

ELMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Thursday 22nd August, 2013

Present:

Councillors: Cllr. Bell, Cllr. Beecham, Cllr. Sly, Cllr. Redding, Cllr. Lloyd, Cllr. Gray, Cllr. Brock, Cllr. Fairweather, Cllr. J Grotier

District Councillors Fred Nicholls

Clerk: Mrs. A Baxter

Public: Mrs. J Routledge

Meeting chaired by Cllr. Bell

Meeting Commenced at 8.00pm

1. Chairman's welcome

2. Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Rosemary Heaney

3. Declaration of interests in items on the agenda.

Cllr. Beecham and Cllr. Fairweather item 9. (Members of the South Green Residents Association and frontagers of the South Green tracks)

4. Police Report

No PCSO present.

Cllr. Bell commented that PCSO Les Barnes will be returning to duty in Elmstead at the end of August.

5. Comments from District Councillors

DC Nicholls: The results of the traffic survey on the Harwich Road, Park Road and Pellens Corner junctions on the A120 will be published mid September. Building a roundabout would cost about £3million.

Regarding the travellers site on Clacton Road, the owners have 6 months to appeal and can leave it until the 11th hour to do so.

6. Matters raised by Members of the Public

None

7. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting from Thursday 18th July 2013.

It was proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Meeting from Thursday 18th July 2013 be agreed and accepted as a correct record.

Proposed Cllr. Lloyd Seconded Cllr. Gray Carried

Cllr. Gray commented that regarding the caravan parked on Hatchcroft Way discussed in the July meeting (item 7), as TDC have confirmed, it's a civil matter and we have no jurisdiction. If the deeds contain a covenant then the matter is between the person who put the covenant in place and the person breaking the covenant.

Cllr. Bell: The caravan has moved, but may return.

8. Financial

8.1 Finance Report prepared by Clerk

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

Proposed Cllr. Beecham Seconded Cllr. Brock Carried

9. South Green Tracks

Council are asked to make a decision on whether the Council will grant or otherwise provide a specific amount of finance towards the repair of the South Green Tracks. If the offer is conditional, what are the conditions? (For example that all the frontagers will contribute the agreed amount)

Cllr. Sly: Any work carried out by the frontagers and part paid for by a PC grant is not a long term solution. A possible long term solution is to seek help and support from Essex at officer level.

Cllr. Beecham: Called the top official at Essex Highways yesterday and they are not prepared to help, unless the track is made up to road standard which will cost a fortune.

Cllr. Sly: The PC has not formally requested that they come and look.

Cllr. Bell: Previous Councils have gone down that route and received a negative response.

It was proposed that the parish Council should seek help and support from Essex Highways at officer level to seek a safe and permanent solution to the South Green Tracks.

Proposed Cllr. Sly Not seconded

Cllr. Lloyd: Why are we not supporting this proposal?

Responses were that it had been tried before, if they could get the support they would, if Essex Highways do work they can bill the frontagers and that we don't want to create a barrier to considering and voting on the short term plan of repairing the tracks.

Cllr. Beecham provided documents showing the constitution of the South Green Residents Association with their aims and objectives. He also provided an estimate of the repair costs. They have lost some of their financial support from the businesses on the South Green but will raise £2,000 from the frontagers. They need approximately £4,000 in addition.

The residents will put money into an account every month so there is future finance for ongoing repairs.

It was concluded that the PC are here to decide whether it grants any money for health and safety reason, for the residents and the village.

There was a discussion about the amount, Cllr. Redding thought that the amount would be £2,000 not £4,000 and the finance committee looked at £2,000 in their previous meeting. The finance committee would need to meet again to discuss an additional amount with the possibility that the precept would need to be raised in future.

Cllr. Gray suggested that we agree an interim payment.

Cllr. Fairweather: The costings are estimates, it could be more or less. If they can get more road planings from TDC it will cost less.

Cllr. Bell asked what the South Green Residents Association could do with a grant of £2,000.

Cllr. Fairweather: We can get the track into a reasonable state. We can pursue getting more scalpings for free. A lot of people are putting a lot of time and effort into making this happen.

It was proposed that the Parish Council donates a grant of £2,000 to the South Green Residents Association under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

Proposed Cllr. Redding Seconded Cllr. Lloyd Carried (Cllr. Sly voted against)

Cllr. Sly then repeated his earlier proposal:

It was proposed that the parish Council should seek help and support from Essex Highways at officer level to seek a safe and permanent solution to the South Green Tracks.

Proposed Cllr. Sly Seconded Cllr. Redding Carried

10. Matters Raised by Councillors for the next agenda or for information only

Cllr. Sly: Allotments for September agenda. Also one of the footpath signs by the gate to the cricket field is leaning over. Cllr. Bell: It's always been like that, we'll need to confirm it's not moving.
Cllr. Brock: What's happening to the pub? DC Nicholls: we've heard nothing.
Cllr. Fairweather: Will miss the September meeting. Take the mower off the agenda.
Cllr. Redding: Apologised to Cllr. Gray for not getting back to him with dates for working on the Risk Assessment.
The PC newsletter may go out in September. We may need professional help for the printing.
Put PC surgeries on the next agenda.

**There being no further business Councillors were thanked for their attendance.
Meeting closed at 9.25pm**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 19th September, 2013
To be held in the Community Centre, School Road CO7 7ET**

**Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter
22nd August, 2013
Contact: elmsteadparish@btconnect.com
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Appendix to the original Minutes:**

Finance Report prepared by the Clerk.

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