

Minutes 19th November 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), Russ Cole, Temporary Chief Inspector, District Commander Tendring and 3 other members of the public

15/199 Apologies for Absence

We received apologies from District Councillors Nicholls and Heaney, and County Councillor Guglielmi

15/200 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

None

15/201 Approval and signing of the minutes from 15th October 2015

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 15th October 2015 as true and accurate.

Proposed: Cllr Kirby, Seconded: Cllr Beecham

15/202 Police Report: Russ Cole, Temporary Chief Inspector, District Commander

Tendring will be attending to answer questions put to him by councillors regarding how the recently advertised changes in policing in Essex will affect Elmstead and the future of policing.

Mr Cole gave us some background information on the last year's policing in Tendring. They have faced the challenge of gangs of criminals being forced to leave London and moving to seaside towns. Over the year they have reduced the number of violent crimes, knifepoint robberies and acquisitive thefts, but the numbers of domestic violence and sexual offences are increasing. Also they have had to invest in specially trained officers for digital crime and child abuse, whilst having to make cuts and savings. These cuts are causing massive systematic changes.

They are having to make savings of £63million over the next 3 years by closing down some of their buildings and reducing the numbers of PCSOs. They will still be looking to improve their results, it's a matter of the right people in the right places.

Mr Cole answered some specific questions put to him, please see appendix A.

15/203 Public Speaking

There is 5 minutes of public speaking

Please note that any questions that are to do with items on the agenda will be answered under the appropriate agenda item

One member of the community centre team pointed out that Market Field Staff are still parking in the community Centre car park despite assurances that there would be enough spaces in the School's new car park.

Action: Contact Mr Smith to query the parking situation.

A resident of Bromley Road complained about the unreliable phone lines, there's a box outside number 1 and BT engineers are there regularly. Can the PC write a letter to put pressure on BT?

Cllr Beard: All the telephone lines are owned by BT, pressure needs to come from the resident's service provider, not the PC to make a difference to BT.

Cllr Redding: Recommended getting advice from trading standards, going to the BT website and investigating how to make a chairman's case or contacting the Ofcom regulator.

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A resident complained about some of the Autumn House residents sitting in the bus shelter drunk, and them getting on the bus and causing a disturbance and harassing the driver.

Russ Cole urged that any crimes regarding the residents of Autumn House be reported to the police.

Mr Bill Marshall shared his plans to build 4 eco friendly houses in Broad Lanes. His planners have suggested that he seeks support for his plans from his District Councillors and Parish Council. TDC Planning have also spoken to him about a contribution for village facilities but as he lives so far out of Elmstead he does not know what would be appropriate, certainly nothing in his vicinity.

It was decided that some councillors would go and view the plot and the proposed development and that the PC would think about possible village improvements.

15/204 County Councillor report

See Appendix B.

15/205 District Councillor reports

None

15/206 Planning (for information)

Applications: 15/01532/LBC. Tudor House Chapel Lane Elmstead. Remove existing boiler which is not fit for purpose. Re-site new boiler in existing airing cupboard upstairs. Provision of ventilation of exhaust gasses by way of 4 inch pipe horizontal through first floor wall. Provision of services to new boiler. The only alteration proposed is a 4 inch hole in wall and discreet external flue.

15/01599/FUL. Balls Farm Tye Road. Elmstead Proposed indoor swimming pool extension to dwelling.

Determinations:

15/00383/FUL. Jacqui Robinson Education Centre, Cranford House Clacton Road Elmstead. Retrospective application for change of use to a mixed use as a residential dwelling and as a children's education centre. Refusal – Full

15/01064/FUL. Solar Century Holdings Blue Gates Farm Colchester Main Road Alresford. Variation of condition 2 of planning application 14/00352/FUL. - Substitution of drawings listed in condition 2 with the 'As Built' drawings. Approval - Full

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

15/207 Market Field Lease

To discuss the latest communication and plan the mail drop for the informational leaflet regarding Essex County Council's proposal for the use of Market Field.

Split up the village and share the letters between the councillors to distribute.

Action: To see if we can get any legal advice from EALC regarding our rights as tenants.

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15/208 Finance

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

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

To hear a report from the Finance Committee regarding the second quarter financials.

Cllr Redding: There were no concerns regarding the 6 month spend against budget, we have spent 45% of the budget so far. We have spent 55% of the budgeted wages but the reason for that is the seasonal grasscutting that Mr Dingwall does. The Finance committee had a discussion about the reserves, and reduced the annual addition to the mower reserve from £1,500 to £1,000. Also, we assigned some of the general reserve to be a specific reserve for legal fees. Cllr Beard asked what is in the reserves and there was a discussion about there being some specific reserves and the rest being an unallocated general reserve. Action: Clerk to share the 6 month finance figures with the council.

To hear a recommendation from the Finance Committee regarding the grants to local organisations.

It was resolved to accept the recommendations from the Finance Committee in respect of the grants.

Proposed: Cllr Redding, Seconded Cllr Beecham

15/209 Bluegates Solar Farm donation of £10,000

A report from the working party of their meeting to discuss the feedback from the village residents, and any recommendations to council for a decision on how to spend the donation. A discussion and decision to follow.

Cllr Routledge: After reading the feedback from the village and going through which ideas were viable or not the working party decided that they should concentrate on improving the physical appearance of the village. For example the suggested bench on Church Road, bus shelters on Colchester Road and Clacton Road, signage for the village and a refurbishment of the village sign on South Green.

Cllr Fairweather pointed out that the Oatlands bus stop will be moved away from the junction as part of the Meadow Close development, which we'll need to consider when thinking about a bus shelter.

It was also suggested that improvements could be made to the Clacton Road shrubbery from the s106 money we have.

Cllr Routledge said that work was done on the shrubbery yesterday, but no-one knew who that could have been.

With regards to the celebration day that may be organised by a separate committee in 2016 to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday we could contribute from our reserves and offer support.

Cllr Fairweather will speak to EMAG about repainting the village sign.

Cllr Beard said that spending a bit here and a bit there did not constitute a legacy for the village. His preference would be a legacy for the youth of the village.

It was resolved to go ahead with seeking quotes for the ideas regarding village improvements but to remain open minded about other options.

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- 15/210 Annual Elmstead Fireworks Display**
To discuss this event which is no longer to be run by the team that previously organised it.
Cllr Beard gave an update: The fireworks committee approached the Primary School to ask if they would run the event. In principle they have agreed, It will be a smaller event held at the School, EPSA will run it and the profits will be for the benefit of EPSA.
- 15/211 Clerk updates and correspondence**
None
- 15/212 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.
No time to look at these, the clerk to e-mail the council re the questions that need to be considered to approve the new standing orders.
- 15/213 Community Rehabilitation Company**
An update from Cllr Beecham.
Cllr Beecham: Has made contact with the company but the lady he needs to speak to is on holiday so he's awaiting a response.
- 15/214 Communications**
Items of interest for inclusion in our January Upmarket report.
An update regarding our new Facebook page. Councillors to e-mail the clerk with any other suggestions.
- 15/215 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. We will try to keep the December agenda short, focus on the giving of grants, and provide Christmas drinks and nibbles.
E-mail the clerk regarding agenda items.
Cllr Routledge discussed the request from a parishioner on the outskirts of the village for a plant tub. She has spoken to Elmstead in Bloom and they decided that they would not be able to do the upkeep on that tub as they don't cover the outlying areas.

**There being no further business councillors were thanked for their attendance.
Meeting closed at 9.58pm.**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 17th December 2015.
To be held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead**

**Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter
19th November 2015
Contact: elmsteadparish@gmail.com
01206 827139**

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Appendix A

1) *Speeding motorbikes: we understand that there is a police motorcycle team to tackle the problem of speeding motorbikes around our local area. We would like to know how often they patrol in Elmstead.*

2) *Following on from this we have issues with the speed of motorbikes and other vehicles leaving Elmstead on the A133 towards Frating and have discussed requesting Essex Highways move the limit of the 30mph zone so that it is further along the A133 than its current location. I have been trying to find out who our EH officer is to liaise with, but is there anything you can do to help us reduce the speed along here? (You mentioned in the previous meeting you attended that you might be able to help).*

RC: Reducing collisions is a priority. There is a safer roads team which come to TDC on a regular basis – 3 times in December. They get data from this team on a regular basis. EPC can use speedwatch to reduce speed but Cllr Bell pointed out that they can only use the speedgun in certain areas.

RC: We will use the assets we have to make an example of a few speeding vehicles.

Regarding the changes to policing:

3) *Local policing: What policing will Elmstead Market have in future? What police response can we expect when reporting a crime? Will there be any police presence in our village at all?*

There will be 6 PCSOs in Tendring plus an additional 7 externally funded posts. The community policing team going forward will consist of an inspector (Juliet Fence) and 6 neighbourhood constables. They will continue to monitor community issues but it's not a priority. RC will still come to PC meetings, the constables will patrol and we have 2 senior officers living in the village. If we have any issues let Russ Cole or the local police know.

4) *Public engagement: How are you finding out what local people want the police to prioritise, or finding out if the public do support your new priorities?*

RC: Essex community messaging and social media are used to communicate with the public.

5) *Reduction in police force: This is a worry to the public, it feels like the police are a response only service and local communities are having to rely on privately sponsoring PCSOs or private security companies to provide the crime prevention/protection we are losing with changes in policing. Is this the future for small communities?*

See Q 3)

6) *Will there be enough police officers to investigate burglary/crime and visit victims of crime? (Sara Thornton, chairman of the National Police Chiefs' Council, claimed that if householders upload photographs and videos of crime scenes burglars could be caught more quickly. She said victims may have to use DIY digital crime reports because police will have to "do less with more focus" in the future. Ms Thornton sparked furore last month when she suggested police should not be counted on to visit every burglary victim.)*

RC: For every dwelling burglary a detective will come with scene of crime officers.

In the last 9 months there have been 6 offences around Elmstead/Alresford. The police look at data and trends and if there's a problem they will be interested. For acquisitive crimes they use bait and camera surveillance.

Cllr Ward asked if there are more crimes on the internet how will the police deal with this if there are less officers?

RC: It is important that officers are specifically trained to investigate social media crimes.

Cllr Fairweather asked if they will be outsourcing their back office functions?

RC: There is a questions to be answered around where you need police officers. You don't need them in offices, so yes that will be looked at.

Cllr Bell asked what Elmstead Market can do to help.

RC: Report crime, call 101.

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Appendix B

ECC Report December 2014

Check a puppy's past before buying, Trading Standards advise

People thinking of buying a puppy for Christmas should follow Essex Trading Standards' advice to avoid getting an illegally imported, possibly sick puppy.

The advice comes after Essex Trading Standards handled 50 complaints this year about puppies – either sick puppies bought from puppy farms or illegally imported puppies - relating to traders all over the county.

A vet in south Essex became suspicious about a Labrador puppy taken in for routine checks. It turned out the puppy had been imported from Poland and its date of birth had been altered. The vet alerted Trading Standards as he believed the puppy was too young to have had a rabies vaccination and so should not have entered the UK.

Essex Trading Standards officers did a check on the seller of the puppy and found there were a further five puppies waiting to be sold. All six dogs were taken into quarantine.

As a puppy is a popular Christmas gift people must ensure to find out about the puppy's background and that is fit, well and legal.

Trading Standards' advice is to check the puppy has been vaccinated, but be aware that vaccination cards are easy to fake. If the vet's contact details are not visible or has a non-UK address, the card may be false.

Imported puppies must have a pet passport or vet's certificate confirming it is micro-chipped, vaccinated against rabies, treated for worms and was over three months and 21 days when it was imported.

Always see a puppy with its mother. It is best to buy from a local breeder. Ideally ask to see the father too, or at least a photo of the father. Be suspicious if the breeder cannot show you the mother or father.

Pedigree certificates are not a guarantee for the condition of your dog and may not even mean the puppy is pure-bred. Contact the Kennel Club for details of the Accredited Breeder Scheme.

Do not sign any paper work without checking if first, as it makes it legally hard to challenge if you are unhappy with the puppy you are sold.

Anyone worried about a puppy they have been sold should contact a vet for advice and treatment.

Anyone with information about illegally imported puppies should contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service 03454 040506.

Green Christmas proposals

Essex residents are being encouraged to have a "green" Christmas by reducing, re-using and recycling as much of their festive waste as possible.

At this time of year, the more organised among us are busily writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents but most of us don't realise how much waste we create every Christmas. Each year in the UK, we use enough wrapping paper to stretch around the equator nine times, or even long enough to reach the moon.

Creative alternatives to wrapping paper could include unusual paper or materials people have at home or even an attractive scarf, which could be reused during the cold winter weather.

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Parcels can be fastened with string, ribbon or wools, which make it easy to re-use both the paper and ribbon.

The statistics for Christmas cards are rather surprising; every year, we throw away an astounding 1 billion Christmas cards. That's 17 each for every person in the UK.

Essex residents are urged to recycling more than especially over the festive period. Many items, including electrical goods, can be recycled at the recycling centres, so if people are thinking of upgrading gadgets or have broken devices cluttering up cupboard, they are urged to take them to local recycling centre or recycling bank.

Consideration should also be given to alternative ways in sending traditional Christmas cards, such as e-cards or making a donation to charity instead.

After Christmas another suggestion is to save your cards and using them to make gift tags next year. Finally, when Christmas is over, make sure you recycle your Christmas cards by popping them into your kerbside recycling collection.

Visit www.essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentres for full details and to find the nearest electrical bank visit www.dontbinitbringit.org.

Fake Samsung mobile phone alert

Following the seizing of £35,000-worth of fake phones and accessories ECC Trading Standards officers are warning people not to buy mobile phones from pubs or market stalls; a selection of 68 counterfeit Samsung Galaxy phones and accessories were found at a parcel hub in the west of the county today following a tip-off to Trading Standards.

Officers fear that some handsets may have already been sold for cash and are warning the public to only buy mobile phones from reputable sources.

ECC Trading Standards advice is that residents should never hand over cash to people selling mobile phones in the pub or on a market and they should also be very careful when buying mobile phones from internet trading sites such as E-bay as there is never a certainty whether the phones are the real thing or if they've been stolen, especially if they don't come with any guarantees.

ECC Trading Standards have now started an Essex wide investigation to find out where the phones come from and who they belong to.

Anyone with information, who thinks they may have been offered one of the phones or fears they may have bought one should contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service 03454 04 05 06 who can provide advice and pass details on to Trading Standards.

New Fault Reporting

A new systems, much more customer friendly has now been put in place to report any highway problems which includes pot-holes; on the ECC homepage, there is a link <http://www.essexhighways.org/Report-a-highways-problem-1.aspx> extremely easy to use which now gives the user the exact choice, location and nature of what needs reporting, this will also give information if that particular problem has already been reported. In time there will also be guidance with regards to timescale of repairs; it is hoped that this will be more informative to all users.

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Essex road scanners show steady improvement

The main roads in Essex have got better for the third year in a row according to data collected by vehicles which use laser beam technology to measure road condition.

The specially adapted Road Assessment Vehicles (RAVs) drove every route in Essex skimming the road surface to record defects. They are the most accurate and objective means of measuring the condition of carriageways.

As of today, just 2.6% of Essex's main routes require treatment, compared to 4.6% a year ago and 6.1% in 2012.

The priority measures and extra investment in highway improvements have proved successful and these results will be used to determine and prioritise maintenance work as well as being reported to the Department for Transport annually to measure national road conditions.

Survey analysis below shows a trend of continued improvements across the county council's districts. Every district shows a significant improvement:

- 1.5% of priority roads in Basildon now need attention, compared to 3.7% three years ago.
- 2.3% of priority roads in Braintree now need attention, compared to 3.7% three years ago.
- 3.9% of priority roads in Brentwood now need attention, compared to 7.5% three years ago.
- 1.2% of priority roads in Castle Point now need attention, compared to 4.5% three years ago.
- 2.2% of priority roads in Chelmsford now need attention, compared to 5.8% three years ago.
- 2.7% of priority roads in Colchester now need attention, compared to 7.1% three years ago.
- 4.4% of priority roads in Epping Forest now need attention, compared to 11.6% three years ago.
- 1.1% of priority roads in Harlow now need attention, compared to 3.0% three years ago.
- 2.7% of priority roads in Maldon now need attention, compared to 4.8% three years ago.
- 2.3% of priority roads in Tendring now need attention, compared to 5.1% three years ago.
- 2.7% of priority roads in Uttlesford now need attention, compared to 6.5% three years ago.

Primary school places.

Essex County Council has been encouraging parents to apply for primary school places for September 2015.

Parents and carers of children born during the period 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011 must apply between 10 November 2014 and 15 January 2015 for primary school places for the September 2015 intake. All reception aged children are entitled to start school in the September following their fourth birthday.

Applications can be made via the website at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. The site enables parents to search for the school information, read Ofsted reports, check admissions criteria and submit applications.

Applying for the right primary school is an important decision and parents are advised to use the tools available at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions to ensure to make an informed application.

Due to increasing pressure on primary school places it is vital to apply on time, as schools can become oversubscribed so it is important for parents to carefully consider admissions criteria and give themselves maximum opportunity to be considered for a school they want by using all their four preferences.

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Appendix C

Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report

Closing Balances to 31st October 2015 are:

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 763	£28,425.91
Total uncashed cheques	£1,444.39
Total of cheques below (November payments - request for approval)	£345.60
Balance in current account after cheques	£26,693.92
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 144	£27,697.40
Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit	£54,333.32

Income Details for October 2015:

Precept from TDC	£13,772.00
LCTSS Grant from TDC	£1,222.00
Total income for October 2015	£14,994.00

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Elmstead Community Centre – Hall Hire October x 3	£45.00
Unipar – Service and Certification of Speedwatch Radar	£159.00
Cllr Nick Bell – mileage for TDALC meetings in Beaumont x 4 x 19 miles @ £0.45/mile	£34.20
Mrs A Baxter – mileage and parking for Social Media Course, Great Dunmow (63 miles @ £0.45/mile plus £2.40 parking), Precept Meeting, Clacton Town Hall (25 miles @ £0.45/mile and parking £2) and stamps (£5.40)	£49.40
Mr BM Jennings – 1 cut of Dene Park (November)	£58.00
Total Cheques	£345.60

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO
 18th November 2015

Signature

Date