

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

Present: Councillors Bell, Fairweather, Redding, Routledge, Beard and Kirby.

Also present: District Councillor Fred Nicholls, District Councillor Rosemary Heaney, Mrs Baxter (clerk), Mrs Martine Ward and three members of the public.

**15/159 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Beecham sent his apologies, he is away on holiday. Cllr Guglielmi (ECC) is also away on holiday.

Cllr Bell shared the news of Cllr Brock's resignation, and said it was a shame that Cllr Brock had decided to resign and that we greatly appreciated her contribution to the Parish Council.

**15/160 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests**

None

**15/161 Approval and signing of the minutes from 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

Cllr Kirby asked if there had been any action taken regarding item 15/155 – footpaths/pavements. The clerk explained that she had spoken to Mr Dingwall (our handyman) who has started to take photos of the most badly damaged pavements for the clerk to send to Essex Highways.

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015 as true and accurate.

**15/162 Co-opting of councillors**

*To co-opt Mrs Martine Ward to the Parish Council.*

Mrs Ward briefly stated that she wanted to join the council because she wanted to support and help the council and Elmstead. She already works with Alresford Parish Council (not as a councillor) and is currently helping with a community garden there.

Mrs Ward was co-opted as a councillor and invited to join the council.

**15/163 Police Report (Crime information)**

We have received information from Tendring NHW that Essex Police are removing the mobile phones from the neighbourhood policing teams. (Our PCSO Rachael Oscroft no longer has a mobile contact number and if you wish to contact her it has to be by e-mail or by 101 with her extension number)

The Chief Constable has received complaints regarding this and has said that to compensate for this removal, each district (i.e. Tendring) will create a dedicated phone number for local use.

We will hear from NHW when the number is set up.

**15/164 Neighbourhood Watch**

*Information received from John Wright regarding what is involved in volunteering for a Neighbourhood Watch:*

Coordinators run their groups according to the needs of the community. There is no compulsion to attend meetings. Training consists of a visit from Mr Wright and one other, they outline what is required and leave a briefing pack. It's then up to individual coordinators as to what they do, they could have street meets, or just be a point of contact and pass on information.

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Cllr Bell suggested Cllrs encourage people in the streets they live in. If we don't get any interest there or from the article in Upmarket we'll have to make some decisions about getting more people interested.

### 15/165 Public Speaking

It was said by a resident of Bromley Road that the speeding on Bromley Road and Clacton Roads is getting worse. It's no particular time of the day, it starts at about 8 or as it gets dark and carries on late into the night. The vehicles are very noisy, you can hear them coming from a great distance. You used to see police with speed guns on Bromley Road, but not anymore.

The clerk will make the police aware of the speeding on Bromley Road and Cllr Redding suggested sending a follow up letter.

A resident is concerned that she has heard that the number 77 bus will cease after Christmas. 77 is the New Horizon bus that goes to Aingers Green and also to Colchester Station. Could we contact another bus company?

Cllr Routledge: As Great Bentley will no longer have a bus service they could contact ECC and show that they have a need. Some bus companies are subsidised and some commercial so it will depend.

It was also reported that there is a lot of litter, on School Road, along Clacton Road in front of the Spice and on Bromley Road.

It's the Market Field School builders and therefore the problems should be gone this time next month.

A resident asked if we could organise a litter pick on Bromley Road. The clerk is to ask the handyman whereabouts on Bromley Road he litter picks.

### 15/166 County Councillor report

Cllr Guglielmi not present

### 15/167 District Councillor reports

The issue of the variable service in the post office (Spar) was raised. If there's only one employee dealing with garage customers they shut the PO counter. The service is supposed to be 6.30am – 10pm but it's not.

An Elmstead resident has contacted Bernard Jenkin MP to complain, and Mr Jenkin has been in correspondence with the PO. He has received a letter from Laura Tarling, Public Affairs manager of Post Office Ltd who says that arrangements have been made to provide additional training for the branch manager and his staff. They are also trying to recruit more staff. That letter was dated 6<sup>th</sup> August and it was noted that there has not been much improvement since, although Cllr Kirby did say they had a trainee in this week.

Cllr Nicholls suggested we contact Gary Herbert who used to be regional manager and was very good. It was also suggested that we could contact the press or contact Bernard Jenkin MP.

It was agreed to contact Mr Herbert first, regarding the post office service issues.

Cllr Nicholls: asked if the Tendring bus forum could be a place to raise the issue of the no 77 bus, but Cllr Routledge explained that there is not a Tendring bus forum as such. There is a transport representatives meeting for the area of Tendring organised by ECC. It has a limited remit to share information and raise some issues.

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There is an enforcement officer looking into the issues at Autumn House. He's going to write to EPC for comments and observations with a view to the next course of action.

Cllr Heaney: Neil Pendrigh from Essex County Council came to Elmstead following complaints about the dangerous parking by the Market Field School builders but did not see any problem parking.

**15/168 Planning**  
**Applications:** None  
**Determinations:** None

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

None

**15/169 Tendring District Local Plan Exhibition at Weeley**  
*Cllr Routledge (and any others?) attended the Local Plan exhibition at Weeley. What feedback is there for the rest of the council?*

The exhibition had a limited focus about the choices and options. There is another exhibition next Wednesday at Great Bromley.

The plan is for provision for 10,000 houses between now and 2032. 9,200 are already earmarked and the remaining 800 have 4 options for consideration, Clacton, Weeley, Tendring Central and Higher Urban Densities. If you go to the exhibition you can put your thoughts about the developments on a post it and put it on the map. At the end they will take all the notes and read them.

A development on the Colchester/Tendring border is part of the 9,200 houses already earmarked. Cllr Heaney suggested that everyone write in and ask for a green gap between this development and Elmstead.

The development at Clingoe Hill will have the most effect on us, including traffic issues. Although they do plan to put a new road in which should take the pressure off Clingoe Hill.

**15/170 Tendring District Local Plan Consultation**  
*EPC have received an Issues and Options Consultation Document which discusses 8 issues to be considered and asks 29 questions as the framework for providing our ideas and opinions. Our comments need to be sent by 13<sup>th</sup> October.*  
*How shall EPC tackle formulating its response? Should we split the issues and questions for individuals or groups to consider before a meeting, and use those responses as a starting point for a consolidated EPC opinion? Should there be a separate Planning Committee meeting to discuss this issue or give the first Elmstead Development working party meeting over to this and make it a public meeting?*

It was agreed for the working party to meet on the evening of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August to start formulating its response. Those who can make it to the exhibition at Great Bromley on Wednesday will go.

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**15/171 Finance**

*To see if there are any questions regarding the finance report and approve the payments for September. See appendix 1.*

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

Proposed: Cllr Redding, Seconded Cllr Fairweather

**15/172 Clerk updates and correspondence**

Cllr Kirby: Mr Steve Higgins has been in contact regarding using Elmcroft for tag rugby over the rugby world cup period. It will be for 5 or 6 occasional Saturdays 9-10am. There will be cones to mark the area and he has done a risk assessment.

It was discussed whether Elmcroft would be the safest, cleanest environment, the alternatives are Elmstead Primary School field and Market Field. The school field would not have any dog mess and Market Field would not have a road close by. It was agreed that EPC support sporting activities in Elmstead and decided that Cllr Kirby would speak to Mr Higgins to ask if had considered other venues.

Residents have been copying EPC in on correspondence between themselves and TDC planning regarding their concerns about building activities at Bottles Hall, Clacton Road. TDC planning are being very slow with their responses. Cllr Nicholls said that he's received a response from Cath Bicknell (Head of planning, TDC) asking the planning officer to revisit the case.

**15/173 Bluegates Solar Farm donation of £10,000**

*Feedback received so far.*

The clerk explained that on putting the Bluegates donation information on the PC website, that the website had notified a registered user of the content and we have received a completed form from that user. It was noted that this could be a means of communication with residents.

The response we've had was a preference for option 2, or alternatively a commitment to Elmstead in Bloom.

Cllr Fairweather suggested that the Big Lunch could be done as a joint celebration of the Queen's 90 birthday next year.

**15/174 Shrubbery border between Clacton Road and the car park**

*An update and to decide what to do next.*

Cllr Redding: Karen Chamberlain (landscape designer) has been to see the shrubbery. She says there is a very good collection of plant species and we need a maintenance plan for each plant. It would be a shame to remove any. She suggested that a feature is made of the pathways that people have made walking through the shrubbery – make them actual pathways.

It was decided that Cllr Redding will speak to a contact at Beth Chatto to see if there would be a fee for helping with the maintenance plan.

Cllr Ward said that her husband works for Beth Chatto and she will talk to him about it.

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### 15/175 Market Field Lease

*We requested a meeting with Mr Mark Parbury and Mr Simon Hughes, but Mr Parbury asked for our response to his e-mail dated 17<sup>th</sup> August before another meeting is arranged. The e-mail puts forward a draft plan for the fencing and usage of the field.*

*A response is currently being put together. If it has not yet been commented on by all councillors, what are the remaining comments? Any other updates?*

It was resolved to send the e-mail that Cllr Beard has drafted. Cllr Redding suggested adding a paragraph to say that we feel the most constructive method of resolving these issues is a face to face meeting.

### 15/176 Social Media

*Does the council wish to explore the use of facebook/twitter etc. as a means to engage and communicate with the parishioners?*

It was agreed that we will start to use facebook and twitter. Cllr Beard can help the clerk to set it up. We will need to put information about it everywhere so residents can connect.

### 15/177 Communications

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

Information regarding facebook and twitter. Information regarding how to contact our PCSO. (And Essex County Standard)

### 15/178 Items for next agenda or for information only

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

Cllr Beard would like to hear about the planning training that several of our councillors are attending, either as a report or to add to the October agenda. Cllr Beard also passed on the information that there had been an accident involving a student of the Colne crossing the road outside the School, which was a worry as there are more buses going to the school now and they are not allowed into the School to drop the children off.

Cllr Redding asked if Russ Cole would attend one of our meetings. The clerk will invite him to our October meeting.

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

**Meeting closed at 9.30pm.**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**

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

**Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter**

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

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

**01206 827139**

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**Appendix 1**

**Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report**

*Closing Balances to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 are:*

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 755	£18,741.24
Total uncashed cheques	£2,681.97
Total of cheques below (September payments - request for approval)	£264.75
Balance in current account after cheques	£15,794.52
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 142	£27,693.95
<b>Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit</b>	<b>£43,488.47</b>

*Income Details for August 2015:*

<b>Total income for August 2015</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Elmstead Community Centre – Hall Hire August x 2	£30.00
MSS Garden Machinery – repairs on strimmer	£33.60
EALC – Cllr Routledge and Cllr Kirby at Alresford	£66.80
Mr Dingwall – Petrol for Strimmer and weedkiller	£15.58
Cllr Beecham – spark plug for strimmer, padlock for gate, paint & putty	£43.78
Mrs Baxter – Norton 360 – 2 years	£74.99
Total Cheques	<b>£264.75</b>

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO  
 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015

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