

ELMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Thursday 20th September, 2012

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Bell, Cllr Sly, Cllr Snowden, Cllr Phillips, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Gray, Cllr Brock

Clerk: Mrs Liles

District Councillor Nicholls

Public: Mrs Stammers, Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Gooch, Mr. Fenning, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Coleman

Meeting Chaired by Cllr Bell – Chair

Meeting Commenced at 7.30pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Councillor Heaney

Councillor Hinchcliff, Councillor Lloyd, Councillor Mason

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

3 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

The Chairman explained that 3 minutes per person was allowed and this would be the only time for members of the public to speak.

Matters raised:- Opinions were given on the options for the development sites with reasons and possible gains for the village from the different options. The Estates Minutes from the 17th November 2011 were not put on the website. Comments were made the draft survey would muddy the waters, may not be feasible, many options could produce confused answers and would all possible planning gains materialize. A comment was also made that giving a choice of no development would not be an option. Smaller developments would not achieve the assets that the village may require. A new Community Centre, allotments, traffic calming and pedestrian crossing were all mentioned as possible planning gains.

4 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED Thursday 17th July, 2012 and any matters arising;

It was proposed that the minutes of the previous Parish Meeting of the Thursday 17th July, 2012 be agreed and accepted as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Phillips

Second: Cllr Gray

Unanimously Carried

Matters arising from the previous meeting not included in this agenda:

Cllr Lewis reported that interviews had taken place for a new Parish Clerk. Four candidates had been interviewed and Shona Tyler was offered and accepted the position. She has a financial background and was warmly welcomed by Councillors as she came to observe the meeting. Her hours would be Mondays 11 am to 4 pm, Wednesdays 11 am to 4 pm and Thursdays 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm. Thanks were given to Myrna who had stepped in at short notice and done admiral work. It was hoped for a smooth take over.

5 COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Nicholls reminded the meeting that every resident in Tendring qualifies for a free parking permit for TDC car parks.

Lids were now available for the Red recycling boxes and he had brought some along this evening. Householders would need to collect the lids but the Parish Council would hold some for parishioners. Delivery could be arranged for 500 more to be delivered to the village.

Action: A letter to be sent to TDC expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with expectation that people would need to collect these lids.

The Traveller's site had breached conditions and the Enforcement Officer had attended. This is required on a regular basis particularly as permission for a permanent or further temporary sites will be coming up shortly. When this happens Cllr Nichols will arrange to call it in so the application will go before the Committee for a decision.

Draft Local Plan went before the Full Council last week. An amendment to include Horsey Cross for Industrial use was made. The plan will now go out for public consultation for 6 weeks and then back to Full Council for approval.

A meeting was held on September 19th regarding the A120 from Hare Green to Pelhams Corner. It is highly likely a speed trial will be put on part of the road. This may involve cameras to record speeds as a previous survey found 64% of people exceeded 70 mph going towards Harwich. The best option would be a roundabout but there were insufficient funds for this from the Highways Authority.

Action: A letter be sent to support this proposal to Eric Cooper at the Highways Agency.

6 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

None Present

7 UPDATE FROM VILLAGE TREE WARDEN

Mr. Wadham not present.

8 PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT BEHIND MEADOW CLOSE/CHURCH ROAD/CHARITY FIELD – SURVEY UPDATE

Cllr Gray read out proposed amendments to the proposed survey submitted by Cllr Sly including the fact that it should be made clear what each developer was actually going to offer to the village as planning gain.

Cllr Lewis stated she had circulated all Councillors her view that Council was losing sight of the principle reason for undertaking a survey which was to determine the site of any new development, and that too much reference to planning gain was premature and confusing the main issue. She considered the proposed survey was too busy and a too long survey would mean people would ignore it. She thanked Cllr Mason for putting the draft together and all the hard work it involved.

The Charity Field may be a non-starter and most people were only interested in the possible sites near them. There has to be development so why ask the question would people prefer none.

Cllr Phillips agreed draft survey is too long but there is a need to ask the village where they want the development to go.

There was agreement that only 2 sites were viable so do the Council need to do the survey anyway?

The Chairman agrees with Cllr Lewis but feels a bit of general information could be given to the village.

Cllr Gray strongly objected to this and firmly stated that all known information should be on this survey.

Cllr Snowdon agrees with Cllr Lewis. It was felt that the survey was also important for the developers to find out what the people of the village want.

The Chairman proposed that a revised format be put together in the next 7 days with Cllrs Phillips Lewis and himself as a working party.

It was noted that there will be a 6 week public consultation period when the development application comes out and decent size rooms, a mix of small/larger/affordable housing to a minimum standard up to a development of 40 houses should be sought.

Cllr Lewis proposed that the Council amends the proposed survey of the village with at most 2 sides of A4 asking for their comments. This was seconded by Cllr Snowden. A vote was taken with 4 votes for and 3 against recorded and therefore the proposal was carried. It was noted that help from volunteers would be needed to get the survey out and to collect the filled in forms. It was further agreed to send the draft out to the 2 main developers before distributing it for their contributions. Both developers requested that the scale should show accurately, the same scale on each development. One of the developments requested that only the actual land for development should be shown on the map.

9 CRICKET CLUB REQUEST FOR THE ELMCROFT AREA

The Clerk read out an email received from the Cricket Club stating they were no longer planning to position the new net practice facility outside the boundaries of the cricket club. They would welcome any support that the Parish Council would be able to give with this project. It was noted that the Parish Council would in principal support this project but not financially.

10 EMCHAT

Currently 130 signatures have been received on Emchat survey.

72.9% of people prefer Church Road, 13.5% of people preferred Meadow Close, 9.7% of people preferred School Road and 3.7% of people preferred the Charity Field.

11 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES ALONG THE COLCHESTER ROAD

Cllr Mason had written as requested. Dist. Cllr Nicholls reported that the County Council allocate money to various regions for the benefit of roads in their area which is spent on small schemes.

Pressure for a crossing should be put to Mr. Overall who was responsible for small schemes in the TDC area for the Highways panel to consider.

Action; Write to TDC Highways with our requests.

12 UPDATE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK/RFO

Cllr Lewis had given the update earlier.

13 VILLAGE TIME CAPSULE FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR – TO AGREE WORDING FOR THE PLAQUE.

The following wording was agreed

Buried below this plaque is the Elmstead Market Diamond Jubilee 2012 Time Capsule,
to be re-opened in June 2062.

14 TRAVELLER SITE IN CLACTON ROAD

This had been covered earlier

15 COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTIES

FINANCE

**15.1 Finance Report; including any recommendations and requests for payment contained therein.
(Appendix (i) copy attached to Original Minutes)**

Proposed: Cllr Lewis

Seconded: Cllr Gray

Carried

The Clerk read out a letter from Elmstead Nursery who have requested to use the grants given them to replace the grass with artificial turf to spend the money instead on outdoor equipment.

This was agreed and any new grant would need to be applied for in the usual round of grants to organisations.

15.2 PLANNING

Cllr Snowden is now the Chair of Planning, and had looked at current applications

a. Decisions in the month

Received today 1 Brook Cottages – Conservatory – Approval in Full

- **Please note that all documents relating to planning applications are available on the Tendring District Council website.**

16 Publicity;

Cllr Lewis will write an article about the new Clerk and times of the office opening to the public to go into the October Issue.

17 Community Centre

Cllr Gray wanted to know whether the District Council have the powers to transfer ownership to the Parish Council as trustees and legal owners. It was agreed it would be necessary to get advice.

18 Village Schools

Cllr Lewis requested that the Parish Council consider giving permission for the Essex Air Ambulance helicopter to land in the school field as a competition had been won by the school for the Air Ambulance to visit. All agreed and Cllr Lewis agreed to write up a permission and take to the school tomorrow.

19 Public Transport

No update

20 Road Safety

No update

21 Police Report

No update

22 Elmcroft

It was noted that the dropping off of children and parking is a nightmare. Double parking on double yellow lines was common. It was agreed to ask the PCSO to attend and show his presence. The Chairman agreed to do this. Volunteers in yellow jackets putting polite notices on cars was another suggestion.

23 Youth & Leisure

No update

24 Dene Park

No update but it was noted that cuts were about the same at 7 to 8.

25 P3

Path at Finches Lane from Bromley Road to Clacton Road needed considerable work as it is vastly overgrown. The Handyman had had a look at it but it was a bigger job than just use of strimmers.

26 PERMISSION TO LAND HELICOPTER ON SCHOOL FIELD

Dealt with earlier

27 Councillors Remit to Elmstead.

Cllr Brock was concerned at yet another derelict building and wanted to know if anyone knew what would happen to the Village Pub now closed. This to be a future agenda item.

No update on the Post Office site

28 Matters Raised by Councillors

No matters raised by Councillors.

**There being no further business Councillors were thanked for their attendance.
Meeting closed at 9.15pm**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 18th October, 2012
To be held in the Community Centre, School Road CO7 7ET**

**Minuted by Myrna Liles,
20th September, 2012
Contact: elmsteadparish@btconnect.com
Telephone: 01206 827139**

Appendix to the original Minutes:

Finance Report dated 20th September, 2012 prepared by the Clerk

All other relevant correspondence has been circulated prior to the meeting and available upon request.