

Minutes 18th December 2014
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Present Cllrs: Fairweather, Kirby, Beard, Bell, Beecham, Brock

Also Present: District Councillor Nicholls, County Councillor Guglielmi and 30 members of the public

14/166 - Apologies

Cllr Routledge, Cllr Grotier and Cllr Redding

14/167- Declaration of Pecuniary interests

There were none

14/168 - Signing of minutes

It was **Resolved** to accept the minutes from the November meeting

Proposed: Cllr Beecham

Seconded: Cllr Fairweather

14/169 – Finance

See appendix 1

It was **Resolved** to accept the finance.

Proposed: Cllr Fairweather

Seconded: Cllr Beecham

14/170 – District Councillor report

District Cllr Nicholls said that he had attended a meeting with police and TDC – expressed concern about rural policing. The police are seeking to improve. Should see some sort of improvement in the villages. Please report things however small as this is important.

21st February at 10am – 1pm at Great Bromley Village Hall – Community Voluntary Service meeting

14/171 – County Councillor report

English heritage have to issue a report that they do not object to the demolition of the post office.

For the rest of the report see appendix 2

14/172 – Grant Giving

The grant cheques were handed out to the groups

Chairman thanked the interim clerk – Vikki Howard for all her hard work and whip cracking. He said that she has brought the Parish Council into shape.

14/173 - Items for the next agenda

Memorial Bench – ideas where to put it – South Green – replace one of the benches.

Meeting Closed – 20.06

Appendix 1 – Finance

Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report

Closing Balances from 17th October 2014 to 20th November September are:

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 18	£18637.11
Total uncashed cheques	£100.00
Total of cheques below	£2562.01
Balance in current account after cheques	£15975.10
<i>Closing balance Deposit Account Ref 138</i>	£27683.59
<i>Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit</i>	£43658.69

Income Details from 17th October 2014 to 20th November

Elmstead Community Centre	£48.21
Tree Grant	£106.54
Total income between 17th October 2014 to 20th November	£154.75

Tonights Cheques

Vikki Howard (Expenses) Buffet and stamps	£81.25
Cllr Beecham Expenses – No smoking signs	£10.00
Elmstead Community Centre x 2 room hire	£30.00
A Dingwall Expenses - Sundries	£10.76

Deans' – Christmas Tree	£108.00
RedHotsource – Hi Vis Jackets for speedwatch	£128.88
FV Conservatories & Windows – New window	£158.12
Elmstead Baby & Toddler Group	£200.00
Young at Heart	£200.00
Grasshoppers Cricket Club	£250.00
Gardening Club	£150.00
Knitting Group	£100.00
Elmstead in Bloom	£200.00
1st Alresford 7 Elmstead Scouts	£200.00
Trinity Methodist Church	£100.00
St Anne & St Laurence	£100.00
Upmarket	£200.00
1st Elmstead Brownies	£100.00
British Legion (P Hinchcliffe)	£85.00
1st Elmstead Rainbows	£150.00
Total Cheques	£2562.01

Report prepared by V Howard – Clerk & RFO
20th November 2014

Appendix 2 – County Councillor report

ECC Report December 2014

Check a puppy's past before buying, Trading Standards advise

People thinking of buying a puppy for Christmas should follow Essex Trading Standards' advice to avoid getting an illegally imported, possibly sick puppy. The advice comes after Essex Trading Standards handled 50 complaints this year about puppies – either sick puppies bought from puppy farms or illegally imported puppies - relating to traders all over the county.

A vet in south Essex became suspicious about a Labrador puppy taken in for routine checks. It turned out the puppy had been imported from Poland and its date of birth had been altered.

The vet alerted Trading Standards as he believed the puppy was too young to have had a rabies vaccination and so should not have entered the UK.

Essex Trading Standards officers did a check on the seller of the puppy and found there were a further five puppies waiting to be sold. All six dogs were taken into quarantine.

As a puppy is a popular Christmas gift people must ensure to find out about the puppy's background and that is fit, well and legal.

Trading Standards' advice is to check the puppy has been vaccinated, but be aware that vaccination cards are easy to fake. If the vet's contact details are not visible or has a non-UK address, the card may be false.

Imported puppies must have a pet passport or vet's certificate confirming it is micro-chipped, vaccinated against rabies, treated for worms and was over three months and 21 days when it was imported.

Always see a puppy with its mother. It is best to buy from a local breeder. Ideally ask to see the father too, or at least a photo of the father. Be suspicious if the breeder cannot show you the mother or father.

Pedigree certificates are not a guarantee for the condition of your dog and may not even mean the puppy is pure-bred. Contact the Kennel Club for details of the Accredited Breeder Scheme.

Do not sign any paper work without checking if first, as it makes it legally hard to challenge if you are unhappy with the puppy you are sold.

Anyone worried about a puppy they have been sold should contact a vet for advice and treatment.

Anyone with information about illegally imported puppies should contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service 03454 040506.

Green Christmas proposals

Essex residents are being encouraged to have a "green" Christmas by reducing, re-using and recycling as much of their festive waste as possible.

At this time of year, the more organised among us are busily writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents but most of us don't realise how much waste we create every Christmas. Each year in the UK, we use enough wrapping paper to stretch around the equator nine times, or even long enough to reach the moon.

Creative alternatives to wrapping paper could include unusual paper or materials people have at home or even an attractive scarf, which could be reused during the cold winter weather.

Parcels can be fastened with string, ribbon or wools, which make it easy to re-use both the paper and ribbon.

The statistics for Christmas cards are rather surprising; every year, we throw away an astounding 1 billion Christmas cards. That's 17 each for every person in the UK.

Essex residents are urged to recycling more than especially over the festive period.

Many items, including electrical goods, can be recycled at the recycling centres, so if people are thinking of upgrading gadgets or have broken devices cluttering up cupboard, they are urged to take them to local recycling centre or recycling bank.

Consideration should also be given to alternative ways in sending traditional Christmas cards, such as e-cards or making a donation to charity instead.

After Christmas another suggestion is to save your cards and using them to make gift tags next year. Finally, when Christmas is over, make sure you recycle your Christmas cards by popping them into your kerbside recycling collection.

Visit www.essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentres for full details and to find the nearest electrical bank visit www.dontbinitbringit.org.

Fake Samsung mobile phone alert

Following the seizing of £35,000-worth of fake phones and accessories ECC Trading Standards officers are warning people not to buy mobile phones from pubs or market stalls; a selection of 68 counterfeit Samsung Galaxy phones and accessories were found at a parcel hub in the west of the county today following a tip-off to Trading Standards.

Officers fear that some handsets may have already been sold for cash and are warning the public to only buy mobile phones from reputable sources.

ECC Trading Standards advice is that residents should never hand over cash to people selling mobile phones in the pub or on a market and they should also be very careful when buying mobile phones from internet trading sites such as E-bay as there is never a certainty whether the phones are the real thing or if they've been stolen, especially if they don't come with any guarantees.

ECC Trading Standards have now started an Essex wide investigation to find out where the phones come from and who they belong to.

Anyone with information, who thinks they may have been offered one of the phones or fears they may have bought one should contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service 03454 04 05 06 who can provide advice and pass details on to Trading Standards.

New Fault Reporting

A new systems, much more customer friendly has now been put in place to report any highway problems which includes pot-holes; on the ECC homepage, there is a link <http://www.essexhighways.org/Report-a-highways-problem-1.aspx> extremely easy to use which now gives the user the exact choice, location and nature of what needs reporting, this will also give information if that particular problem has already been reported. In time there will also be guidance with regards to timescale of repairs; it is hoped that this will be more informative to all users.

Essex road scanners show steady improvement

The main roads in Essex have got better for the third year in a row according to data collected by vehicles which use laser beam technology to measure road condition.

The specially adapted Road Assessment Vehicles (RAVs) drove every route in Essex skimming the road surface to record defects. They are the most accurate and objective means of measuring the condition of carriageways.

As of today, just 2.6% of Essex's main routes require treatment, compared to 4.6% a year ago and 6.1% in 2012.

The priority measures and extra investment in highway improvements have proved successful and these results will be used to determine and prioritise maintenance work as well as being reported to the Department for Transport annually to measure national road conditions.

Survey analysis below shows a trend of continued improvements across the county council's districts. Every district shows a significant improvement:

1.5% of priority roads in Basildon now need attention, compared to 3.7% three years ago.
2.3% of priority roads in Braintree now need attention, compared to 3.7% three years ago.
3.9% of priority roads in Brentwood now need attention, compared to 7.5% three years ago.
1.2% of priority roads in Castle Point now need attention, compared to 4.5% three years ago.
2.2% of priority roads in Chelmsford now need attention, compared to 5.8% three years ago.
2.7% of priority roads in Colchester now need attention, compared to 7.1% three years ago.
4.4% of priority roads in Epping Forest now need attention, compared to 11.6% three years ago.
1.1% of priority roads in Harlow now need attention, compared to 3.0% three years ago.
2.7% of priority roads in Maldon now need attention, compared to 4.8% three years ago.
2.3% of priority roads in Tendring now need attention, compared to 5.1% three years ago.
2.7% of priority roads in Uttlesford now need attention, compared to 6.5% three years ago.

Primary school places.

Essex County Council has been encouraging parents to apply for primary school places for September 2015.

Parents and carers of children born during the period 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011 must apply between 10 November 2014 and 15 January 2015 for primary school places for the September 2015 intake. All reception aged children are entitled to start school in the September following their fourth birthday.

Applications can be made via the website at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. The site enables parents to search for the school information, read Ofsted reports, check admissions criteria and submit applications.

Applying for the right primary school is an important decision and parents are advised to use the tools available at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions to ensure to make an informed application.

Due to increasing pressure on primary school places it is vital to apply on time, as schools can become oversubscribed so it is important for parents to carefully consider admissions criteria and give themselves maximum opportunity to be considered for a school they want by using all their four preferences.

