

Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th April 2014

Start time 19:30

Present: Cllrs Redding, Beecham, Bell, Grotier, Routledge and Brock

2 members of the public and Emma Norton from TDC

14/045. Apologies of Absence

There were apologies from Cllr Fairweather

14/046. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary interest

14/047. Signing of the minutes from 20th March 2014

It was **resolved** to sign and accept the minutes as a true account.

Proposer: Cllr Beecham

Seconder: Cllr Grotier

14/048. Police Report

There was no report and no PCSO present at the meeting.

14/049. Co-opting of Councillor

Due to circumstances there will be no-one to co-opt until next meeting.

The clerk is to do the following Actions:

Co-option procedure:

Add questionnaire to new councillor pack.

Re-write document to take out presentation.

Proposer: Cllr Brock

Seconder: Cllr Redding

14/050. Public Speaking – 5 minutes of public speaking.

Tony Auger and Geoff Browning – The Whitings and Finches Lane

Tony Auger and Geoff Browning spoke about The Whitings and the fact that a lot of hardcore seemed to have turned up.

It was also mentioned that even though they had been told to cease work, work was still ongoing.

District Councillor Fred Nicholls said he had been in touch with Matthew Lang and other TDC officers. He has requested a site visit and will invite Geoff Browning and Tony Auger to attend.

District Councillor Nichols went on to say, as it is all agricultural land and buildings on the site, TDC are restricted in what they can do..

Tony Auger said that he was told by Essex County Council that they are no longer responsible for Finches Lane

District Councillors Fred Nicholls and Rosemary Heaney said that Finches Lane **is** still the responsibility of Essex County Council.

District Councillor Fred Nicholls said he would contact Highways Rangers about clearing Finches Lane.

Elmstead Parish Council

Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

14/051. TDC Services

Emma Norton addressed the Parish Council. TDC are currently doing a major project – A new customer services centre in Clacton.

This will provide the following:

Continuation of staff

First point of contact

Face to face communication

TDC realise that not all people can get to Clacton.

What services would your parishioners want?

Cllr Routledge read out her email with her suggestions (see appendix 1)

Cllr Redding suggested environment – Noise control.

Cllr Grotier suggested Refuse, Gardening bags, food bags etc.

Cllr Bell invited Emma Norton to come back to a future meeting with an update.

14/052. Planning

Planning applications were discussed and there was no comment to be made on any of them.

14/053. Reports by District Councillors- To listen to reports by Cllr. Heaney and Cllr. Nicholls

District Councillor Rosemary Heaney

Finches Lane – District Cllr Heaney told the council that Finches lane is classed as an Unmettled Road. She said that she has asked County Councillor Guglielmi to look into the matter further

District Councillor Fred Nichols

District Cllr Nicholls reported that at the last TDC Full Council meeting the closing of the maternity wards at Clacton and Harwich hospitals was discussed. He said that it was down to mis- management by Colchester Hospital. There had been a new head of Colchester Hospital appointed and she had decided that Colchester Maternity was dangerous due to the lack of midwives and had decided to close Clacton and Harwich maternity units as a temporary measure.

He said that The land at the Naze was also discussed.

District Councillor Nicholls also gave an update on the Post office. He reported that everything that needed to be done with English Heritage had been done and that the building is going on the market next week.

However there will have to be further meetings with English heritage with the people who buy it.

The Post Office will be moving into the garage.

14/054. Recommendations and reports from the Finance Committee

Cllr Redding went through the recommendations.

To approve a grant of £75 to Mrs Hinchcliffe for providing flowers by the War memorial

To approve the sending of the End of Year finances to the Internal Auditor

To approve subscription and affiliation fees

To approve looking into online banking for balance purposes

It was **resolved** to accept these recommendations.

Proposer – Cllr Redding

Seconded – Cllr Grotier

14/055. Finance

It was **resolved** to approve the payments (see appendix 2)

Proposer: Cllr Grotier

Seconded: Cllr Redding

Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

14/056. Report from County Councillor Guglielmi

(See appendix 3)

14/057. Public Speaking – 5 minutes of public speaking

Tony Auger carried on from earlier public speaking.

He asked the Parish council if they could keep an eye out for any future planning applications to do with Brook Farm (turf farm)

They have applied previously for agricultural building to house tractors which has been refused. Mr Auger said he is under the impression that if the owner was to apply for planning permission to build on the edge of the field then TDC would grant planning permission.

Fred Nicholls said the advice from TDC is not true – planning inspector said that if it was not in the middle of the field it would be looked at favourably. This is on the appeal paperwork.

14/058. Matters Raised by Councillors for the next agenda or for information only

Cllr Brock commented on the size of the new mower

Meeting closed 20:58

Signed.....Clerk to the Council – Vikki Howard

All relevant correspondence has been circulated to Councillors and is available to the public upon request.

Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Appendix 1

TDC Services – email Cllr Routledge

As far as I can see, the main services provided by TDC of interest to our residents are

- Rubbish/recycling (including fly tipping & dog wardens)
- Planning
- Council tax
- Housing needs

Mark Westall has asked for our views regarding those who would not be able to access a proposed new service in Clacton, so there must be a perceived or actual requirement for such a service – it would be interesting to hear from him who the council thinks would use this service and how they have formed this view, in the first instance. Also what sorts of help they think people will be wanting. Perhaps we could ask him to email us on this prior to our meeting next Thurs? Whilst it might be helpful to have him at the meeting, I am thinking the agenda may be rather full – any thoughts?

Regarding his specific questions, we are considering those who work full time, as well as those who are not mobile/do not have access to a car. If the centre is to be provided close to a bus stop serviced by our bus, then many of those without cars would, in fact, be able to get there should they choose to.

Generally the only options available to those who work normal full time hours would be work tel/internet, where available, or home internet in the evening/weekends, and unless any new service is available evenings and/or on a Saturday then it is not going to be of use to this group.

Looking at those who are not mobile/do not have access to a car, what do we think their main concerns would be?

- Rubbish/recycling – good info is available on line, or by telephone, so I can only imagine anyone wanting face-to-face interaction when a service is proposed to be cut or changed ie not on a regular basis
- Planning – currently this is a hot topic and will remain so until the proposed round of new homes and community centre plans have been finalized and fully approved, but I would expect face-to-face interaction to be needed only in the periods after any proposals/plans/changes are published
- Council tax – I imagine some in this group might have issues with council tax, and queries or problems with ability to pay would be best addressed face-to-face.
- Housing needs – again this is an area where face-to-face help might be sought

I am not convinced that having a new centre in Clacton(or in any of the other towns mentioned) is likely to be much used by our residents. If it is supposed to serve the whole of the Tendring area, it seems much more sensible to have a mobile facility instead (might be rather costly to try and provide both). I cannot imagine this would need to be more than once a month, and I can envisage even then there would be some instances where nobody would need to use the service, and other times where it might be inundated.

I have done my best to cover the issues as requested by Mark Westall, perhaps we could use this as a starting point?

Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Appendix 2

Finance Report

Elmstead Parish Council

Closing Balances to 4th April 2014 are:

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 66	£19952.98
<i>Less unpaid cheques below</i>	<i>£607.72</i>
Total uncashed cheques	£2843.26
Total Balance in current account after cheques	£ 16502.00
Deposit Account Bank Statement Ref 136	£27672.97
<i>Estimated Overall Closing Balance</i>	£44174.97

Payment Approval is requested for the following:

		£
17/04/14	Cllr Beecham – Mileage 73 miles@.45 and parking £4.50	37.35
17/04/14	EALC Affiliation Fees	399.18
17/04/14	Alan Dingwall expenses and mileage -23.8 miles @.45	40.19
17/04/14	Mrs P Hinchcliffe – Grant	75.00
17/04/14	Elmstead Community Centre (March)	56.00
	Total Cheques	607.72

Report prepared by V Howard

Parish Clerk

16th April 2014

Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Appendix 3

Report by County Councillor Guglielmi

ECC Annual Report 2013/14

Elections

Following the May 2013 elections the conservative group retained the majority of seats although reduced by 16 from the previous term, but for the first time in its history there was no overall opposition group with Labour, UKIP and LIB-DEM sharing that position with 9 seats each.

It became very clear that all services, decision making and general ethos of the Council would be driven and governed by the need of achieving further substantial savings over the next three years, because of the cuts on funding imposed by central government. £365million had already been accomplished in previous years but a further estimated £235 between now and 2017 needs to be realized; with the simple wins of assets disposal, redundancies and re-profiling of budgets already been done the next stage will not prove as easy and the Council will have to drastically change the way it operates and deliver services.

A number of major consultations were carried out, amongst which there was

1. Home to School Transport
2. Part Night Lighting
3. Bus Routes
4. Children Centres
5. Youth Services Provisions

These have delivered several millions of pounds in savings, but the bulk will be delivered by becoming a commissioning authority and through the transformation programme phase 2.

Highways

Essex Highways is undergoing a comprehensive review of its service which includes potholes repairs; these have been re-grouped in 4 categories: priority 1, 2, 3 and 4.

I have listed below the new criteria repair

“A pothole is a hole in the road that is deeper than 50mm and wider than 75mm in any horizontal direction. They are usually formed during the winter months as a direct result of snow, ice and prolonged periods of rain and occur where an area of the road's surface has broken up and fallen out.

Elmstead Parish Council

Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Prioritising potholes

We carry out regular inspections of the roads but also rely on the public reporting potholes to us. We inspect all reported potholes and risk assesses them to prioritise their repair. They will either be classed as urgent or will be put into a planned programme of works to ensure they are repaired as efficiently as possible. The assessment will take into account many issues including the location of the pothole in the road and the type of vehicle that uses the road such as cars, motorbikes or pedal bikes.

The vast majority of reported potholes are not assessed as urgent and are put into a programme of work. Following the risk assessment, the pothole will be categorised from Priority 1 (P1) to Priority 4 (P4). The timescale for the repair depends on the risk assessment and which type of road the pothole is on – County Routes (A, B and some C roads) and Local Roads (majority of C and unclassified roads). Click on the link to view the map, or view the map at the bottom of this page. County Routes are shown in orange on the map.

The table below shows the different classifications of potholes and the response time. An assessed pothole will either have orange or purple paint by it, which represents the length of time it will take to repair it.

		Priority 1 (P1)	Priority 2 (P2)	Priority 3 (P3)	Priority 4 (P4)
County Route	Response time	2 hours*	2 working days*	Up to 28 calendar days	Defect to be considered for repair as part of the planned maintenance programme
	Paint colour	Orange	Orange	Orange	Purple
Local Roads	Response time	2 hours*	5 working days*	Repair will be undertaken within a non-specified timescale	Defect to be considered for repair as part of the planned maintenance programme
	Paint colour	Orange	Orange	Purple	Purple

**Where a P1 or P2 defect has initially been made safe but requires further treatment to make a permanent repair, this will be undertaken within 5 working days of the first repair.*

How do I report a pothole?

Elmstead Parish Council

Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

We are committed to delivering frontline services and putting customers first. If you are concerned about a pothole you can Report a Highway Problem to us online. Whilst we have responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the majority of roads in Essex, including pavements, we are not responsible for:

■ *Private roads - these are the responsibility of residents of each private road*

■ *A12; A120; M11 and M25 - these are the responsibility of the Highways Agency*

The total Highway budget is £95million and in this year's budget speech it was given an extra one off £17million to boost repairs.

Under this heading are the 12 "Local Highway Panels" which represent all Essex Borough and District Councils, they all have a budget around £450k which is intended for schemes that will enhance or improve local amenities.

Essex Highways are also responsible for keeping most of our roads clear of ice and snow during the winter months and for information every time Gritters go out the cost to the public purse is around £68K per exit.

Finally on this subject the new Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation has introduced a new Tuesday surgery where the local Member can arrange for Chairmen of Parish Councils to meet personally with him and discuss specific issues that affects their area; your council was one of the first to benefit from this new initiative.

Household Waste Disposal

The building of a new Mechanical Biological Treatment plant in Basildon is well under way with completion expected towards the end of the year. This will create 85 new jobs as well as supporting a further 250 consequentially linked to the plant; when up and running it will treat waste from most of the 12 Districts and Boroughs Authorities, it will also be capable to separate from the residential household waste other types of plastics that are not currently recycled and it will be capable by mechanical separation to turn the majority of organic waste into compost.

Free IT to Charities and Community Groups

Several Charities and community groups have benefitted from tens of thousands of pounds worth of free Laptops and Computer Systems which were no longer meeting the business needs of ECC; this is an ongoing schemes as more it equipment will become available during the IT upgrade programme.

Floods

ECC has this year responded extremely quickly to the December and January floods which affected many areas; as well as providing £1million for emergency work across the County shared equally by the worse locations a further £2million was allocated in the February Budget for future improvement on current flood management.

Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

CIF

This extremely successful scheme will run again for the oncoming financial year; the decision to leave it in the Budget was taken not only because of its popularity but also because of the 4 to 1 ratio of external funding that it attracts. £1.4million will again be equally shared across the County.

China links

ECC has enjoyed a long business history with China with many Essex Firms benefitting by exporting their various products there.

This year this link has been extended to our Fire and Rescue Service who for a long time have been market leaders in the field of fire-fighting and fire behaviour courses training provision; a delegation of twenty Chinese Officials and Fire Fighters will arrive in Essex at the end of the month for a two weeks stay to make use of these courses and the value of this will be £150K to the Service.

Finally this year's Council Tax was frozen for the 4th consecutive year, following bumper tax collection from District and Borough Councils.