

ELMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Thursday 17th January, 2013

Present:

Councillors: Cllr. Bell, Cllr. Brock, Cllr. Mason, Cllr. Lloyd, Cllr. Beecham, Cllr. Gray, Cllr. Snowden, Cllr. Sly

Clerk: Mrs. Baxter

District Councillor Nicholls

Public: Mr. R Redding, Mrs. P Redding, Mr. R Fairweather, Mr. B Mason, Mr. T Vaughan, Mrs. A Beecham, Mr. P Clark, Mrs K. Pugh, Mr. T Pugh, Mr. M Wadham (Tree Warden)

PC Dan Heard

PC Wendy Crowson

Meeting Chaired by Cllr. Bell – Chair Meeting Commenced at 7.30pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Councillor Heaney

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

3 RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Cllr. Bell advised those present that should they wish to record the meeting they needed to have Council's written consent.

4 CO-OPTION OF MR. R REDDING

Cllr. Bell welcomed Mr. Redding to the meeting.

Elmstead Parish Council took a vote to co-opt Mr. Robert Redding as a Parish Councillor.

Vote carried (7 for and 1 against)

Cllr. Bell welcomed Mr. Redding in joining the Parish Council.

5 POLICE SARGEANT TATERSHALL TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

PC Dan Heard spoke as Sargeant Tatershall was unable to attend the meeting:

It's a community led program run by volunteers with some input from the police. Volunteers use a speed gun to check vehicle speed and note down the registration number of speeding vehicles. This information is passed to the police. The volunteers can't stop traffic or give tickets. If a vehicle is noted on 3 occasions a letter will be sent, if that vehicle continues to speed the police can get involved.

Volunteers will get a couple of hours training at Brightlingsea Police. They can do it when and as often as they want. It has to be in a "safe site" chosen by PC Heard and during daylight hours. The community can discuss where they'd like the speedwatch but it will need to be agreed for health and safety reasons.

Great Bromley and Thornington have started a Community Speedwatch.

Cllr. Bell had concerns about possible altercations. PC Heard replied that the training includes confrontations, what to expect and how to tackle it. He's not aware of any confrontations in his experience. There would be two speedwatch sign, high visibility jackets and people will be aware that it's not the police. Volunteers have to be at least 18 and there has to be a minimum of two people doing the speedwatch.

Cllr. Mason asked what happens to the information recorded? PC Heard replied that the volunteers log the speed and registration and put the details on paper. This gets passed to the Casualty Reduction Bureau and put in their computer. The details are then compared with police and other Community Speedwatch records. They can send a letter or after 3 times a visit from PC Heard. They can't issue a ticket but the letter and visit should get the message across. If someone continues to speed PC Heard will do a speedcheck and issue a ticket. The main goal is to reduce speed.

Cllr. Sly asked if details such as insurance and tax will also be checked for those registrations put onto the computer. PC Heard – yes, it may be a stolen car. That information stays with the police.

Cllr.s Gray asked how many volunteers were needed. PC. Heard: 2 dedicated people would be enough. The equipment is expensive so Parishes are getting together and sharing equipment, or they may choose to buy

equipment together. The police are facing cuts, the traffic division is being decimated and the public won't see traffic cars out and about.
PC Heard's contact details are in the Parish magazine and he will be printing a leaflet and putting it up in the shops in the village.

COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR NICHOLLS (NOT LISTED ON AGENDA)

There's only been one TDC full meeting, it was purely Q&A, nothing of importance.
The funding for the precept has changed, Richard Barratt from TDC can come and explain the changes if we wish.
It's not secret, just complicated.

Richard Collins, the planning officer dealing with the travellers site application on Clacton Road, understands that the application will be withdrawn. The temporary permit runs out in March, they can't have another. They may apply for a permanent site but TDC is of the opinion that there are enough sites in Tendring to refuse the application.

Q&As: How did it get temporary site status? It was applied for and granted.

Will it be easy to refuse and application for permanent status? It's a brand new application; it can be refused or approved.

It's got good drainage, it's close to sewers, and it's a convenient location to local schools. They've got to justify the site and TDC don't think he will.

6 Matters raised by Members of the Public

Q: Who is Mrs. Joy Derby? A: The CEO of EALC (Essex Association of Local Councils). She came to give the Council some brief training and answer questions before the Council Meeting.

7 Tree Warden to discuss Jams and Jellies Community Orchard

Mike Wadham is our tree warden, his role is to respond to issues raised by the community and encourage other activities, planting trees and fun and interesting projects, such as putting the Elms back into Elmstead.

Mr. Wadham's idea is to create a community orchard and the focus will be on the School to plant and maintain the orchard. We could then use the cooks in the community to make the jams and jellies. Mr. Wadham will approach the school, and has some ideas about who to approach for land for the project.

The cost is £200 and they may get a grant from TDC. There will be objections and issues to deal with before getting all the information together for Autumn.

Mr. Wadham will find old Essex varieties of plums, apples, pears and damsons. The project will link into the history of fruit growing in this area, and will have a story.

8 Tendring District Local Plan: EPC survey results

The Clerk read out some of the headline results of the survey. There was a discussion about how to make the survey results available to the public and it was suggested that notices be put on the board to say that the results are published on the EPC website and that copies can be obtained from the Community Centre.

There has been no feedback so far from TDC. Cllr. Nicholls thinks that the final version of the plan will go for approval in March. If the local plan is not approved it will be a free for all.

Cllr. Bell confirmed that EPC did not send a recommendation with the survey results.

9 To approve the Minutes of the Meeting from Thursday 20th December 2012 and any matters arising.

It was proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Thursday 20th December, 2012 be agreed and accepted as a correct record.

Proposed Cllr. Beecham Seconded Cllr. Lloyd Carried

Action Clerk to send Cllr. Redding a copy of the December Minutes.

10 Financial

10.1 Finance Report prepared by Clerk and

10.2 Grants to local organisations

It was proposed that the Financial Report (copy distributed to Council and attached to Minutes) including grants to local organisations be agreed.

Proposed Cllr. Gray Seconded Cllr. Sly Carried unanimously

10.3 Service of Mower

Cllr. Bell explained we've had the mower 5 years purchased second hand and we need to spend money on its annual service. It was a struggle last year to get 3 quotes for the work, but it was agreed that we should try and get 3 quotes this year.

Action Clerk to obtain 3 quotes for the mower's service.

10.4 Laptop battery

Cllr. Mason had provided some quotes for a new battery for the laptop as the old one does not work.

It was proposed that we purchase the battery with the best power which will be approximately £60 inc P&P.

Proposed Cllr. Sly Seconded Cllr. Lloyd Carried

Action Clerk to purchase the battery.

11 Personnel

11.1 Clerk's salary from end of 12 week probationary period

Decision was not taken as there was a misunderstanding as to which scale the Clerk would be on.

11.2 Handyman's salary

Cllr. Bell stated that the handyman is earning more than he should be per the pay scales we have from EALC, but that he is paid for his flexibility and knowledge of the equipment. His salary will remain the same.

12 Response to community infrastructure request

Cllr. Gray has passed the information on to Cllr. Beecham. Cllr. Gray explained that TDC is sending letters to all its villages and towns looking at the infrastructure. The project is headed by Roland Smith who is willing to come to a Parish Meeting. Some questions are easy some are difficult. We need to widen out who helps to answer the questions. It was suggested that we ask the utility companies for plans but thought they might not be accurate.

Action: Copy the request information and circulate it.

13 EMCHAT

Cllr. Gray (Chairman of EMCHAT): EMCHAT have had a meeting to discuss the survey, the community hall, the shape and size of it. It's early days yet. He was asked if other people who will use the hall will be asked for their input and answered that they will discuss it amongst themselves and then open the discussion out.

14 Planning

14.1 New Planning Applications Received

None, but EPC did receive details of an enforcement appeal concerning Shaftesbury House, Clacton Road for a breach of planning control. Cllr. Bell called TDC to see what they expect and they said anything we can put forward.

Action: Find previous documents we have about this issue.

14.2 Decisions in the Month

12/00960/FUL – Full approval given for the erection of a combined heat and power bio-gas plant comprising anaerobic digester, silage clamp and digestate store. Allens Farm, Tye Road, Elmstead
12/01331/NMA – Approval given to have obscure glass in the roof elevations instead of clear glass. 1 Brook Cottages, Colchester Road, Elmstead

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

15 Old Post Office

(EPC are in correspondence with Mrs. Gaynor Roberts of English Heritage (EH) and are waiting for the EH decision on the best way forward for the Old Post Office.)

Cllr Gray: EH would either not agree to delisting until new plans met their approval or they would wish to repair and rebuild.

Cllr Beecham: EH will not delist if they can replace the building using modern methods.

The public suggested a compulsory purchase of dangerous buildings.

It was discussed how we could go forwards.

There was a drawing submitted to TDC by the old PO owner which was refused.

Cllr. Sly has researched some legal information which states that it is the District Council which has to seek the advice of EH in the case of demolishing a Grade 2 listed building.

Action Prompt Mrs. Roberts for the information she has said she would provide and send her the drawing previously submitted

16 Travellers site in Clacton Road

See comments from DC Nicholls.

17 As has been the case in the last two years, Elmstead Primary School would like to arrange a village Fun afternoon on Saturday 6th July 2013, using Elmstead Playing Fields located behind the Community Centre and Market Field, and therefore seek Parish Councils approval to use the field.

It was proposed to agree to the above

Proposed Cllr. Brock Seconded Cllr. Sly Carried (unanimous)

18 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Gray: There are 3 types of plan, a Parish Plan, a Village Design Statement or a Neighbourhood Plan. EPC need a working party with Cllrs and members of the community to produce a plan.

DC Nicholls: attends other PC meetings and at Thorrington they have discussed a Neighbourhood Plan but it's horrendously expensive and they are now doing a Village Appraisal which is not expensive or legally binding but does express the views of the village. Also, if we have a village appraisal we can quote it to local planners.

Cllr. Gray: TDC will not be bound by our plan but they will take it into account.

An initial working party was agreed of Cllr. Beecham, Cllr. Gray and Cllr. Redding

19 Police Report (from PC Dan Heard)

Suspicious circumstances on Elmcroft, youths knocking on doors

Disturbance on School Lane, 3 people arguing

Nuisance Neighbour on Johnson's Drive

Nuisance Neighbour on Lucerne Road

Traffic Collisions on Elmstead Road, Tye Road and Colchester Road.

20 Matters Raised by Councillors

Cllr. Brock: Thanks for your donations for Polly's (ex Cllr. Lewis) leaving gift. We have got her theatre tickets in Norwich.

Cllr. Lloyd: Can we get the Elmstead Market sign put back on the A120 at Hare Green Junction?

Action Write to Essex Highways

Cllr. Sly: Attended a local community resilience workshop. It was a good meeting about what we need to look at in case of emergency.

Action Clerk to distribute copies of Cllr. Sly's report.

**There being no further business Councillors were thanked for their attendance.
Meeting closed at 9.12pm**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 21st February, 2013
To be held in the Community Centre, School Road Road CO7 7ET**

**Minuted by Angela Baxter,
17th January, 2013
Contact: elmsteadparish@btconnect.com
Telephone: 01206 827139
Appendix to the original Minutes:**

Finance Report dated 17th January, 2013 prepared by the Clerk.

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

DRAFT