

**Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015**  
**Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

Present: Councillors Bell (Chair), Beard, Beecham, Fairweather, Kirby, Routledge, Redding and Ward

Also Present: Mrs Baxter (Clerk), and approximately 20 members of public

**15/216 Apologies for Absence**

District Councillors Nicholls and Heaney and County Councillor Guglielmi all sent apologies as they are unable to make this meeting.

**15/217 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests**

None

**15/218 Approval and signing of the minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 as true and accurate.

Proposed: Cllr Routledge, Seconded: Cllr Beecham

Cllr Bell took the opportunity to say that as 2015 is ending he feels that the Parish Council is made up of a good team with plenty of ideas and hopes that long may it continue. Cllr Bell also thank Mrs Baxter for her work throughout the year.

**15/219 Public Speaking**

A member of EMAG (Elmstead Market Art Group) said thank you for the way that the hall in the community centre has been looked after recently.

A newcomer to the village thanked the council for repairing the light in Bromley Road.

**15/220 County Councillor report**

See Appendix A

**15/221 District Councillor reports**

Not present

**15/222 Planning (for information)**

**Applications:**

15/01670/FUL, Allens Farm Tye Road Elmstead. Revised application for erection of agricultural building to be used in connection with recently constructed anaerobic digester.

15/01813/FUL, Cambria Colchester Road. Demolition of existing porch to make way for two storey side extension providing ground floor reception room and upstairs bedroom.

**Determinations:**

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

15/01361/DETAIL Mr M Willis Barnfield Lodge Clacton Road Elmstead. Reserved matters application for the erection of two detached dwellings served by existing vehicular access. Approval - Reserved Matters/Detailed

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

15/01599/FUL Mr & Mrs N Hilliard Balls Farm Tye Road Elmstead Proposed indoor swimming pool extension to dwelling. Approval - Full

**Broad Lanes – 4 eco houses**

*A discussion around what type of contribution to ask for the village, and views on this potential development.*

It was asked: when does Mr Marshall intend to submit this application? The answer was that he is keen to come to the January meeting and hear the views of the council.

**15/223 Market Field Lease**

*To discuss the latest communications and any response with ECC regarding Essex County Council's proposal for the use of Market Field. To discuss any further updates.*

Cllr Beard updated the members of the public with the background to the ECC proposal. It was discussed as to how the fencing would adversely affect events, for example it would not be possible to continue with the fireworks display, the area at the back is not suitable or large enough. It was also pointed out that with current developments the village is growing and needs its green space even more. Cllr Redding stated that we will hold a public consultation and that we'd like to hear from the residents as to what their views on the proposal are.

A resident pointed out that the new fence will be for the safety of the children. Cllr Beard replied that there are only two entrances to the field as it stands, if they put proper secure gates on it will be secure. Cllr Bell pointed out that even with the fence on two sides, one perimeter will still be hedging and would not be secure. A resident said that from an aesthetic perspective it will be a visual intrusion and look awful.

Cllr Beard also explained that we have been notified by ECC of an event where a man was seen intruding onto Market Field and the school had to be shut down as police warned he may have been armed. We have since received an account of the event from the police stating that a man had an episode involving drink/drugs and went running about near to the school in the back field. It appears that he was only ever a threat to himself and it was a false alarm. A police unit may have spoken to the school when they entered the grounds looking for the male. Having spoken to a school employee it appears the school was not shut down after all. Cllr Routledge has drafted a response to ECC which includes pointing out the inaccuracies in their e-mail and it was agreed that the clerk would send it.

**15/224 Finance**

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

It was resolved to accept the finance report and approve the payments for November. Proposed Cllr Routledge Seconded Cllr Redding

It was agreed that Cllr Bell will contact Deans regarding the cost of the tree, as it is significantly more than last year.

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**15/225 Clerk's report and correspondence**

See appendix C

Cllr Beard added to the point regarding Market Field School parking that he has spoken to the caretaker, and once the builders have finished they will start to enforce that no-one parks on the road outside the school.

Cllr Fairweather has spoken to the parking partnership group and has received forms to request zig zag lines outside the school, rather than the single white line which is currently there.

**15/226 Grants**

*To give out the grants which have been awarded to the local organisations of Elmstead*

Grant cheques were presented to the village organisations and we were interested to hear more about the organisations and what they intend to do with their grants.

**15/227 Communications**

*Items of interest for inclusion in our February Upmarket report.*

Include the giving of the grants and information regarding our facebook page.

**15/228 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 Redding – allotments. Cllr Beecham – has spoken to Mr Dingwall and the posts on Elmcroft are in a dangerous state of deterioration. Cllr Beecham will inspect them with Mr Dingwall and report back.

Cllr Ward – is a new neighbourhood watch coordinator and covers Colchester Road, Oatlands, Wheatlands and Meadow Close. Cllr Ward will send the clerk an article to include for upmarket.

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

**Attendees were invited to stay for Christmas drinks and food to celebrate the time of year and the giving of the grants.**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016.**

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

**Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter**

**17<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**Contact: [elmsteadparish@gmail.com](mailto:elmsteadparish@gmail.com)**

**01206 827139**

Signature .....

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**Appendix A**

## ECC Report for December 2015

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### **Streetlights stay on for Christmas Day and New Year's Day**

Essex County Council has announced that as a seasonal gesture of goodwill, all street lights will remain on the night on the mornings of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. This will help local businesses and residents to enjoy the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

The Council is very keen to help residents celebrate Christmas and the countdown to 2015 by enabling the public to enjoy late-night festive events including Midnight Mass and New Year's Eve parties.

Part night lighting usually operates on streetlights across most of Essex seven days a week between 1am and 5am (midnight until 5am on Monday mornings).

It is currently on course to save taxpayers approximately £1.4 million this financial year as well as saving carbon emissions.

Because there has been no evidence of increased crime or accidents across the county since the implementation of part night lighting, there will be no change in Policy

Essex County Council streetlights always remain on in areas where well-established exemption criteria apply.

### **Save hundreds in the Essex Energy Switch**

A ground-breaking energy-saving initiative which has already saved Essex residents almost £1 million is reopening for new applications.

Essex residents and small businesses are being encouraged to register for the switch from 1st December 2015 to potentially save hundreds of pounds on their energy bills.

Once the registration process closes, an auction will take place where energy providers bid against one another. The winning bidder will be the company offering the lowest price to all applicants.

During last year's Essex Energy Switch, residents saved approximately £263 per household resulting in a total savings across the county of a staggering £948,792.

This scheme is an unmissable opportunity, even for those who believe they are already getting the best prices available to them; it is completely free and registration takes just five minutes. There is no obligation to switch providers following the auction so it really is a win-win for all involved.

From the nationwide sign-up last year, over 27 percent of participants were from Essex which was more than any other count and it is hoped that this figure can be improved upon this year so that even more Essex residents give themselves the opportunity to save on energy bills and spend their hard-earned money elsewhere.

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Please visit [www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch](http://www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch) for more information and to find out how to take part.

- Alternatively, residents can call Contact Essex on 0345 743 0430 or 01245 430 430 (if they prefer to dial a geographically-routed number).
- Residents can also speak to their local library or a friend/ family member to gain support to sign up to the scheme. Additional advice is also available from Age UK or Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Essex as a county (including district and borough council's) has had 9,000 households sign up to the Essex Energy Switch during the past two switch auctions.
- Essex County Council recommends that all householders review their energy bills and conduct their own price comparison annually.

**Innovative ideas shared as Essex schools target further special needs improvements**

Schools across Essex came together to share a host of innovative new approaches to improving special needs education in the county.

Organised by Essex County Council, about 200 head teachers, governors and parents attended the Essex Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Innovation Project conference at Stock Brook Manor today on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The acclaimed project, funded through a grant from the Department for Education, has seen clusters of schools explore different ways of accelerating progress and improving outcomes for pupils with SEND.

More than 150 schools, both special and mainstream, have been involved, resulting in 12 school-led projects.

They cover areas including new approaches to literacy and communication, better support for families, removing barriers to emotional wellbeing, and addressing anxiety relating to learning..

Essex County Council has gone above and beyond its statutory responsibilities with this project and has worked tirelessly to ensure it embodies the county's immense energy and commitment to inclusion.

In addition to the Essex SEND Innovation Project, Essex County Council has commissioned a SEND leadership programme from Essex Special School Education Trust (ESSET), a new approach to maximising the impact of teaching assistants (MITA), a Super SENCO programme - where school SEN coordinators are developed as strategic leaders - and an autism friendly schools project.

Eight new autism support centres (four primary and four secondary) are also being established at mainstream schools in Essex, along with four special school hubs. The hubs will offer places for those young people who find the social challenges of mainstream school difficult, as well as providing family support and training for other Essex schools.

Coast2Coast Teaching School Alliance and Mid Tendring Education Partnership – aim to have a qualified teacher of children with Dyslexia in every school in Tendring but also offer a model for a whole-school approach. Opportunities will also be available for teachers at the various schools to network and share best practice.

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**Carers Rights Day: Support available for carers in Essex**

On 20<sup>th</sup> November it was Carers Rights Day. "Action for Family Carers" and their "Supporting Carers in Essex" partner organisations held a successful Carers Rights Day information event for unpaid carers in six hospitals across Essex.

James Clarke, Chief Executive of Action for Family Carers said:

"There are over 180,000 carers in Essex looking after a relative or friend. We want to make sure they know about their rights and the support they could be entitled to". Looking after someone can be rewarding, but at times can be tiring, time-consuming, and stressful. That is why Essex County Council and the local NHS have funded Supporting Carers in Essex for two years. The authority recognises that without support, caring can take a serious toll on health, finances and wellbeing. "We want to support our unpaid carers in their valuable role, and for them to continue caring should they want to, by supporting them in their needs. The health and wellbeing of carers matters, just as much as those for whom they care.

Action for Family Carers are leading a group of local charities who are working together to support unpaid family Carers in Essex to continue caring. Since April 2015, over 1500 carers have received help.

Supporting Carers in Essex can be access by calling 0300 770 80 90 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 4.30pm)

For information and support visit [www.carersinessex.org.uk](http://www.carersinessex.org.uk) or email [info@carersinessex.org.uk](mailto:info@carersinessex.org.uk)

More information for carers is available at <http://www.livingwellessex.org/looking-after-someone/>

What is Supporting Carers in Essex?

Supporting Carers in Essex is a group of charities working together to support unpaid carers of all ages across Essex. It provides a single contact point for carers anywhere in the county. Supporting Carers in Essex is funded by Essex County Council and the clinical commissioning groups in the local authority area. Since April 2015, it has worked with 1500 unpaid carers.

The services on offer to carers across Essex include;

- o Adult carer support in the community - Practical and emotional support, information and signposting, crisis and contingency planning, training
- o Hospital Support in all acute hospitals in Essex – practical and emotional support when the person you care for is admitted to hospital
- o Young Carers in schools – one-to-one support for Young Carers aged 11 – 18 years old within secondary schools across the county
- o Young Adult Carers – one-to-one support and personal development for Young Adult Carers aged 16 – 24 years old.
- o Carers of people at end of life (in partnership with Macmillan) – when the person you care for has a terminal diagnosis or is approaching the end of their life.
- o Carers Rapid Response Service - offering respite breaks for carers experiencing exceptional difficulties or waiting to have a carer's assessment.

Led by Action for Family Carers, the partnership brings together:

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Essex Carers Support; Crossroads Care Tendring & Colchester; Crossroads Care Braintree District & Chelmsford; Carers Trust Epping Forest, Harlow, Havering & Redbridge - Crossroads Carer Services; Crossroads Care Brentwood & Basildon. Carers UK research

A new report<sup>1</sup> from Carers UK and the University of Sheffield reveals that the 6.8 million<sup>2</sup> people who provide unpaid care for a disabled, seriously-ill or older loved one in the UK **save the state £134 billion a year** – close to the cost of a second NHS.<sup>3</sup>

1 Valuing Carers 2015 – the rising value of carers’ support [2015] University of Sheffield, University of Leeds and CIRCLE, published by Carers UK

2 The figure of 6.8 million carers is based on the latest official estimate of the UK population (2012-based Subnational Population Projections [2014] ONS, National Records of Scotland, Welsh Assembly Government and NISRA). The most recent Census carried out in 2011 put the number of unpaid carers in the UK at 6.5 million.

3 Public expenditure on health services for the 2014-15 financial year is £134.1bn. Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2015 [July 2015] HM Treasury

Number of people providing unpaid care in our area

	Local authority: district / unitary		All categories:			
	Age 0 to 24		Age 25 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over	
Tendring	17,323	975	4,712	6,160	5,476	
Colchester	16,458	1,121	5,249	6,224	3,864	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145,872</b>	<b>9,034</b>	<b>45,414</b>	<b>55,912</b>	<b>35,512</b>	

**Essex County Council response to Comprehensive Spending Review/Autumn Statement**

The emerging picture from the Comprehensive Spending Review in the Autumn Statement is that local government has been hit very hard – so much so the Chancellor did not even mention the reduction to Local Authorities budgets in his speech. The very significant on-going reduction in the grant funding will place considerable extra pressures on services across the board.

The Council was already considering a council tax increase of 2%. The announcement in the Autumn Statement will enable a further increase in the council tax of 2% to pay for social care funding, which will put the onus on the taxpayer to bridge the funding gap – there is no new money in this, just new taxes.

In Essex, 2% would only provide half of the money we need to pay for the national living wage and the impact on taxpayers would need to be considered very carefully. By asking Councils to use reserves to help would only give 23 days of funding, but most of the Council’s reserves are earmarked and couldn’t be used anyway.

The Chancellor had better news on devolution and retaining business rates but that was a promise for the future, rather than the reality of the situation today, which is far worse than what had been anticipating.

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**Greater Essex Devolution bid takes shape**

Plans to give people in Greater Essex a bigger say in how their local areas are governed are underway as part of the devolution deal with Government. Transferring power and money away from Westminster to Greater Essex are part of the deal being explored by Councils, and authorities across the county have been meeting senior Government officials, to look at what this could mean for Greater Essex.

The devolution agenda gives great opportunity for Greater Essex. Many people will have heard of the Northern Powerhouse initiative and the Greater Essex devolution project shares many similarities.

There has been real recognition from Government that decisions that impact people and businesses are better made at a more local level.

That is why in September, all 15 district, borough, city, county and unitary authorities in Greater Essex wrote to the Government to express our interest in exploring this opportunity and this is now starting to take shape with a view of signing a deal next year..

Devolution will give collectively more powers to have a say on locally based issues, which means having greater influence and control to ensure skills training supports businesses and gives residents productive high-value jobs, making sure the infrastructure is there to support economic growth and the right housing for the right communities with the ultimate aim of getting more power from Government and allow residents to have more say on the issues that affect them.

If approved by all Councils, a formal bid will go to Government to approval next year.

**Cold callers can stick it**

“No cold caller” stickers are being distributed to vulnerable householders across Essex as part of a rogue trader campaign conducted by Essex County Council, Essex Police and Age UK Essex.

The stickers are the second phase of the Be Sure at the Door campaign, which aims to raise awareness of rogue traders.

Crime prevention officers, Age UK Essex community agents and some district council community support staff will be distributing the stickers to vulnerable householders.

The stickers are also available from libraries across Essex.

Rogue traders cause misery wherever they go and leave heartbreak and chaos in their wake. They persuade householders to employ them to carry out work that they don't need and then overcharge them, in some cases sucking them dry until their life savings are gone.

Rogue traders in Essex will not be tolerated and householders should remember that they make the decision about who carries out work on their homes. A list of reputable traders can be found within the “Buy with Confidence scheme”

Essex Police advice is not to be embarrassed if you have been caught out by a rogue trader as their methods of gaining confidence can be very convincing. If a

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rogue trader won't take no for an answer or you have been harassed into allowing them to start work and they are still at your house call 999.

If a trader misleads behaves in an aggressive way, new consumer rights introduced on 1 October 2014 may enable you to undo the contract and get some or all of your money back and/or get compensation for your loss or distress. You may be able to do this where the trader's practices or behaviour are misleading or aggressive and the trader's actions played a significant part in your decision to buy from them.

Andrew Gardner, Chief Executive Age UK Essex "Age UK Essex often receives reports of vulnerable older people being victims of rogue traders. These traders often cold call and offer to carry-out repairs which are poor quality, unnecessary and charged at extortionate prices. We are so pleased to be part of a campaign which works to protect those most at risk from becoming victims of rogue traders and helping communities take control and help them feel empowered to say no to doorstep crime."

Earlier in the year, fridge magnets with useful advice to avoid rogue traders were distributed across the county.

At the same time information about how to spot if vulnerable householders have become victims of rogue traders has been targeted at their family and friends.

Trading Standards approved tradespeople can be found at [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk) or telephone 03454 040506. Report suspicious callers to Trading Standards via the helpline on 08454 040506 or to Essex Police on 101. It is helpful to provide as many details as possible such as vehicle details, descriptions of people including accents, tattoos and height. Handle any leaflets given by suspicious cold callers carefully and call the police

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**Appendix B**

**Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report**

*Closing Balances to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 are:*

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 768	£27,254.17
Total uncashed cheques	£1,449.03
Total of cheques below (December payments - request for approval)	£364.43
Balance in current account after cheques	£25,440.71
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 144	£27,697.40
<b>Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit</b>	<b>£53,138.11</b>

*Income Details for November 2015:*

EPS Grass Cutting	£390.00
<b>Total income for November 2015</b>	<b>£390.00</b>

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Elmstead Community Centre – Hall Hire November x 3	£45.00
TDALC affiliation fee	£10.00
Mr A Dingwall expenses – black bin bags & phone to laptop cable	£3.39
Mrs A Baxter – Copy paper for office	£12.05
The Royal British Legion - £18 plus optional donation	£68.00
Dean's – Christmas Tree	£144.00
Woodland Trust – Tree Disease Recovery Pack	£60.00
Cllr Fairweather – Christmas Tree Lights	£21.99
Total Cheques	<b>£364.43</b>

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO  
 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015

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