

Minutes 18th February
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

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

Also Present: County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi, District Councillor Fred Nicholls, Mrs Baxter (Clerk), and 5 members of the public

16/018 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Nicholls passed on Cllr Heaney's apologies for absence.

16/019 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Beard declared a non pecuniary interest in item 16/024 by virtue of the fact that he lives next door to Cambria, Colchester Road

16/020 Approval and signing of the minutes from 21st January 2016

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 21st January 2016 as true and accurate.
Proposed: Cllr Fairweather, Seconded: Cllr Kirby

16/021 Public Speaking

A resident informed the council about the "Clean for the Queen" campaign which is at the beginning of March.
(EPC employs a handyman who does the litter picking for Elmstead)

16/022 County Councillor report

See appendix 1.

Cllr Guglielmi asked Cllr Simon Hughes to look into the possible purchase of farmland adjacent to Market Field School as a potential alternative option to the current proposal regarding Market Field. Due to financial reasons it is not an option.

Cllr Fairweather asked where the budget for the Thames crossing is coming from. Cllr Guglielmi: It's coming from the Highways England Budget and the Community Infrastructure Levies from the area around the site.

16/023 District Councillor reports

Cllr Nicholls: TDC have agreed a £5/annum council tax increase for a band D property. The streetlights saga has come to an end, streetlights will remain on the part night lighting regime. TDC have offered to trial LED lights for Essex County Council.

The Pride of Tendring awards this year was the most well attended event yet. We should consider it for next year, it's to award people who have been helping out in their communities for a number of years.

There is a charity supper on 15th April at Great Bromley Hall to raise funds for the Mayflower Project. The project aims to build a replica of the Mayflower to sail to America in 2020 on the 400th anniversary of the original crossing. There will be celebrations in Harwich to mark this event as Harwich was the port of the Mayflower.

16/024 Planning

Applications:

16/00055/FUL Mr Bill Marshall The Cottage Broad Lanes Elmstead Proposed 4 No. dwellings (following demolition of existing three bedroom detached dwelling and detached garage). To discuss and decide a response to send to TDC for this application.

It was decided to support this application as the council wishes to support the building of eco-friendly houses, there will be little loss of habitat and no loss of farmland, it is only 3 new houses as one is being demolished and there is a good bus service. It was recognised that the location is not ideal, but overall the council were in favour.

Signature

Date

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Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

15/01930/FUL Nanscot Colchester Road Elmstead Increase in width of existing vehicular access. No adverse comments.

Determinations (for information only):

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

16/00022/TELLIC S/O Park House Clacton Road Elmstead The proposal incorporates the installation of 1x DSLAM equipment cabinet olive green. Deemed Consent

15/00679/FUL Land adjacent to Public Car Park Clacton Road Elmstead Development of 6.no dwellings and construction of two vehicular accesses. Non Determination Appeal

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

None

16/025 Market Field Lease

To discuss any further updates or correspondence, particularly regarding any legal advice we are waiting for. To decide any further actions and discuss a potential village consultation. We have received no correspondence or legal advice regarding this yet. The contacts we were given within TDC were unable to help. No further action for now.

16/026 Finance

To see if there are any questions regarding the finance report and approve the payments for February. See appendix 2.

It was resolved to accept the finance report and approve the payments for February. Proposed Cllr Ward, Seconded Cllr Beecham

16/027 Clerk's report and correspondence

No Clerk's report. The clerk reported correspondence from Mr Diggins regarding his request for the PC to support his campaign for double yellow lines on Old School Lane near the junction with Bromley Road. Cllr Nicholls informed us that the safety partnership are considering double yellow lines at their meeting next month. It will move the parking of the lorries away from the junction.

Cllr Beard reported that he would be in favour. The clerk to share more information.

16/028 Bluegates Donation

A presentation of costs and options for the donation to be spent on.

Cllr Routledge: Option 1 – seating - has found a bench made out of black recycled plastic slats with cast iron ends for £545 inc delivery.

Option 2 – bus shelters – are expensive and we could possibly get a grant towards the cost. It's still unknown as to whether the bus stop by Oatlands will be moved.

Cllr Nicholls said that ECC could supply and fit a base for a bus shelter for no charge, he was involved in a new bus shelter for Great Bromley.

Option 3 – gateway signage – it would cost up to approximately £1,300 per gate depending on the specification. It was discussed whether there would be a sign on either side of the road.

Signature

Date

Minutes 18th February

Elmstead Parish Council

Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Option 4 – a new village sign (to replace the Elmstead sign on the South Green) - would cost about £2,500. Cllr Beecham has provided a quote to refurbish the old sign for £345.

Option 5 – a defibrillator – you can get a grant £400 for up to 50% of the cost and they cost about £1,000.

Cllr Beard proposed that EPC invest in a mixture of 4 new entrance gate signs and purchase/refurbish the Elmstead sign. There would be one entrance gate sign for each entrance to the village on the left hand side.

It was amended that the Elmstead sign would be refurbished. The Bluegates donation working party are to look into the gate signs and make a recommendation to the council.

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

Mrs Triscott asked if the PC could source local tradesmen to make the gates. Cllr Routledge responded that they are looking for durable material, not wood.

16/029 Standing Orders

To discuss (if necessary) and approve new standing orders for Elmstead Parish Council. These have been drafted by the clerk and follow NALCs model for standing orders.

It was decided for standing order 13e that the decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made by the council. (In the case of a councillor having a pecuniary or non pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed.)

It was also decided that for standing order 17c to state that the responsible financial officer shall supply to the finance committee as soon as practicable after 30 June, 30 September and 31 December in each year a statement to summarise the relevant financial accounts. (Rather than provide to each councillor)

It was resolved to approve the new standing orders for Elmstead Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr Routledge, seconded Cllr Ward.

16/030 LED lamps for PC streetlights

An update on the cost versus the potential savings, and a discussion of opinions on other factors to consider in deciding whether to change our streetlights to LED.

Cllr Redding has reservations about LED lights, the one outside the cricket club is different to all the others on Church Road. Cllr Fairweather is concerned about the lack of lighting on Church Road which could be dangerous. Cllr Redding replied that this issue was down to the gaps between lights, not the brightness of the lights. Cllr Beard agreed it would be strange having some lights as LED and some not. Cllr Routledge was in favour of doing all we can do to be more environmentally friendly.

The quote we have received from our maintenance contractor for replacing the 14 35W SOX lights we have with 14W LED lights is £85/light = £1,190. Cllr Fairweather has sourced another quote for approximately £1,500, which is more than our contractor's quote.

Cllr Beard proposed postponing the decision until we see what happens with ECC using TDC as guinea pigs for LED light replacements. It was discussed that we do not know when or if at all this will happen. No resolution.

It was proposed that EPC replace their 14 35W SOX lamps for LED lamps to reduce costs and for the environmental benefit of reduced energy consumption.

Proposed Cllr Bell, Seconded Cllr Routledge. The motion was carried with 6 in favour and 2 against.

16/031 Communications

Items of interest for inclusion in our March Upmarket report.

Include information regarding item 16/028 – new gate signage for the village and refurbished village sign. Include information regarding the change to LED lights.

Signature

Date

Minutes 18th February

Elmstead Parish Council

Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

16/032 Items for next agenda or for information only

Cllr Beard would like to see something on the agenda with the signing of the minutes item to give an update on the action points from the previous meeting.

Cllr Beard would like the village plan on the next agenda.

Cllr Routledge attended a transport representative meeting and had an update on the local bus review. The no. 77 bus will definitely carry on as it is but we don't know if it will still be run by Panther Travel.

A resident pointed out that a lot of people miss having the early bus and called ECC to let them know but they said it was not to do with them.

Cllr Redding would like a discussion about modernising some aspects of the meeting, such as having a screen to view the meeting materials. Cllr Redding to research.

Cllr Beecham informed the PC that the dip in the car park would be getting filled in tomorrow.

Cllr Ward told the PC about the Men's Sheds project where men gather and repair items for free, and teach each other skills.

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

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

16/033 A confidential item for the Parish Council to consider

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

It was resolved to make the ratification requested and to accept the financial statements provided.

Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 17th March 2016.

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

Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter

18th February 2016

Contact: elmsteadparish@gmail.com

01206 827139

Signature

Date

Minutes 18th February
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Appendix 1

ECC Report February 2016

Budget plans aim to make highways even better

Council Tax will this year go up by 3.99%; this is the first rise for five years, but with central government grant funding having reduced by a further £50million this year as well as the next four years, the introduction of the National Living Wage, the impending Care Act which will start in April, to name but a few, it has left no choice but to introduce this rise.

The 3.99% represents a 1.99% allowed increase without triggering a Referendum, and a 2% which is the new Social Care Levy that Government has introduced for every authority that have responsibilities for Social Care.

But to continue the purge on the scourge of the road network in Essex this year's budget will see cash allocated for highways topping the £300 million mark in the council capital investment plans over the next three years, with the local road network set to be the next area of focus for improvements to road surfaces, lighting and pavements.

In 2016/17, £137 million will be driving the programme forward with attention now shifting to tackling defects on urban and rural roads and estates, investing in better lighting and better footpaths and in particular roads and bridges as well as LED lighting.

The entire unspent Local Highway Panels (LHP) budget has been reallocated towards this project and next year's LHP's funding allocation has been realigned accordingly.

It is therefore imperative that we get as many schemes submitted by the next LHP meeting on Thursday 7th April.

Overall, the highways maintenance budget is increasing by over 30 per cent which is a positive proof of the ambition to keep the quality of Essex's road network up there with the best ones in the country.

ECC has listened. It has listened when local people have said that cracks and holes in the roads and pavements do matter. It has listened when business said that getting from A to B easily and quickly helps them to prosper. It has listened to the partners who have said that alongside the new homes and jobs we desperately need good infrastructure.

The tough financial management exercised by this current administration has enabled the delivery of a balanced budget and the ability to capital investment in highways and infrastructure

For more details visit

<http://cmis.essexcc.gov.uk/essexcmis5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/3314/Committee/50/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

Essex County Council has produced a short film aimed at helping people better understand how highways and transportation in the county is managed.

The Council manages 5,000 miles of roads which connect towns, villages, workplaces, hospitals, ports and airports. It is also responsible for cycle ways, non-commercial bus services and 127,000 streetlights.

Highways and transportation plays a vital part in supporting the county's growing economy, ensuring freight can be transported across Essex and that people can get to their jobs, schools or universities swiftly, smoothly and safely.

Signature

Date

Minutes 18th February
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

The new animation, available on www.essex.gov.uk explains the thinking behind decisions such as new road schemes, highways maintenance and supporting public transport. Essex County Council is very aware of how Highways affect everyone every day, so it is not surprising that residents have constant concerns on this topic and keeping the network moving is vital for economic growth.

Clearly the council cannot fix everything; it receives a massive amount of request to fill in potholes, build new roads and paths, install new crossings or fix streetlights, and simply there is not enough financial resource to do all of this in one year.

I hope that people will have a better understanding of how ECC manages highways and transportation in Essex after watching this film.”

The animation can be embedded on social media by visiting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjTQfJiaU_I

New Community wedding venues in Essex

Essex County Council has entered into partnerships with districts, boroughs and voluntary organisations across Essex to establish nine wedding venues across the county.

This new enterprise has been welcomed by happy couples wishing to tie the knot across Essex.

The venues will ensure that couples can marry in a high-quality space at an affordable price; the closest to us is the Town Hall Ceremony Room in Colchester

The new arrangements will replace the Council’s existing decommissioned rooms with new venues available for ceremonies from the beginning of April.

Couples with ceremonies taking place before 1 April 2016 will experience no change.

The response to this new service has been overwhelming with staff being inundated with requests from couples wishing to book the new venues.

The Council has received 190 bookings this January, compared to 93 during the same month last year (Jan 2015).

To book a community wedding venue please, in the first instance, contact the venue to reserve a provisional date and time before checking the availability of registrars by calling 0345 603 7632.

The nine new venues include:

- The Lounge, Braintree Town Hall, Braintree
- The Farm House, Cressing Temple, Braintree
- The Committee Rooms, Brentwood Town Hall, Brentwood
- The Andre Room, Essex Record Office, Chelmsford
- **The Town Hall Ceremony Room, Colchester Town Hall, Colchester**
- The Ceremony Room, Waltham Abbey Town Hall, Waltham Abbey
- The Len White Room, Moot House, Harlow
- The Chairman’s Room, Uttlesford District Council Office, Saffron Walden
- The Atrium Area, Runnymede Hall, Thundersley

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

For enquiries, please email registration@essex.gov.uk.

New community hubs to provide public services under one roof

Signature

Date

Minutes 18th February
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Essex County Council is creating pioneering new community hubs across the county which will see a range of services, such as the registration of births, deaths and marriages under one roof.

The community hubs will see registration services share space within pre-existing libraries and other community venues, such as town halls, over the coming months.

The move will mean residents will soon be able to register a birth, give notice of a marriage and receive local council services from the comfort and convenience of 18 face-to-face registration points across the county*.

This year the Council needs to make over £75 million in savings in order to provide a balanced budget, and this is only going to get tougher in years to come.

However this is not simply about cutting costs, but actually re-modelling services to provide them in the most efficient and effective way for the taxpayer.

The current position is that in many towns the registration office is in one place, the library another, and you may need to go to the town hall in a separate location to get Council Tax, benefit or housing advice, so the common sense solution is to bring these services into one building to create a community hub within an existing space such as libraries or town halls, which are by their nature in easily accessible locations.

This work will be taking place over the coming months and is expected to be completed at all sites by the beginning of May.

The pioneering community hub concept has been a success in Colchester which has been providing library, Council Tax and benefit, health and voluntary services under one roof for over two years and it must be stressed that all appointments to register a birth or death will continue to take place in a private and comfortable space.

The new registration points will be:

- Basildon Library
- Braintree Library
- 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 here.

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.

How do I book to register a birth, death or notice of marriage in Essex?

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

Signature

Date

Minutes 18th February
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

For enquiries, please [email registration@essex.gov.uk](mailto:email.registration@essex.gov.uk)

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>

Below is a breakdown of changes to registration points in each district.

Braintree

Registration services currently within John Ray House will move to Braintree Library. Registration points at Halstead Hospital and Witham Library will remain.

Basildon

Registration services currently within The Basildon Centre will move to Basildon Library. The registration point at Burghstead Lodge, Billericay, will remain.

Brentwood

Registration services at Brentwood Register Office, Seven Arches Road, will move to Brentwood Town Hall.

Castle Point

Registration services at Castle Point Borough Council offices will move to South Benfleet Library.

Chelmsford

Registration services at Chelmsford County Hall will move to Chelmsford Library.

Colchester

Registration services at Stanwell House will move to Colchester Library and Community Hub.

Epping Forest

Registration services at Epping Register Office, St Johns Road, will move to Epping Library.

Harlow

Registration services at Harlow Register Offices, The Water Gardens, College Square will move to Harlow Library.

Maldon Registration services at Maldon Library will remain.

Rochford

Registration services at Rochford District Council offices will move to locations within Rayleigh Library and Rochford Library.

Tendring

Registration services at Magnet House in Clacton will move to Clacton Library. Registration services at Fryatt Hospital in Harwich will move to Harwich Library.

Uttlesford

Registration services at Dunmow Town Council offices will move to Dunmow Library. The registration point at Uttlesford District Council offices in Saffron Walden will remain.

140,000 residents sign up to Council news service

Essex County Council's 'Keep me Posted' service has received its 140,000th sign up this week.

I have reported this new information service to you when it was first set up around a year ago; this allows people to sign up for free email news alerts and newsletters on topics of interest to them, and in real terms it represents 10% of the total population in Essex.

It is very reassuring that this service is proving so popular and obviously indicates that residents are interested in how their County Council operates and I would urge anyone who is interested in finding out more to go online and register.

To sign up to the service visit <http://www.essex.gov.uk> and click on **Keep Me Posted**.

Signature

Date

Minutes 18th February
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Council backs Thames Crossing plans to create jobs and drive economic growth

Essex County Council has backed newly unveiled plans for a Thames Crossing which is set to create thousands of jobs.

Highways England (formerly Highways Agency) announced the Lower Thames Crossing plans, linking Tilbury in Essex with Gravesend in Kent, as its preferred option (known as Option C).

This option proposes that the scheme would run from the end of the M2, crossing the river just east of Gravesend and Tilbury and joining the M25 between junctions 29 and 30.

The move has been welcomed by Essex County Council for its potential to drive economic growth and create around 5,000 jobs. The importance and urgency of proceeding with a new Lower Thames Crossing cannot be overstated.

It is great news that Central Government is now moving forward swiftly on this issue with a clear preference.

Essex County Council is, of course, happy to work with Basildon and Brentwood Councils and, indeed, Thurrock to see what the best option is to support economic growth, reduce congestion and achieve improved environmental mitigation.

This will be the first new crossing of the Thames east of London since the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge opened 25 years ago.

Subject to the necessary funding and planning approvals, Highways England anticipates that the new crossing would open in 2027, if publicly funded.

If private funding is also used to meet the costs of the project, it anticipates the crossing being open by 2025.

A consultation seeking public views on the proposals will run until Thursday, 24 March with 24 public exhibitions being held at venues across Kent and Essex over the coming months.

To find out more or contribute to Highways England's consultation please visit www.lower-thames-crossing.co.uk.

Signature

Date

Minutes 18th February
Elmstead Parish Council
 Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Appendix 2

Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report

Closing Balances to 31st January 2016 are:

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 776	£22,319.99
Total uncashed cheques	£3,020.98
Total of cheques below (February payments - request for approval)	£401.52
Balance in current account after cheques	£18,897.49
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 145	£27,700.85
Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit	£46,598.34

Income Details for January 2016:

Total income for January 2016	£0.00

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Elmstead Community Centre – Hall Hire January x 3	£48.00
Mr A Dingwall – litter picker, high vis jacket & trousers, black bags and trolley for litter picking	£99.86
Market Field School – Grounds Maintenance	£120.17
Information Commissioner’s Office – Data Protection Registration	£35.00
Cllr Routledge – mileage and parking for transport group meeting Clacton	£14.35
Mrs A Baxter – HP printer ink	£84.14
Total Cheques	£401.52

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO
 16th February 2016

Signature

Date