

ELMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Thursday 18th April, 2013

Present:

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

Clerk: Mrs. Baxter

Public: Mr. S Jennings, Mr. R Fairweather, Mr. T Vaughan, Mr. M Wadham (Elmstead Tree Warden), Mr. T Pugh, Mrs. K Pugh

Meeting Chaired by Cllr. Bell – Chair

Meeting Commenced at 7.30pm

1 Chairman's welcome

2 Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Nicholls, District Councillor Heaney and it was noted that the Council had received a letter of resignation from Cllr. Snowden dated 18th April 2013.

3 Declaration of Interests

Cllr. Beecham: item 19 (Secretary of the South Green Residents Association) and item 22 (Chairman of the Community Centre Committee)

Cllr. Gray: item 13 (Chair of EMCHAT)

4 Police Report

PCSO Les Barnes was not present. It was announced that we had received the sad news that PCSO Barnes (PCSO for Elmstead) has been transferred to Walton. EPC were very disappointed by this news as PCSO Barnes has been doing community work in Elmstead for 6 years and has built up good relationships in this village and the other villages he served. There are petitions in the village against this transfer. (There is one in Seabreeze Café.)

Action: Write to express our disappointment and see if anything can be done to reverse this decision.

5 Comments from District Councillors

District Councillors not present.

6 Matters raised by Members of the Public

None

7 To approve the Minutes of the Meeting from Thursday 21st March 2013.

It was proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Thursday 21st March, 2013 be agreed and accepted as a correct record with the following revisions:

Item 18.3 "with the first three dates being 11th May (attended by Cllr. John Gray and Cllr. Cathy Brock), 13th July and 14th September.

Item 26 Insert as para 4 Cllr. Gray suggested that they start half an hour before the Council meeting.

Item 30 None but Cllr. Redding would like an understanding of the process as to how grants are allocated to village organisations.

Proposed

Cllr. Sly

Seconded

Cllr. Beecham

Carried

8 Clerk's Report

Held over as not available.

9 Financial

9.1 Finance Report prepared by Clerk

It was proposed that the Finance Report (copy distributed to the Council and attached to Minutes) be agreed.

Proposed Cllr. Lloyd Seconded Cllr. Beecham Carried

9.2 2012/13 Return and supporting financial reports (an update)

Not discussed, held over.

10 Personnel

10.1 Councillors Training: any reply from RCCE regarding the Community led planning network event 13th May?

RCCE had replied to say that 14 months membership would cost £55 which would enable our Councillors to attend the Community led planning network event for free, and also have an RCCE officer attend a Parish Council meeting should we require more information on Community Led Planning or other area of interest. For non members the charge for attendance at the RCCE event would be £20 per Councillor.

Proposal: That EPC join RCCE. (Rural Community Council of Essex)

Proposed Cllr. Brock Seconded Cllr. Sly Carried

Action: Clerk to contact RCCE about membership.

11 Grant for Community Orchard:

Mr. M Wadham (Elmstead Tree Warden) has previously provided the Council with information about a jams and jellies community orchard. Does Council approve the idea and support the granting of £200 for the scheme?

Mr. Wadham: Mr. Middleditch (headmaster of Elmstead Primary School) has been supportive and will provide some labour and follow on activities. Market Field School has not been approached yet but Mr. Wadham will contact Mr. G Smith (headmaster). Beth Chatto is interested in the project and we may be able to get the trees at wholesale prices. There are also sponsorship opportunities.

Mr. Wadham was appointed tree warden by EPC and sees this project as a combined effort. Cllr. Mason raised the issue of CRB checks when working with children. Mr. Wadham is covered but he will have to let the School know that other volunteers may not be covered. Typically it is expected that the children and their parents will be present though.

Mr. Wadham has not found the land for the project yet. It would be preferable to get something close to the School, if that's not possible there will be logistics to consider. Cllr. Mason suggested Elmcroft, Mr. Wadham replied that would produce some debate. He will get support from Beth Chatto and then look for land.

Planning ahead Mr. Wadham is considering a Jurassic Park project in Elmstead, viewing trees as living fossils.

It was resolved that EPC does support the project and will grant £200 for the scheme, from the Chair's fund if necessary.

12 Annual Parish Meeting

An update from the Annual Parish Meeting working party.

Cllr. Beecham: 18 organisations are coming. The WI is doing teas/coffees. An advert has gone into Upmarket. Gary Guiver, the planning policy manager from TDC, is coming on an informal basis. It's on the 14th May 7.30–10.00pm. There will be a table for the village plan. We have both halls in the Community Centre; there will be tables out (including a table for the Village Plan), cards for the groups and name badges. We'll set up from 7pm.

Action: Make posters to advertise the event.

13 EMCHAT

There was no meeting this month. It has been decided to hold a meeting every other month for now. There will be two car boot sales; Sunday 16th June and Sunday 14th July at 10am. They need volunteers to help on the day.

14 Planning

14.1 New Planning Applications Received

ESS/16/13/TEN Land Adjacent to A120, A120 North, Ardleigh CO7 7SL – Proposed development of a new waste management facility with associated change of use of land.

Discussed briefly but agreed to send any comments to Clerk before 2nd May.

14.2 Decisions in the Month

13/00097/FUL Colchester Gospel Hall Trust, St Johns Works, Bromley Road – Change of use of existing building from business (Use Class B1/B8) to place of worship/church hall (Use Class D1). Full Approval

13/00292/NMA 31 Turnip Lodge Cottages, Turnip Lodge Lane – 1. Move new access door to 2 storey elevation. 2. Reduce existing patio door width to 1.2m wide on same 2 storey elevation to accommodate new access door. 3. Move 1st floor dormer in roof to inline with new 1.2m wide doors. 4. Centralise new bi-fold doors to new lounge area (with new pitch roof) at ground floor. 5. Colour change to marley cladding. Approval Non Material Amendment (Reason – For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure that the colour of the cladding is the same on each elevation.)

13/00249/FUL 29 Church Road – Extensions and alterations to existing bungalow. Full approval.

14.3 It is possible to apply to TDC for additional time to enable Council to respond to planning applications, should there be a need to do so. (Up to an additional 7 days)

15 Old Post Office

Update

Cllr. Bell: had spoken to DC Heaney to see if she had heard any more news, but she had not. He will keep asking as it's still dragging on.

Action: e-mail Mr. Halliday and Mr. Davidson to ask what the conclusions from their meeting with English Heritage were.

16 Travellers site in Clacton Road

Cllr. Bell: spoke to DC Nicholls who suggested we write to TDC to see what's happening to the site as the temporary planning expired March 13. Cllr. Bell read out what he had written in draft to send to TDC. It was commented that TDC are not the quickest to respond if someone continues to occupy land.

Cllr. Sly suggested that we write along the lines that DC Heaney spoke about at the last meeting, that TDC had enough travellers' sites in Tendring and therefore will not need to approve the current application.

It was not know if TDC had had the meeting to decide the travellers' sites yet.

Cllr. Mason suggested that we write along the lines of: we believe TDC are having or have had a meeting regarding the travellers' sites for the next 10 years. Can they confirm that the Clacton Road site has been excluded?

Action: Clerk to e-mail TDC with Cllr. Mason's suggested wording.

17 Village Plan working party update

Report from Village Plan working party.

Cllr. Gray: Cllr. Gray and Cllr. Beecham went to a meeting in Alresford. They thought they were going for a village design statement meeting but it was a meeting similar to the one EPC held in the Primary School with Gary Guiver and Gary Ashby.

Mr. Guiver said that the government had published new plans saying to TDC that they needed to allocate 11,000 new houses a year over the next ten years, but that TDC were not going to.

Alresford are keen to build accommodation for the elderly. Mr. Guiver said that if you build houses as part of a warden controlled area then each home counts towards the total. If you build a care home then it doesn't. Alresford are also in the early stages of looking at a village design statement. They are slightly ahead as they have volunteers already. TDC plans are on target and the next phase is June.

18 Communication

18.1 Quarterly Parish Council Newsletter: An update.

Cllr. Redding: Has put together a newsletter based upon what had previously been discussed. It will include the PC surgeries, the logo competition and interesting updates. For timing it will come out the first week in May a week after Upmarket which will be useful as it will have a reminder about the Dene Park survey.

19 South Green

Cllr. Beecham (secretary of the South Green Residents Association):

What questions need to be answered in order for the Council to be able to make a decision and how do we answer those questions?

The green was given in perpetuity to the Council if EPC maintain it, but not the road. Mr. Gooch owns the road but there are no legal documents as it was historically the "spoils of the manor".

It was discussed that the Council make a donation but that the frontagers retain liability. The possibility of getting the road adopted by ECC was queried but would cost about £250,000 to get it to a status of public use.

If EPC make a grant will we need to increase the precept?

Once the work is done (clean the surface off and fill the holes with road planings) the frontagers are happy to maintain and keep the surface to standard.

According to the 1980s Highways Act the road is the frontagers' responsibility, even if they don't own it.

Cllr. Bell asked what guaranty would there be on the road work done, the Council could pay towards it being renovated and then the road come up after some bad weather.

Cllr. Beecham said the road should last for 4-5 years but it's dependent upon traffic and weather conditions.

Cllr. Redding suggested that we establish in principle whether as EPC we want to support the frontagers with this problem.

It was proposed that EPC, without prejudice, will support the South Green Residents Association in their attempt to resolve the problems with the tracks.

Proposer Cllr. Redding Seconded Cllr. Bell Carried (Cllr. Sly voted against the proposal)

Action: Contact EALC to see if EPC has the power to donate money towards this project and contact TDC

Cllr Mason left with apologies during this discussion

20 Local Community Plan

An update

Cllr. Bell and Cllr. Sly have been working on this.

Cllr. Bell: has spoken to the Chair for Great Bromley PC suggesting a joint meeting with them and Little Bromley. He put forward the consensus that the Community Centre would be the emergency Centre.

Great Bromley have a major problem with the A120 at the moment so the meeting will be at a later date.

21 Tidy Tending Campaign

We have registered our interest in joining the campaign. Who is interested in volunteering to make up a "Spring Clean" party to address issues around Elmstead, including Spring Clean week commencing on the 13th May 2013? What ideas do we have for asking the villagers to volunteer?

We could try and get volunteers at the Annual Parish Meeting, and advertise in the Essex County Standard.

Action: Cllr. Bell and Mr. Fairweather to cycle around the village and check the areas of concern. Clerk to contact TDC to find out how the volunteers are coordinated and what equipment and support we can expect from TDC.

22 Community Centre Exterior

Cllr Beecham asks the Council to agree to repair or replace the fascia boards to the exterior of the community centre. Cllr Beecham gave the Council quotes for the work in the last meeting, and may have received an additional quote.

Cllr. Beecham: we have an additional quote for £2,295 plus an additional sum of about £100 for replacement guttering. (Classic Windows and Conservatories). This is to clad over the top of the existing wood. Cllr. Beecham will do the other external work.

It was proposed that we accept this quote and that work goes ahead, subject to funds.

Proposed Cllr. Sly Seconded Cllr. Bell Carried

23 Whittings Site

An update from Cllr. Bell

Cllr. Bell: There was a meeting on 10th April with TDC and DCs Heaney and Nicholls. Martine Court attended as the TDC representative and Paul Roberts from HSE Tending. They had no powers to inspect the site. Alison Hart from the environmental team was helpful and informative. She issued some paperwork which will be circulated. There is a height limit of 5m for the scrap metal pile but no height limit for the scrap car pile. Cllr. Bell asked for a limit to be place retrospectively but they can't do that. We are awaiting some more information.

24 Dene Park

An update from Cllr. Bell

There is a potential issue with the lease/sale of this land to Wivenhoe/NHS. There is a covenant on the land, placed by Taylor Wimpey, which states that a sum of money will be paid to them on transfer of the land.

It was agreed that the onus would be on Wivenhoe TC and the NHS to push the matter forward with respect to the issue of the covenant on the land.

ACTION: Contact Zoe Cronin (Practice Manager, Wivenhoe Surgery) to suggest that they approach Taylor Wimpey regarding the covenant.

25 AGM for 2013

The Elmstead Parish Council AGM will be held on Thursday 16th May before the Main Council Meeting. All Councillors are required to attend if possible. At this meeting all roles, committees and responsibilities will be agreed for the forthcoming year.

Cllr. Lloyd will be unable to attend and Cllr. Brock may be late.

Cllr. Gray requested voting slips be sent to Councillors.

Action: e-mail a list of roles and responsibilities to Cllrs to prepare for the AGM

26 Matters Raised by Councillors for the next agenda

Cllr. Brock thanked Simon Jennings for attending the meeting. Cllr. Lloyd mentioned that the cord on the flagpole will need replacing before the current cord breaks and disappears into the flag pole.
Cllr. Beecham asked about putting the posts on North Green and volunteered to help. Cllr. Sly mentioned that the pavements on Holly Way have issues.

**There being no further business Councillors were thanked for their attendance.
Meeting closed at 9.35pm**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 16th May, 2013
To be held in the Community Centre, School Road CO7 7ET**

**Minuted by Angela Baxter,
18th April, 2013
Contact: elmsteadparish@btconnect.com
Telephone: 01206 827139
Appendix to the original Minutes:**

Finance Report dated 11th April, 2013 prepared by the Clerk.

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