

ELMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Thursday 19th September, 2013

Present:

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

District Councillors: District Councillor Rosemary Heaney, District Councillor Fred Nicholls

County Councillor: Carlo Guglielmi

Clerk: Mrs. A Baxter

Public: Mr. B Jennings, Mrs. D Stammers, Mrs. J Routledge

Meeting chaired by Cllr. Bell

Meeting Commenced at 8.00pm

1. Chairman's welcome

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Fairweather

3. Declaration of interests in items on the agenda.

Cllr. Redding item 17.

4. Police Report

PCSO not available, Cllr. Bell read through the police report (to be published in Upmarket).

5. Comments from District Councillors and

6. Comments from County Councillor

Cllr. Nicholls: Essex Highways (EH) have agreed a 50mph speed limit and speed cameras for the A120 (*Harwich Road, Park Road and Pellens Corner Junctions*), and there is a roundabout in the design stage. Thanks to all the local people who put pressure on EH. EH don't currently have the funds for the roundabout, when it's designed they will go to the Government for the money.

Cllr. Guglielmi: Mr. Andy Jobling at EH is talking constructively about a business case for the roundabout, which will include the number of deaths and accidents etc. EH are spending £300,000 on speed cameras. This is a much better result and outcome, driven by the local councils' input.

Cllr. Gray wished to record a vote of thanks to District Councillors Heaney and Nicholls for their efforts on the above issue of the A120.

Cllr. Nicholls: TDC have obtained £30 million to construct a sea wall and make good the cliffs between Clacton and Holland-on-Sea which will stop around 500 houses falling into the sea in the future. This is a fantastic achievement with most of the funds being secured from the Environment Agency.

Cllr. Heaney: Discussed the overgrown trees outside 19 Holly Way. DC Heaney is in contact with TDC officer Clive Dawson about this.

Cllr. Guglielmi: English Heritage has visited the site of the Old Post Office. A survey and related studies are required to determine the delisting. Cllr. Guglielmi will try and find out the cost of the survey. It's possible that it will save TDC money in the long run to fund or part fund the survey now.

Cllr. Bell: Our understanding is that the owners need to put in a new planning application as the next step? Was there a written report?

Cllr. Guglielmi: When the English Heritage inspector saw the site she couldn't believe what she saw. Cllr. Guglielmi will keep us informed. It was positive that English Heritage inspected the site, there has been a change of reps for our area, and we've had 6 months with no visits. He believes it was a verbal report but will check.

Cllr. Gray: Why don't TDC make a compulsory purchase?

Cllr. Guglielmi: You need the owners on your side and to justify your actions by due diligence. TDC have met their responsibilities by making the site secure. There must be an overriding reason for a compulsory purchase.
Cllr. Heaney: We think the old Post Office is owned by the mortgagees who don't want to foreclose.
Cllr. Guglielmi: Things are happening on the back of the English Heritage visit. We now have a proper rep who will visit us regularly.
Cllr. Heaney: Nothing will happen until the survey is funded.
Cllr. Guglielmi: EPC may have to contribute as a joint venture. We're in a position to raise funds by raising the precept one year.

Cllr. Guglielmi: A scheme to start the design stages for a zebra crossing on Colchester Road has been approved.

Cllr. Guglielmi: TDC have asked ECC to delay the deadline for the consultation period for the part night lighting scheme to the 27th October. EPC have been provided with a list of exceptions, and if any of our streetlights meet those exceptions and we feel that they should not be subject to the part night lighting we can forward that information to ECC.

7. Matters raised by Members of the Public

Mr. Jennings noted that residents had been absent from the travellers site on Clacton Road for about 7 weeks now.

8. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting from Thursday 22nd August 2013.

It was proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Meeting from Thursday 22nd August 2013 be agreed and accepted as a correct record.

Proposed Cllr. Beecham Seconded Cllr. Grotier Carried

9. Clerk's Report

On matters from the last meeting. Any business requiring a decision is listed on this agenda.

Cllr. Sly queried if EPC should contact our insurers and tell them we made a contribution to the repairs of the South Green track. Cllr. Beecham confirmed that the South Green Residents Association has public liability insurance and it was commented that the contribution was made to the SGRA and our liability ends there.

10. Financial

10.1 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. Gray Seconded Cllr. Beecham Carried

10.2 Draft budget for 2013/14 as put forward by the Finance Committee.

It was proposed that the budget for 2013/14 be agreed.

Proposed Cllr. Redding Seconded Cllr. Bell Carried

11. Personnel

11.1 The Personnel Committee request that Council delegate the following powers to the Personnel Committee: the power to interview candidates, make a decision on a candidate and be able to negotiate and agree terms and conditions.

It was proposed that Council delegate the power to interview employee candidates, make a decision on a candidate and negotiate terms and conditions with a candidate.

Proposed Cllr. Brock Seconded Cllr. Sly Carried

11.2 An update on the fixed term replacement cover for the Clerk's maternity leave.

Cllr. Brock: We have interviewed a strong candidate and have a second candidate to interview.

12. Planning

12.1 New Planning Applications Received

13/00926/FUL 29 Hatchcroft Gardens – Proposed rear extension

Deadline for comments was 10th September – no comments received.

13/01004/LUEX The Pool House, Shaftesbury House, Clacton Road – Use of The Pool House as a single dwellinghouse

Cllr. Heaney: The owners are seeking grandfather's rights as people have been living in the pool house as a residence for a number of years. If it has been used for 10 years then permission will be granted.

Cllr. Grotier confirmed that she knew of someone who lived there for 3 years, 4 years ago.

Any Others

12.2 Decisions in the Month

13/00618/FUL The Spice, Clacton Road – Proposed single storey side extension to restaurant building – Full Approval

13/00767/FUL Elmhurst, School Road – Detached double garage with dual pitch roof – Full Approval

13/00610/FUL Mitchells Farm Shop – Proposed 200 ground mounted polychrystalline cells – Full Approval

Any Others

12.3 Appeals

APP/P1560/A/13/2204154 (Original Application ref 12/01372/FUL) Brook Farm, Bromley Road – Proposed Agricultural Store. Application was refused 11 July 2013. Council did not comment on initial application. If we wish to make a comment we need to do so by 18 October 2013.

Cllr. Guglielmi: There is an 8 week period for appeals and he suggests that EPC back up the TDC case against the application

Cllr. Guglielmi's comments on the local plan:

All (approx 800) comments received in the last consultation have been collated (approx 200 from Elmstead). Some focus changes will be made. Officers are working on the best possible solution.

4th October a report will be made to cabinet.

8th October there will be a cabinet meeting. Soon after that the focus changes will go to committee and then back to cabinet for agreement on 2nd November.

26th November it will go to full Council for approval. There will be a further round (6 weeks) of consultations with little room for change. Only the focus changes can be addressed. We will get an opportunity to comment around Christmas time.

The government are promoting growth through planning.

13. New Community Centre Plan

Mr. Gittins of the Charity Field Development has asked if EPC has any particular aspirations relating to the delivery of the community hall as part of the proposed development. The clerk has provided Mr. Gittins with a letter which EMCHAT produced and was given to each councillor at a council meeting approximately 18 months ago for their input and response. No objections or amendments were received from the Parish Council to this letter therefore EMCHAT accepted this letter as information to pass to any interested landowners or developers. Does this letter suffice presently as a general indication of what's required or does Council wish to provide an up to date summary of requirements?

Cllr. Bell: The letter is just a general plan for the Community Centre, that's all it can be at the moment. The plan was read out and nobody wished to take it into more detail.

It was proposed that Mr. Gittins be invited to the October Council meeting to put forward the updated Charity Field proposals for development.

Proposed Cllr. Redding Seconded Cllr. Bell Carried

(Cllr. Guglielmi left the meeting with apologies.)

14. Community Centre

Update from Cllr. Beecham on the grant application for repairs required to the Community Centre.

Cllr. Bell: Congratulations and a vote of thanks to Cllr. Beecham for EPC being awarded a provisional grant for repair work to the Community Centre.

Cllr. Beecham: EPC have received a grant of £4168 to get the brickwork, fascias and roof repaired.

15. Allotments

Cllr. Sly to comment.

Should we advertise in Upmarket or our newsletter for land for allotments?

It was agreed that we contact people currently on the allotment waiting list to see who is still interested and living in the village, and place an article in Upmarket asking if there is any land available.

16. Upmarket

Upmarket would like to profile a Councillor each month so that people in the village could read the profiles and find out more about their local Parish Councillors. It would be quite a light piece - how long they have lived in the village, their background, favourite part of the village etc. Are Councillors in agreement with this?

All agreed.

17. Moto Cross Activity in Church Road

(Cllr. Redding) To discuss any action the Parish Council can initiate in relation to this. The latest information we have from TDC is from Matthew Lang, planning officer, who is seeking clarification from the users as to how frequently they intend on utilising the site as the users would have 14 days permitted development rights to use the land for moto-cross purposes.

Cllr. Redding: The moto cross users have been in the field regularly and it's very noisy and dusty. They were there over the August Bank holiday and at weekends from approx 1.30 to 5 or 6pm. The field is close to Money Wood which is ancient woodland and a protected site. If there is nothing to be done about the 14 day limit can anything be done about the environmental impact? Also how are the 14 days monitored and what action can be taken if they exceed 14 days?

Cllr. Nicholls: Someone should be in contact requesting that you keep a diary of dates, times and how many people. If they go over 14 days TDC will serve an enforcement notice to stop the activity. If they don't the case will go to Court. Any part of a day counts as a day towards the 14 days. TDC can only take action with respect to Money Wood if they go into the woods.

Action: It was agreed that EPC would write a letter to TDC to register our feeling about the moto-cross activity.

Cllr. Bell: We're concerned that opening the field up would give travellers the opportunity of moving onto the field.

Cllr. Heaney: has a signed enforcement notice ready to go if this happens. Call TDC straight away and they will act.

18. "Part Night" Street Lighting

Essex County Council proposes to introduce part night street lighting to areas across Essex including Elmstead. Lights are switched off between midnight and 5am. Please refer to consultation document for additional details. This will be rolled out in Tending from 1st January 2014. ECC would like suggestions to highlight areas which meet the exception criteria i.e. if we feel there are areas where street lights should be left on all night we need to email ECC noting:

- The location of the light(s), including street and settlement name.
- The reason we feel the light(s) meet the exception criteria.

Cllr. Bell: Can we pinpoint areas that we would be concerned about and pass details to the Clerk.

Cllr. Nicholls confirmed that the lights would not be turned off on New Year's Eve.

19. Fireworks on Market Field

The members of Elmstead Community Team are asking for permission to hold the Village Fireworks event on Saturday 2nd November on the field behind Market Field School.

This was agreed and Cllr. Bell requested that Elmstead Community Team make the usual safety precautions and have the insurance covered.

20. Time Capsule Plaque

Cllr. Bell has sought some quotes for a stone to mount the Time Capsule Plaque onto to ensure that it is secure and lasting. He's received two quotes from memorial stonemasons for a granite mount which the plaque would be fixed to. Do Council agree to this or have any alternative suggestions? The quotes are for £180 and £174 inc VAT.

Cllr. Bell to wait for any alternative suggestions.

21. Parish Council Surgeries

Do we wish to continue?

As attendance has been very poor these will discontinue for now but Cllr. Redding suggested that they be taken on by the Communications Committee for ideas as to how to engage the village.

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

Cllr. Beecham: There's a manhole in the Community Centre car park with a split cover. This is part of the community centre property. We could pursue replacing it from a 2nd hand reclaim yard.

Cllr. Gray: We could contact the water company if it's sewerage from the Community Centre to the Main Road.

Cllr. Redding: The second quarterly newsletter is ready in draft and I suggest that we get it professionally printed.

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

Meeting closed at 9.42pm

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 17th October, 2013
To be held in the Community Centre, School Road CO7 7ET**

Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter

19th September, 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.