

ELMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Thursday 15th November, 2012

Present:

Councillors: Cllr. Sly, Cllr. Lewis, Cllr. Mason, Cllr. Lloyd, Cllr. Snowden

Clerk: Mrs. Baxter

District Councillor Nicholls, District Councillor Heaney

Public: Mr. M Wadham, Mr. I Mitchell, Mr. D Feldman, Ms M Wexler, Mr. R Redding, Mrs. P Redding, Mr. S Beecham, Mrs. A Beecham, Mr. R Fairweather, Mr. B Mason, Mr. T Vaughan, Mr. R Bond, P Horn, Mrs. M Walker, Mrs. P Giles, S Izard, A.N. Fenner, C Thirkettle, P Cowell, Mr. B Jennings, D Stammer, E Chubb, P Clark, L Sibley, S Phillips, Mr. D Pasotti, R Lowther, Mr. M Willis and other members of public
PCSO L Barnes

Meeting Chaired by Cllr. Lewis – Vice Chair

Meeting Commenced at 7.40pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Bell, Cllr. Gray, Cllr. Brock

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

3 CO-OPTION OF MR. STAN BEECHAM

Cllr. Lewis explained that Mr. Beecham was ready to be co-opted and that Mr. Redding's co-option would be done at the December meeting.

Cllr. Mason stated that she had had no opportunity to meet Mr. Beecham and gave a counter proposal that either the floor should be opened up for nominations for co-options, in line with the Parish Council toolkit, or both candidates should be interviewed after the meeting, as has happened with all four previous co-options this year.

Cllr. Lewis said that she had spoken to EALC and the Monitoring Officer who gave her advice and she had based her decision on what she thought was correct.

DC Heaney gave her opinion that if Cllr. Lewis had received advice from EALC and the TDC Monitoring Officer then their advice was correct.

Cllr Mason said that she had asked for co-option to be put on the November agenda, but that Mr. Beecham was on there and she hadn't know about the interview.

Cllr. Lewis said that the co-option process had not been changed, and that in this context it was appropriate and reasonable that Mr. Beecham be co-opted this evening and Mr. Redding in December.

Cllr. Mason said she didn't accept this.

Cllr. Lewis explained that the meeting was to explain about the role of a Councillor, not an interview to make a decision and that Mr. Beecham had met with three Councillors.

It was proposed that as the meeting with Mr. Beecham had been done without Cllr. Mason's and other Councillors' knowledge that the PC either vote for both Mr. Beecham and Mr. Redding or wait to co-opt both in December.

Proposed: Cllr. Mason Seconded None Not carried

It was proposed that Elmstead Parish Council co-opt Mr. Stan Beecham as a Parish Councillor.

Proposed: Cllr. Lewis Seconded Cllr. Sly Carried (Cllr Mason abstained due to the procedure)

Cllr Lewis asked Mr. Beecham to join the PC.

4 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

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

Mr. Redding: had read the Tendring Draft Local plan and sat through Parish Council meetings where the Councillors stated they had very little influence, but the plan clearly states that a single location for development was advocated by the Parish Council. Weeley sought to spread out their development sites, why not in Elmstead? Community benefits seem to be the main reason for a single location for the development. Is there a representative mandate for that decision?

DC Heaney: the wording of the plan did not state what Mr. Redding had said.

Public: did the Parish Council decide where the development would be?

Mr. Redding: why were only 2 sites sought after when 6 were available? The current situation is putting villager against villager.

Cllr. Lewis: there had been 7 suggested areas. The PC started discussions more than a year ago and felt that Holly Way and Church Road were the sites that would be most looked to for development. The PC asked every developer to meet with the PC and held some meetings. However some developers provided no information.

Cllr. Heaney: it was Tendring who chose which site to embrace.

Mrs. Stammers: the public were blaming EMCHAT for the development but that they had started as an organisation to raise funds for a new Community Centre themselves, not as part of a development deal.

Cllr. Sly: EMCHAT came into being around the development of 5 bungalows with the gain being enough to build a village hall, so they do bear some responsibility. He also said that there has to be one development site to get the benefits, if you're going to get development shouldn't the village get something out of it?

Mr. Redding: There's an 8 week consultation period, do we have a chance to input to TDC for one or two sites?

Cllr. Lewis: January 7th at 4pm is the cut off for comments. PC is holding a public meeting with enough time to circulate information so that every individual can make comments. The PC has been told the most weight will be given to individual comments, so write to TDC individually and encourage other people to write.

DC Heaney: Agreed

Public: What happened to the survey?

Cllr. Lewis: The survey was considered flawed as the scale of the maps was different so the results were not shared.

5 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2012 AND ANY MATTERS ARISING:

Cllr. Mason had a number of points of accuracy.

It was proposed that the minutes of the Parish Meeting of Thursday 18th October, 2012 be agreed and accepted as a correct record.

Proposed Cllr. Lloyd Seconded Cllr. Sly Carried

6 COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

DC Nicholls had not attended the DC meeting. There would be a Public Meeting tomorrow evening with Mr. Guiver to discuss the new development at Horsley Cross to change it to an industrial site.

DC Heaney: stated she had become a DC to fight a development plan. There is going to be development; Tendring District Council wish to apply the 6% increase in housing across every village. A survey can be sent in, but the villagers must write individually to have the most impact. You need a good planning reason to object, not a personal or emotional one.

The public commented that there is nowhere in Elmstead to see the plans.

Cllr. Lewis responded that there are 2 copies of the plan in the Parish Council Office which people are welcome to come and see. Also, the PC will be distributing a copy of the Form which people can use to contact TDC with objections, but there will be a cost to the PC. Cllr. Lewis described the Form.

The public asked about a marquee for the event.

Cllr. Lewis said that the School had the largest capacity and it had to coincide with the dates Mr. Guiver had available and on a Saturday morning and that we are grateful that he is coming to tell us how the plan was put together and how decisions were made.

The public asked if the Form is to object to Holly Way.

DC Heaney said yes and to make suggestions.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

None Present

8 UPDATE FROM VILLAGE TREE WARDEN

Mr. Wadham was present but had to leave. He will return next month.

9 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

9.1 2012/2013 BUDGET FOR APPROVAL

Cllr. Mason: The PC had so far remained within Budget apart from the costs of the Jubilee. With the surveys, costs and inflation the Finance Committee thought it should make an increase of 2% to the Precept request which would be about £500. The Finance Committee trimmed down the budget as far as they were able but the additional £500 would bridge a gap between income and expenditure.

Cllr. Sly asked why do we have a reserve?

Cllr. Mason explained it would be used for a new lawnmower, for capital expenditure, for wages to cover employee sickness, legal fees and so on.

There was a discussion about the fraud a previous clerk had committed against the PC.

Cllr. Lewis clarified that the PC were defrauded out of £29,000. They were given a sum of money to tide them over. The £29,000 was eventually paid back by the fraudulent Clerk.

It was proposed that the 2012/2013 Budget be accepted.

Proposed Cllr. Mason Seconded Cllr. Lloyd carried unanimously

9.2 PRECEPT REQUEST TO TDC

Cllr. Mason explained that the Precept had not been increased for a few years and that the cost of maintaining the mower had increased by at least £1,000.

Cllr. Lewis said that it had been at least 5 years since the Precept was last raised.

The Finance Committee were concerned that if the PC did not make a small increase now there would be a larger increase further down the line.

It was proposed that the Precept request be increased by 2% for 2013/2014

Proposed Cllr. Mason Seconded Cllr. Lloyd carried unanimously

9.3 FINANCE REPORT (PREPARED BY THE CLERK)

Cllr. Mason read through the payments.

It was proposed that the Finance Report be accepted.

Proposed Cllr. Sly Seconded Cllr. Mason carried unanimously

10 TENDRING DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN: PROPOSED SUBMISSION DRAFT

Cllr. Lewis advised that the plan had been published and is available on the internet, and read the section on Elmstead aloud.

11 PUBLIC MEETING NOVEMBER 24TH AND CIRCULATION OF OUTCOME TO VILLAGE

Cllr. Lewis explained that the venue for the Public Meeting could hold only 120 people, 90 seated and 30 standing including everyone attending. It will be first come first served. Cllr. Lewis said we would need help on the day and asked the public for volunteers to help.

It was discussed that Cllr. Mason is prepared to put a survey together but that it has to be legal in every aspect and that both Mr. Gooch and Cirrus developers need to agree the content prior to circulation.

12 EMCHAT

None.

13 TRAVELLER SITE IN CLACTON ROAD

TDC have not had any planning application yet.

14 PLANNING

14.1 New Planning Applications Received

12/01154/FUL Replacement Dwelling 5 Church Road, Elmstead

No Comments

15 PUBLICITY:

None

16 COMMUNITY CENTRE:

None

17 VILLAGE SCHOOLS:

None

18 PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

None

19 ROAD SAFETY:

Cllr. Lewis commented that the planning gain from the development might include a crossing on Colchester Road. The public asked why nothing had been done about this before.

Cllr. Lewis explained that the Council have been fighting for a crossing for years but Essex County Council Highways refuse as it's one of their responsibilities to keep the traffic on the A133 flowing.

Cllr. Mason said that she had written a letter based upon a change in legislation in July requesting measures to slow down the traffic which might result in getting a crossing.

The public requested that we don't rely on the development and Cllr. Mason assured that we wouldn't and that we would send the letter.

The public were concerned about the increase in traffic in Holly way with the development.

Cllr. Lewis replied that it is not up to the PC to decide access. Tye Road had been suggested but this is a Highways issue. The planning permission is between the developers and TDC, the PC can't make them do anything.

20 POLICE REPORT:

PCSO Barnes reported that there had been two incidents: a nuisance neighbour in Clacton Road (drinking and making noise) and threats in Colchester Road.

He also explained about a new community speedwatch, the local community would do the speed testing. They need 6 volunteers, it's ongoing and you are involved for as long as you want. There is a community speedwatch meeting coming up and PCSO Barnes will forward an e-mail with the date.

PCSO Barnes also said that the King's Arms had been broken into and copper pipes broken. He asked the public to call the police if they see anything suspicious.

Cllr. Lewis requested that a police presence come to the Elmstead Primary School in the morning or afternoon to see the extent of the traffic difficulties with people dropping off and picking up children. PCSO Barnes explained it was difficult but he would have to miss a morning telephone conference in order to do it.

A member of public asked why the speed camera between the garage and Oatlands is not always there. PCSO Barnes responded that it is not a camera, it just gives the speed and it's shared with other villages.

A member of public commented that the person using the stables on Old School Lane is fly tipping on the border of the village and in the field. He's spreading horse manure on the field and the flies are a nuisance. She'd spoken to the owner but nothing had been done. PCSO Barnes will look at the situation.

Cllr. Lewis thanked PCSO Barnes for his work and attending the meeting.

21 YOUTH AND LEISURE:

Clerk still to follow up on whether part of Market Field can have its lease extended for use of part of the area for a youth facility.

22 PUBLIC FOOTPATHS:

None

23 CORRESPONDENCE

None

24 MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Mason raised concerns regarding the Agenda for this meeting.

Cllr. Lloyd said that she had nearly had an accident on the A120, where a car undertook her. There was a discussion of a dangerous stretch of the A120 between Hare Green and Pelham's Corner. If anyone has any near misses or accidents then e-mail the DCs. If there is a crash then make sure you call the police. The DCs are trying to get the road improved.

Cllr. Sly spoke about the old Post Office saying that he doubted we could get it delisted. Cllr. Mason feels that all the reasons for it being a listed building have now gone. The PC should try to get it delisted as doing this would allow demolition. DC Heaney said the TDC ask that we apply for delisting.

Cllr. Beecham asked if the scaffolding was inspected, DC Heaney confirmed this happened every month by TDC.

Cllr. Sly asked that it be an agenda item for December.

There being no further business Councillors were thanked for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 20th December, 2012

To be held in the Community Centre, Church Road CO7 7ET

Minuted by Angela Baxter,

15th November, 2012

Contact: elmsteadparish@btconnect.com

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Appendix to the original Minutes:

Finance Report dated 15th November, 2012 prepared by the Clerk.

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

