

Minutes 15th January 2015
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Present: Councillors Bell (Chairman), Beecham, Brock, Fairweather, Grotier, Redding, Routledge, Beard and Kirby

Also Present: District Councillor Heaney, District Councillor Nicholls and 1 member of the public

15/001 Apologies of Absence

All Councillors present

Cllr Bell commenced the meeting by warmly welcoming back the clerk, Mrs Angela Baxter who has recently returned after maternity leave.

15/002 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Beecham has a non pecuniary interest in item 15/015 by virtue of the fact that he is the EPC Speedwatch co-ordinator.

15/003 Signing of the minutes from 18th December 2014
To sign the minutes from the last meeting

It was **resolved** to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 18th December as true and accurate.

Action: Cllr Bell suggested that further to item 14/170 an article should be placed in Upmarket to ask Parishioners to report any crime.

15/004 Police Report

It was reported that there were 4 crimes in Elmstead in December 2014 and 41 for the financial year so far. (Information obtained from the Essex Police website). Also detectives have issued an urgent warning to residents across Essex following a surge in phone calls by fraudsters posing as police officers or bank officials.

Action: To invite Acting Chief Inspector Russell Cole to our next meeting as he suggested in correspondence regarding the loss of information sharing by PCSOs not being available to attend Council Meetings any more.

15/005 Public Speaking

There is 5 minutes of public speaking

Please note that any questions that are to do with items on the agenda will be answered under the appropriate agenda item

There was no public speaking.

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15/006 District Councillor reports

Councillor Nicholls: The TDC element of Council Tax will be a 0% increase.

On 30th January there will be a meeting to discuss where the new roundabout for the A120 will be.

Things are moving along with the Old Post Office. In the next few months there will be activity on the site.

The Post Office will move to the Spar in March and will be open 6am-10pm 7 days a week.

Councillor Nicholls is going with Councillor Carlo Guglielmi to see Mr R Bass in three weeks and will check with us before as to whether we have any updated information on a crossing for Colchester Road.

Councillor Heaney: Has tried and tried to do something about the tree outside 17 Holly Way but there is nothing TDC can do.

In general any TDC enforcement takes a great length of time as it goes through all the legal issues.

Residents are going to A&E with letters from their doctor but they should be going to the Medical Assessment Unit and if it's for a child straight to the paediatric ward.

Action: Regarding 17 Holly Way to write another letter to the owner requesting that he do something about the overgrown tree.

It was discussed that the traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing near Budgens is being changed and that EPC had had no notification of this. It is being changed to a puffin crossing and will have sensor pads to stop the lights changing to red when no-one is waiting.

15/007 County Councillor report

Councillor Guglielmi was not in attendance. He sent a report by e-mail – see appendix 1.

15/008 Remembrance Bench

A discussion to come to a decision about the location of a remembrance bench for the past Chairman of Elmstead Football Club as proposed by Cllr Beard on behalf of the football club.

The following locations were discussed: North Green, South Green, the cricket club, the verge on Church Road past the cricket ground and Elmcroft under the streetlights.

Action: It was decided to contact Mr Gooch about the possibility of it being placed temporarily on the North or South Green and for Cllr. Beard to look around the village at the possible locations.

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15/009 Notice Boards – Maintenance

Councillor Beecham: In 2014 I cleaned and applied a coat of varnish so that it would stop the timber deteriorating, because the Parish despite several requests during the year to have the work done had neglected them and I did not want my workmanship ruined. As I no longer work as such I will not be carrying out future works.

15/010 Planning

No applications received to date. Update on w/e 9th January.
No additional applications.

Determinations: 14/01598/Ful – Garage conversion and extension to form granny annexe – 10 Orchard Close, Elmstead Full approval
Any others for w/e 9th January.

No additional determinations.

15/011 Proposed move of Elmstead Post Office to new premises – Spar Store, Colchester Road

To decide whether EPC wishes to comment as part of the public consultation, and discuss any comments to be made.

It was **resolved** to respond as a Council to the consultation on the following matters:

Parking concerns: There may not be enough parking spaces (there are currently 3) and they need to be clearly marked out. There are concerns that when large lorries are using the petrol station there is little room for manoeuvre for them to exit the petrol station safely around the parked cars.

Access concerns: The information sheet states that the proposed premises will have a wide door and level access but we are concerned that if they are planning on using the current doorway there is not enough room for the elderly and wheelchair users to negotiate their way into the shop safely. If the access is to be moved to the other end of the premises, nearer the cash machines then the ground will not be level.

Additional Action: Try to obtain information regarding the intended access.

Proposed: Cllr. Routledge
Seconded: Cllr. Brock

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15/012 Finance Committee Recommendations

To listen to the finance committee report from the meeting on the 13th January 2015 and resolve to agree:

2015/16 Budget

2015/16 Precept

It was **resolved** to accept the 2015/16 Budget

Proposed: Cllr. Bell

Seconded: Cllr. Fairweather

All Cllrs in favour

It was **resolved** to accept the finance committee recommendation to keep the 15/16 precept at the 14/15 amount of £29,988.

Proposed: Cllr. Beard

Seconded: Cllr. Beecham

All Cllrs in favour

15/013 Finance

To Listen to the finance report and approve the payments for December
See Appendix 2

It was **resolved** to accept the finance report and approve the payments as requested

Proposed Cllr. Redding

Seconded Cllr. Grotier

All Cllrs in favour

Action: Cllr. Beard requested that the Clerk provide Council with the overall closing balance from the January 2014 finance report.

15/014 Dene Park

To consider additional information provided by Cllr Bell and decide next steps for this item.

Cllrs discussed the issues surrounding this piece of land; the cost to the village of maintaining it for no benefit, the liability of owning it, the risks (eg. Travellers moving onto the site) versus the advantages of retaining hold of land ownership for the long term given the potential worth of the land. It was queried whether we have to maintain the land.

Action: Ask Mr. Gooch (previous councillor who has looked into options of what to do with Dene Park) if he knows of anywhere that states that EPC does not have to maintain the land at Dene Park.

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The next step will be to see if Wivenhoe Town Council gave any feedback on our last meeting with 3 Wivenhoe Councillors and to arrange another meeting with those Councillors.

Note: Councillor Heaney stated that you have to maintain an interest in land you sell in order to have a covenant on the land, otherwise it would not be enforceable.

15/015 Camera Watch

An update and a discussion on a start date.

Cllr. Beecham: Some speedwatch volunteers were out this morning on Colchester Road, and will be out again tomorrow on Clacton Road. We've had some responses from the Parish Councils we approached about hiring out our equipment but no interest. Vikki Howard is interested for Little Oakley.

15/016 Objection to Charity Field Planning – Comments regarding the Parish Council

To discuss the points raised against the Parish Council in this objection and discuss a suitable response. The main issue raised is whether the Parish Council did not share information with residents regarding the planning proposal.

It was decided that as the letter was a letter to TDC and not to EPC not to make an official response at this time.

15/017 Items for next agenda or for information only

To hear from councillors any items that they would like on the next agenda

Cllr. Fairweather – Bus Shelters, Cllr. Redding – Newsletter, Cllr. Grotier thanked Cllr. Fairweather for the drain cover on Elmcroft car park being fixed and suggested spaces are marked on the car park.

Action: To get a cost for marking the spaces

Meeting Closed: 21.30

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