progress the report on doing a bat survey to assess the impact of LED streetlights. Cllr Routledge stated that she had not heard anything further regarding the bat expert whose name the Essex Wildlife Trust gave her. Cllr Bell has tried to contact Mr Mitchell regarding who had cut the path in the Spinney but has not had a response.

**16/097 Public Speaking**

Mr Marshall reported that his planning application for 4 houses at Broad Lanes was refused by the planning committee by a vote of 4 to 6. He has resubmitted an application with the erection of 2 eco houses, and keeping the original house. Cllr Heaney advised that if EPC wish to call the application in to the planning committee, to ask Cllr Nicholls to do it.

**16/098 Safety Volunteer Role**

*Mr Bill Roberts will speak about his role as a safety volunteer for several villages, including Elmstead.*

Mr Roberts was unable to attend. He will be invited to a future PC meeting.

**16/099 County Councillor report**

See attached. Cllr Routledge commented that the Beat the Street initiative looked like a good idea but was disappointed that we did not have enough time to do anything about it.

**16/100 District Councillor reports**

Cllr Nicholls: The TDC local plan is progressing speedily. The public consultation will be mid-July to the end of August and there will be a consultation event in Elmstead. The date was not known (30<sup>th</sup> August) but it will be in the press It was discussed that there should be a PC presence at the consultation.

Cllr Nicholls is no longer a member of the TDC planning committee.

Cllr Heaney: Previously (planning) a big development applied for in a green gap would be refused, but the High Court has decided that if you can't show a 5 year supply of housing then developers can now build in green gaps. So you have to

Signature .....

Date .....

**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Monthly Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

demonstrate that it is more important not to build in the green gaps than build houses.

There is a scam where people who are pretending to be deaf are calling at people's houses selling pictures.

The caravan in Bromley Road is being occupied during the week as well as at weekends and Cllr Heaney suggests writing to Chris Stathers at planning enforcement. If the owner is there for 4 years he will have rights to remain living in the caravan. Cllr Heaney did not see the notes from the meeting between the owner and TDC planning, the clerk is to forward them to Cllr Heaney.

**16/101 Planning (for discussion)**

- i) *16/00694/FUL Matapos Colchester Road Elmstead. Proposed new dwelling.*

This application has been withdrawn.

- ii) *16/00724/OUT Blue Barn Farm Clacton Road Elmstead. Erection of seven detached dwellings and associated garaging served by new vehicular and pedestrian access (resubmission of 15/01874/OUT).*

A resident who lives on the border of this proposal spoke in favour of the proposal, stating that it would provide a safer access road for the existing and new houses, the semi-derelict site will look a lot better, the developer will put in a new water pressure system for all the houses, and it wouldn't necessarily increase car journeys as the removal of the car sales site would offset that. Mr Williams (Hills Building Group) stated that that they will put a refuge in the middle of the road to help residents to cross the road, and that Essex Highways have not objected to this.

It was discussed that none of the PCs objections to the original application had been answered by the new application, and that the speed of the traffic at that location is too fast for safe access or a central refuge crossing. There is still the consideration of ribbon development meaning future development applications from this location back to the houses on Clacton Road being approved as a result of this development being approved.

It was resolved that the PC was in favour of its original submission of objection reasons.

Proposed: Cllr Beard, all in favour

Cllr Beard left the meeting due to his non pecuniary interest in the next item (in line with the PC code of conduct)

- iii) *16/00219/OUT Land to The East of Tye Road Elmstead. Outline planning application for residential development of up to 32 dwellings, land for a community facility and associated parking and infrastructure. – EPC previously made comments objecting to this proposal. The application is to be decided at the July planning committee meeting. EPC have since received a letter and petition from the residents of Meadow Close requesting that EPC support this proposal on the basis that if it is approved, the Meadow Close development access could be from Tye Road instead of through Meadow Close. Phase 2 wrote a letter to TDC dated 4<sup>th</sup> April (previously circulated) with responses to consultee's comments, including those of EPC.*

A resident of Meadow Close (Mr Gerald Bevan) representing the residents of Meadow Close asked that the PC reconsider their objections to the above development for the following reasons: 1) It would put right the issue of the planned access to the permitted development north of Meadow Close, 2)

Signature .....

Date .....

**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Monthly Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

There will be future development on that land which will need access from Holly Way and 3) development on the Tye Road site will be unnoticed and provides a good location for a community centre or gp surgery.

There was a heated discussion between Mr Williams, the PC and the District Councillors. Despite verbal assurances from Mr Williams it is not proven to the PC that the land north of Meadow Close development could be forced to change its access to Tye Road as a condition of reserved matters. Our District Councillors advised that they already have permission for the Meadow Close access as part of their outline application, and that cannot be withdrawn. There is no indication from the land owner that he is willing to do that. Mr Williams continued to assert that everything to do with access was to be agreed in the reserved matters, and that it's the preferred option of TDC to have the access from Tye Road. Mr Williams was asked if Hills Building Group has spoken to Mr Gooch about this access option, but the reply was that they wouldn't speak to him as they are at different stages of the planning process. Mr Williams was asked if they could provide any written confirmation to back up his comments. He is expecting something in writing from Essex Highways and he will forward it to the PC. The District Councillors warned that the Meadow Close development could end up with 2 access roads, through Meadow Close and Tye Road and TDC planning would be delighted with 2 access routes. It was also pointed out that when the PC were originally in favour of an access route from Tye Road the planning situation was different. We are now in a vulnerable situation with no local plan, there are applications somewhere in the process of approximately 170 houses for Elmstead (it was 47 with the original local plan), it's not sustainable and not suitable for the village, so the context has changed.

It was left for Mr Williams to get back to the PC with some evidence regarding access in writing. He left the meeting at this point.

**16/102 Planning (for information)**

**Applications:**

16/00620/FUL Old Wheelwrights Chapel Lane Elmstead Conversion of existing swimming pool building into detached private annexe. No adverse comments.

16/00718/LBC Tudor House Chapel Lane Elmstead. Proposed installation of shower room in small storage room in extension. No adverse comments.

**Determinations:**

16/00495/FUL Rosedene Colchester Main Road Alresford Proposed first floor front extension. Approval – Full

16/00390/FUL Land Adj Bromley Road Elmstead Erection of cottage style dwelling with associated parking facilities. Approval - Full

**Any other applications or determinations received after the agenda was issued?**

No

**16/103 Finance**

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

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

Signature .....

Date .....

**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Monthly Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

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

- ii) *Pensions – to hear a recommendation from the finance committee regarding workplace pensions for EPC’s employees.*

Cllr Routledge went through the options that the Finance Committee had discussed and provided the following summary:

At the Finance Committee meeting held on 2 June it was agreed to recommend the Parish Council adopt the NEST scheme, using the more generous basis for pensionable salary, (where pensionable salary is defined as all earnings) This will give current and future employees a significant pension, especially if they choose to increase their own contributions, whilst at the same time protecting the Council from the substantial additional costs of the LGPS, which fluctuate on an annual basis and are outwith the control of the Council.

It was resolved to accept the above recommendation.

Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour

- iii) *To adopt updated Financial Regulations as recommended by the finance committee.*

It was resolved to adopt these updated Financial Regulations.

Proposed: Cllr Beecham, Seconded: Cllr Fairweather, all in favour

**16/104 Risk Assessment**

*To agree the basic risk assessment, but it will be a working document to be improved and updated on an ongoing basis.*

To be held over to July meeting.

**16/105 Market Field**

*An update on the issue of dog mess on the field and the means of trying to eradicate the problem. Any update on the issue of the EPC response to the proposed changes to the field?*

Cllr Bell is still inspecting the field, the last time he went it was clear. The grass is long though. He will walk the field again tomorrow and update the clerk. There is a problem with people driving up and letting their dogs go to run over the field.

The clerk is to draft an e-mail to update the school with the actions we are taking and ask for the name of the grass cutting contractor. Also to ask if the school could also take similar action to the PC in screening the field before use, and to keep the grass short.

The clerk is also to find out if Mark Parbury is still working in the same role at ECC and follow up with ECC about the previously suggested meeting.

**16/106 Elmcroft**

*The fence around Elmcroft car park is broken. Cllr Bell suggests removing it altogether for a trial period to see if that is acceptable. The barrier at the back will remain to stop vehicles driving on to Elmcroft.*

It was agreed for Cllr Fairweather to liaise with Mr Dingwall to remove the fence.  
Proposed: Cllr Beecham, Seconded: Cllr Routledge.

Cllr Beecham brought up that the fence around Elmcroft needs fixing, about 30-40% of it is broken. Ideally it would all be raised so that Mr Dingwall can use the mower to the edges of the field. Cllr Beecham is to obtain a costing for the materials and look into using the ex-offenders team to do the work.

Signature .....

Date .....

**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Monthly Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

**16/107 Village Plan**

***A current update and any further actions on the following items:***

*i) New allotments*

Cllr Fairweather to visit the residents on the allotment list to see who is still interested/living here. There are 15 names, with possibly only 8 left still relevant.

Cllr Beecham provided a map of the Elmstead boundary, councillors to start filling up the map with details of who owns what land.

*ii) Working with the primary school*

Cllr Bell spoke to Mr McDonald, the headteacher, about having a meeting between the school and the council. He was happy to do so, Cllr Bell is to follow up with dates.

**16/108 Correspondence**

*i) Rural Infrastructure Survey*

Cllr Heaney said that there used to be a rural working party but that it did not get off the ground. If they have started meeting again no-one has told the rural cllrs. The clerk is to send Cllr Heaney the survey e-mail.

*ii) Wivenhoe Neighbourhood Plan Consultation*

Circulate details for the next meeting (July)

**16/109 Communications** *Items of interest for inclusion in our August Upmarket report.*  
Cllrs to e-mail the clerk.

**16/110 Items for next agenda or for information only**

Cllr Redding asked when we would need to have the next finance committee meeting – this will be in July.

Cllr Beard said that the Elmstead School Fete is on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June, it would be good to have councillors there, possibly at a stand. Cllr Beecham has badges he can provide to councillors attending and they will look at the possibility of a stand for next year.

Cllr Ward has asked to join up as a parish safety volunteer. After training she will be visiting people homes advising on safety and providing smoke alarms.

**There being no further public business councillors were thanked for their attendance.  
The meeting closed at 9.50pm.**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016.  
To be held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead**

**Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter  
16<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Contact: [elmsteadparish@gmail.com](mailto:elmsteadparish@gmail.com)  
01206 827139**

Signature .....

Date .....

**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Monthly Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

**Appendix 1**

**Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report**

*Closing Balances to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 are:*

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 792	£28,407.87
Total uncashed cheques	£1,829.20
Total of cheques below (May payments - request for approval)	£1,343.74
Balance in current account after cheques	£25,234.93
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 147	£27,704.30
Active Saver Account (Bluegates Donation)	£10,020.61
<b>Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit</b>	<b>£62,959.84</b>

*Income Details for May 2016:*

Bursaries for clerk's training	£64.50
Community Centre's share of 707 waste	£97.18
<b>Total income for May 2016</b>	<b>£161.68</b>

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Zurich Insurance	£1,058.34
Elmstead Community Centre – Hall Hire May x 1	£16.00
Elmstead Grasshoppers Cricket Club – reissue grant cheque	£200.00
Mr A Dingwall – Parts & petrol for strimmer, broom & watering can	£28.96
Mrs A Baxter – CiLCA May mileage and car park (Great Dunmow) & refreshments for PC meeting May AGM	£40.44
Total Cheques	<b>£1,343.74</b>

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO  
16<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Signature .....

Date .....

**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Monthly Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

## ECC Report June 2016

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### **New Chairman announced**

Cllr John Aldridge was elected as the new Chairman of Essex County Council for the coming year.

County Council Member for the Broomfield and Writtle Division since 2005, Cllr Aldridge takes over the post from the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Norman Hume.

Cllr Aldridge was very honoured to be elected as Chairman of the Essex County Council, and said that following on from his two years serving as Vice Chairman, he wished to acknowledge the outstanding contribution to the County of Essex by his predecessor, Cllr Norman Hume.

The role of Chairman of the County Council dates back to 1889, when the County Council was formed, and there has been a long tradition of service to the community and it is his aspiration to follow in that tradition and the example of his predecessors.

Amongst his priorities he will promote entrepreneurial skills at all levels whilst also seeking greater recognition for all those voluntary groups and carers that make such a major contribution to the wellbeing of the residents of Essex.

During his time as a County Councillor, Cllr Aldridge has served as Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and as Chairman of a number of Council Committees.

He has also served on a number of outside bodies including the Anglian Eastern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee, Chelmsford Youth Strategy Group, the County Council's Network, Chelmsford Local Highways Panel and as Chair,man of the Epping Forest District Locality Board.

### **Changes to Council Cabinet**

At the same Full Council meeting changes to the Cabinet were also announced, following Cllr Roger Hirst's election as the new Police and Crime Commissioner for the county.

The changes will see Cllr Simon Walsh, member for Thaxted, join the Cabinet and take on the new Environment and Waste portfolio. Deputy Leader Cllr Kevin Bentley will take on responsibility for public sector reform and strategic partnerships. Cllr John Spence will take on additional responsibility for Planning, while IT and digital transformation will move under the Leader's portfolio.

### **Cabinet Members**

Name	Portfolio
Cllr David Finch	Leader
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Deputy Leader and Economic Growth and Partnerships
Cllr John Spence	Finance, Housing and Planning
Cllr Rodney Bass	Infrastructure
Cllr Eddie Johnson	Highways and Transport
Cllr Anne Brown	Corporate, Communities and Customers
Cllr Dick Madden	Adults and Children
Cllr Ray Gooding	Education and Lifelong Learning
Cllr Graham Butland	Health
Cllr Simon Walsh	Environment and Waste

### **Deputy Members**

Signature .....

Date .....

**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Monthly Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

Cllr Anthony Jackson (Property and Project Assurance)  
Cllr Stephen Canning (Digital Innovation)  
Cllr Penny Channer (Broadband and Enterprise)  
Cllr Ricki Gadsby (Creative Economy and Skills)  
Cllr Mick Page (Planning and Rural Affairs)  
Cllr Ray Howard (Local Transport and Parking)  
Cllr Malcolm Maddox (Age Care)  
Cllr Sue Lissimore (Early Years and Customer Service Improvement)  
Cllr Susan Barker (Health Living and Wellbeing)  
Cllr Kay Twitchen (Sustainability)  
Cllr Malcolm Buckley (Waste Reduction)

**Colchester Community Hub opens after revamp**

A newly redesigned community hub has been officially opened in Colchester on Thursday, 2 June offering residents a number of vital community services under one roof.

Colchester Library and Community Hub have undergone a month-long transformation to incorporate a wide variety of services within a vibrant ground-floor space.

Colchester Institute design student Fiona Morris won a competition to redesign the ground floor of the building and was on hand to see her plans come to life which are colourful and creating a very good sense of space.

The redesigned venue offers residents registration services, Council Tax and benefits advice, library services, housing support, clinics promoting health and wellbeing, Colchester Community Voluntary Services and a brand new sensory corner all under one roof; Community hubs, such as this one, are a great way to bring together services to make them more accessible to the public whilst saving money for the taxpayer.

This building offers a brilliant resource from library books and housing support to tips on how to stay healthy.

The work was completed by local company Carmelcrest, as lead contractor, and Axis Europe who undertook the redecoration for free as part of their commitment to community work.

For more information on the transformation work please visit

[www.colchester.gov.uk/transformation](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/transformation)

**Registration services now live across the county**

Residents can now register a birth, death or notice of marriage at 18 conveniently placed community hubs across Essex after the final venues went live.

Essex County Council is creating pioneering new community hubs across the county offering a range of services under one roof.

The community hubs allow registration services to share space within pre-existing libraries and other community venues, such as town halls; they are a common sense solution to towns where different council services are dotted about in a number of separate buildings.

Each community hub is unique and will offer different local services depending on the need in that area.

There are initiatives in the pipeline of exploring sharing space with police, district council services and voluntary services at a number of locations to make the best use of public buildings as well as saving money for the taxpayer.

The new registration points are:

- Basildon Library
- Braintree Library

Signature .....

Date .....



**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Monthly Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

- Brentwood Town Hall
- Burghstead Lodge, Billericay
- Chelmsford Library
- Clacton Library
- Colchester Library and Community Hub
- Dunmow Library
- Epping Library
- Halstead Hospital
- Harlow Library
- Harwich Library
- Maldon Library
- Rayleigh Library
- Rochford Library
- South Benfleet Library
- Uttlesford District Council Office
- Witham Library

Appointments can be booked quickly and easily online or by calling 0345 603 7632.

In yet another move to simplify and improve services, residents can also now request a copy of a birth, death or marriage certificate online which can then be posted directly to their home.

The service is now live 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through the Essex Record Office and is available at <http://www.essexrecordoffice.co.uk/services/registration-certificates>

**Tendring gets ready to Beat the Street**

Tendring is set to play host to an exciting new initiative called ‘Beat the Street’ – a six-week challenge that encourages participants to get active.

Beat the Street will turn the Tendring District into a real-life game and local people will be challenged to form a team and see how far they can walk, cycle or run within the timeframe. Participants will be able to log their journey by tapping cards against 100 sensors called ‘Beat Boxes’, which will be found on lampposts across the area, approximately half a mile apart.

The challenge will run from Wednesday, 8th June to Wednesday, 20th July and is funded by Essex County Council with support from Tendring District Council and Active Essex with the main aim being to get healthier and have fun, as well as helping families become more active and encourage people to become more engaged in their local community.

The benefits of Beat the Street are clear; walking for just half an hour a day, five days a week, can dramatically improve health and reduce the risk of developing illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes.

The project also further reinforces the Council’s commitment to promoting physical activity that local people can enjoy, regardless of their level of ability

There will be great prizes of Decathlon vouchers for the teams that travel the furthest and the teams that clock up the highest average points per person. There is also the chance to win weekly ‘lucky tap’ prizes just for taking part. People of all ages can take participate and players can win prizes for themselves and their community team.

Beat the Street Tendring was launched on 25 May at Whitehall Academy and it is designed to inspire people to be physically active, with the intention that they will continue these lifestyle choices beyond the competition.

For more information about Beat the Street, visit [beatthestreet.me/tendring](http://beatthestreet.me/tendring) or get involved by searching for Beat the Street Tendring on Facebook or @btstendring on Twitter.

Signature .....

Date .....

**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Monthly Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

- Regular physical activity is known to improve 23 long-term conditions, including heart disease, diabetes, cancers, dementia, depression and anxiety. Taking exercise also helps improve the health of those who already have these conditions.
- Following the Beat the Street competition in Reading 2015, a survey showed that eight out of ten people thought that Beat the Street helped them be more active (84%), walk more than usual (78%) and feel healthier (78%).
- In 2016, more than 50,000 people have already played Beat the Street in Hounslow, Wolverhampton and Birmingham plus Beat the Street Sandwell which is funded by the National Charity Partnership, a collaboration between Tesco, the British Heart Foundation and Diabetes UK.
- Active Essex is hosted by Essex County Council. Their vision is “To create a more physically active and sporting environment for all people in Greater Essex to enable everyone to participate in the activity of their choice at their chosen level”
- For further details of activity in your area visit the activity finder on [www.getactiveessex.com](http://www.getactiveessex.com)

**Trading Standards gets animated about fraudsters**

Rogue or doorstep traders, scammers and faulty used car sales are three of the biggest issues combatted by Trading Standards in Essex. To help you avoid the most common tricks con-artists use, Essex Trading Standards has released a series of animated videos.

Animations

Rogue traders: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sZom540ipY>

Scams: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLipNSm0tP4>

Used cars: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZJokCCFU9Q>

These animations are a very useful way to raise awareness of the dangers of rogue or doorstep trading, scams and buying a used car. Some traders operate purely to con residents out of their money, and although Trading Standards are experienced in dealing with these issues we still need everyones’ help to ensure that family member, friend or neighbour does not become a victim.

Trading Standards receive more complaints about used cars than anything else, so hopefully the animation will stop people being taken for a ride when purchasing a vehicle.

If anyone is concerned that someone is being targeted please call Trading Standards to report the issue.

**Rogue traders**

Be Sure at the Door is a partnership between Essex Trading Standards, Essex Police and Age UK encouraging elderly residents to say no to cold calling rogue traders.

If you need any work carried out on your home it is recommended you use a trader on the Buy with Confidence Scheme. A Buy with Confidence trader has been audited and approved by Trading Standards and you can find the nearest three to your postcode by calling 03454 040506 or visiting [buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://buywithconfidence.gov.uk)

**Scams**

Essex Trading Standards will launch their Too Good to Be True scams campaign this summer. Every year thousands of Essex residents are targeted by scam through emails, phone calls and letters with fake prize draws, lotteries, offers and competitions.

These scams will often ensnare people by promising a very tantalising prize for a very low fee, but it doesn’t take long for those small payments to add up. Trading Standards #2Good2bTrue campaign advises: if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

**Used cars**

Signature .....

Date .....

**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Monthly Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

Some used car dealers may mislead potential customers or cover up issues with a car to make a sale. Trading Standards receives more complaints about this than anything else.

The used car animation gives examples of actions a consumer can do to make sure the car they are buying is fit for purpose.

For further information visit [essex.gov.uk/Pages/Be-sure-at-the-door.aspx](http://essex.gov.uk/Pages/Be-sure-at-the-door.aspx)

**Rogue tree surgeons**

Trading Standards are also warning residents to be vigilant about cold calling, with regards to rogue tree surgeons currently operating in Essex.

Rogue tree surgeons have been reportedly knocking on doors and leafleting residents in order to obtain business. Trading Standards have been passed leaflets from these traders containing false business names and addresses.

Cutting down trees is a specialist occupation, with companies required to be trained, health and safety qualified and possess permits for the disposal of waste. Some trees may also have preservation orders, with strict restrictions placed on their maintenance that qualified tree surgeons would be able to navigate.

Rogue tree surgeons will often offer services at a bargain price, which will then escalate as the work continues, adding on extra costs, such as waste disposal.

The advice to residents is never to agree to repairs or maintenance with traders who knock at your door. These are the sales tactics of a chancer, not a reputable trader.

As ever everyone is urged to use a “Buy with Confidence” trader, as everyone on this scheme has been audited and approved by Trading Standards.

For more information about Buy with Confidence call 03454 040506 or visit [buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://buywithconfidence.gov.uk)

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Date .....