

**Minutes 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019**  
**Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

Present: Councillors Paul Beard (Chair), Nick Bell, Amanda Brennan, Sally Fairey, Stephen Walsh, Martine Ward and Gill Williams.

Also Present: Mrs Baxter (clerk) and 9 members of the public.

District Councillor Gary Scott

County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi

Not present: Councillors, Ali Charnick, John Gray (Vice Chair) and Pam Cowell.

**19/238 Chairman's welcome**

Cllr Beard welcomed everyone including Rachel Fletcher (Ardleigh Parish Clerk) and Anthony Vickers (representing the Crockleford and Elmstead Action Group). He added that it's been an interesting year, we've got a few new councillors who have been attending training. He thanked Cllrs Guglielmi, Scott and Wiggins for their help and for all their work behind the scenes. He thanked Mrs Baxter and Mr Dingwall for their work and asked that we send our thanks to Mr Dingwall.

**19/239 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Charnick, Cowell and Gray sent their apologies.

**19/240 Co-option of councillor**

*Mrs Gill Williams has expressed an interest in joining the council.*

Mrs Williams briefly addressed the council and was then co-opted and welcomed onto the council.

Cllr Beard added that we now have one vacancy on the council which we would love to fill.

**19/241 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests**

None

**19/242 Approval and signing of the minutes from 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019.**

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 as true and accurate.

Proposed: Cllr Walsh, Seconded: Cllr Ward, all in favour.

**19/243 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 not covered in this agenda.**

Mrs Baxter gave a verbal update. It was updated that the Tendring Rangers cannot cut back the verges on Alresford Road as the speed limit is 60mph. They can arrange a tractor with an arm and flail but asked exactly where needs cutting. The clerk is to put Cllr Brennan in touch with the Tendring Rangers.

The request to have a street named after Mr Potter has been made to TDC. Cllr Scott explained that the application will go to himself and Cllr Wiggins at some point to approve.

**19/244 Public Speaking**

*There is a maximum of 15 minutes of public speaking, with a maximum of 5 minutes per member of public.*

Professor Vickers introduced himself, he is here to represent the Crockleford and Elmstead Action Group and is looking to engage more with TDC, CBC and Essex Highways and ask for more discussion. People who live in the area will suffer if the link road moves west. There are 40 dispersed houses and they have no voice.

**19/245 County Councillor report**

Cllr Guglielmi: Market Field School has submitted a scheme for traffic cushions and rumble strips on School Road. Essex Highways are not keen. The last speed survey showed speeds of up to 50mph so he will be pushing for the schemes.

Cllr Guglielmi will be raising the issue of the pavements around Alfells at Cllr Bentleys surgery on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

Regarding the bollards outside Dormers, they are ready to go with the scheme for 8 if the residents are happy. Cllr Bell will check.

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The LHP has recommended that the speed mitigating application for Chapel Lane will not be proceeding.

The LHP will consider a top up for the Colchester Road crossing if the council fund the fees. A resident asked whether the link road between the A133 and A120 could be delivered by 2025, as required by the funding arrangement. Cllr Guglielmi responded that there will be slippage and leeway built in. He added that he organised an event in Elmstead for the link road consultation, it was the only one in Tendring.

**19/246 District Councillor reports.**

Cllr Scott: Cllr Wiggins sends her apologies, she is not well.

- Attended a resources and services committee meeting.
- Jon Hamlet (TDC) attended an Alresford PC meeting to discuss waste and recycling – are we interested in him coming to Elmstead, we could get a update on the waste contract?
- Attended the NEGC meeting in Elmstead.
- Has seen T Eng (EH) and brought up a few matters in Elmstead.
- Attended the TDC planning committee meeting for the School Road application which we had asked him to call in. Asked the committee to acknowledge and consider the PC's comments. Cllrs responded with the comments in the report. The committee approved the application – they all supported it. A resident attended and asked if the swale could be moved further east. They said no.

Cllr Beard has had an e-mail from a Parishioner to say that the school bus costs have increased by £81/year. How can we stop costs spiralling? Does Horizon have to ask ECC before it increases costs? Cllr Beard will send an e-mail to Cllr Guglielmi to ask for clarification.

Cllr Beard asked about meetings Cllr Scott has attended at Lanswood and asked the question why are EPC not invited to meetings to discuss the improvements necessary for the village? We have major problems with traffic and inadequate funding for a pedestrian crossing for example. Cllr Guglielmi asked that the council identifies what planning gains it wants and he will organise a meeting. According to Chris Board (Lanswood's planning consultant) the application is going in now and should be out in March.

A resident said that Mr Board kept asking for feedback but one of the Grange residents has been trying for the last 10 days and they can't. The feedback link on the website doesn't work.

**19/247 North Essex Garden Communities event**

*A report from the attendees of the NEGC event held on 11<sup>th</sup> December at the community centre. Is feedback requested?*

Cllr Beard provided some history to the Garden Community scheme, saying that at the outset we engaged with other local PCs and Wivenhoe TC to create an action group. Unfortunately the group broke down. We invited Cath Bicknell (TDC) to come and speak to us. Our biggest concern was that we did not want to become part of Colchester and wanted to preserve the countryside. Cath Bicknell talked about a green belt but then we got an approved application for 32 houses in that area. Cath Bicknell talked about creating a country park between the Garden Community and Elmstead, with the link road being a barrier to the development. Residents did come to our meetings and talked about their concerns.

Regarding the NEGC event it was discussed by those cllrs who attended that it was a waste of time. The organisers didn't want to discuss the link road. Cllrs asked if they were engaging all the community and suggested that they send a leaflet to all residents as some are not aware. Cllrs felt frustrated and angry, the meeting was all blue sky thinking, people don't understand the repercussions.

Cllr Guglielmi said that CBC has voted not to release any money until after the inspector gives his comments.

Cllr Brennan asked, if the planning doesn't happen does that mean that the link road won't happen. Cllr Guglielmi responded not necessarily. If it doesn't happen TDC will need to find

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another 2,500 houses for its plan. Some landowners have options on their land, so some houses will be built anyway.

It was discussed that the event was for councillors only, Cllr Guglielmi had thought it would be for public too. Cllr Beard thanked Cllr Guglielmi for arranging the meeting and thanked those who attended. Cllr Guglielmi asked for feedback by e-mail to take back to the NEGC. Professor Vickers said that he had hand delivered a letter to 40 houses and felt dismissed by PCs. Some of their houses will be statutory blighted and some will be blighted. We are pushing the link road in front of their houses. There has been no event in Tendring for the public to attend, this is serious for people who live in the development area. His group does not want the link road or the garden community, it will be a destruction of their way of life. They hope that the inspector will see it's shambolic. The only benefactors of the link road will be car drivers and the university. Wivenhoe Town Council opposes the link road. Mrs Routledge explained that she was involved with the PC when the NEGC first started organising presentations and attended them. At these meetings attendees were sympathetic to Crockleford residents and it was said that Crockleford needed to be protected. Attendees said that larger houses with bigger plots should be built in that area, not high density housing. The link road was supposed to be the eastern edge of development. We have been engaging with our small influence and did what we could to mitigate the issue. Cllr Beard asked that Professor Vickers come along to our meetings and keep the channels open.

**19/248 Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)**

*An update and to discuss next actions.*

Cllr Fairey: The next action is to ask Sarah Sapsford (RCCE) to come and speak to us in more depth about the application process. It's a lengthy process, Simon Clark (Alresford PC) said that Alresford are in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Cllr Fairey has circulated notes from her meeting with Mr Clark. We will need a planning program manager and a planning consultant, it's a big commitment. We will need to get grants. There was some discussion with the Ardleigh clerk as Ardleigh are in the first stages of a NHP. The first consultant they spoke to said that he could be paid when the funding came through.

**19/249 Chapel Lane and Old School Land LHP (Local Highways Panel) application**

*To review the response to the application and consider a reply or follow up application.*

The LHP dismissed the scheme for speed mitigating measures. Cllr Guglielmi suggested that we request a scheme for improved signage and road lining. Cllr Fairey responded that there are no proper pavements, the doctor's surgery is on Chapel Lane and vehicles are parking on both sides of a narrow road. Cllr Guglielmi then suggested a site meeting after Christmas at Chapel Lane with Tom Eng.

**19/250 LHP application for additional funding for the Colchester Road Crossing**

*The total cost for an upgraded crossing is likely to be around £150k to £160K, plus around £10k for the design, and other necessary admin works. The LHP has suggested for the council to consider whether it would pay for the design? Then the top up request to the LHP will not be so high, and the Panel will be more willing to fund the rest.*

Cllr Beard updated the council that a new planning application will be going in for the development providing a section 106 contribution towards the crossing.

The clerk is to send the e-mail correspondence with Matthew Lang (TDC planning) to Cllr Guglielmi.

**19/251 Climate Emergency**

- i) *Does the council wish to declare a climate emergency? What actions does the council need to take?*

Cllr Ward: Alresford PC has started to make a plan. She had hoped that their Cllr Hammick would come to our meeting as she is involved with their plan. It was agreed to defer the item to January.

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ii) *To discuss the possibility of a tree planting plan.*

Cllr Scott: Cllr Coley (TDC) has suggested that TDC goes to all town and parish councils to ask about potential tree planting areas. TDC will send letters regarding this around March. Cllr Bell added that we can look to TDC to guide us on this. It was agreed to defer this item to January.

**19/252 Finch Lane**

*An update on the TPOs for the trees.*

Mr Brown explained that there was a new TPO for the trees in Finch Lane but it only covers the oaks. The old TPO covered other trees. The new TPO is more detailed and the position identifies each tree. He sent an e-mail to Ewan Green (TDC) and received a response, copied to the PC.

**19/253 Speed Camera**

*To discuss whether to try and obtain one for the village and how to go about this.*

Cllr Bell: Speedwatch is short on numbers, there are only 4 left which is making it difficult. Perhaps we should have a speed camera like the one on Alresford Road.

A resident felt that it would be a waste of taxpayers' money. Drivers would slow down at that point and then accelerate. It would be better to spend money on something for the young people of the village. Another resident thought that it might slow the traffic down. It was discussed that we also need to look at speed around the village, not just on the main road. It was suggested that we could look for something via a section 106 agreement.

**19/254 Finance**

*To look through the finance report and approve the payments for December. See appendix 1.* It was resolved to accept the finance report and approve the payments. Proposed: Cllr Ward, Seconded: Cllr Bell, all in favour.

**19/255 Communications** *Items of interest for inclusion in our February Upmarket report in addition to the report of meeting.*

Mrs Routledge explained that due to other commitments she would like councillors to think about taking on writing the Upmarket article next year.

**19/256 Items for next agenda or for information only**

A Cllr raised the issue of lorries on School Road accessing the Charity Field development, the weather is causing some issues with mud on the road and having to queue on the road to get into the site, causing congestion and safe driving issues. We are to contact Go Homes and ask them if there is anything they can do and let them know about the laybys on the B1027.

IT was noted that the building at Market Field School has resulted in a big mound on the playing field with fencing around.

Cllr Beard will try and attend the TDC planning committee meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, anyone else? This is for the Church Road application.

**19/257 Date of next meeting**

*The next meeting will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7pm.*

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

**Minutes written by Mrs. A Baxter**  
**Contact: 01206 827139**

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