

Minutes 19th February 2015
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

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

Also present: District Councillor Heaney and 1 member of the public

15/018 Apologies of Absence

Apologies received from District Councillor Fred Nicholls

15/019 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Routledge declared a non pecuniary interest in item 15/033 by virtue of the fact that she is the public transport officer for EPC and has offered to be a point of contact to the public to assist with the consultation.

**15/020 Signing of the minutes from 15th January 2015
To sign the minutes from the last meeting**

It was **resolved** to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 15th January 2015 as true and accurate.

Proposed Cllr Fairweather
Seconded Cllr Kirby

15/021 Police Report

The clerk reported that Temporary Chief Inspector Russ Cole will be attending the 19th March PC meeting.

The crime statistics for Elmstead for December are 4 crimes with 41 for the financial year so far. For comparison our nearby village statistics are Thorrington 27, Great Bromley 25 and Frating 8.

15/022 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

Some good news: The old post office has a buyer and the purchase is in process. A planning application will need to be made for the listed building. The initial intention is to take the old building down and board it off with the hope that by June we might have a tidy village again.

15/023 District Councillor reports

Councillor Heaney: In response to our query regarding legal assistance from TDC let us know that the monitoring officer is very ill and has been away for some time, and they don't know if he's coming back. So we would need to consult our own solicitors.

There is a consultation which ends this month regarding part night street lighting. We need to decide if we agree for TDC to pay for the lights in Tendring to be turned back on after midnight. If we want our lights on the rates will rise. We have not received any information about this so Cllr. Heaney will forward it to us.

There has been a decrease in crime with the part night lighting.

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News from the local plan – the houses to be built on the fringes of Colchester won't come near Elmstead. Cllr Heaney has been assured that they will fill in between the A12 and Colchester. There will be a new link road which will start near the new recycling distribution plant on the A120 and cut across to Colchester Road and there will be new houses to the west of the link road and between the A120 and the link road.

15/024 County Councillor report

None received

15/025 Remembrance Bench

An update on the possible locations of a remembrance bench for Fred Baxter.

Cllr Beard: Fred's wife Nancy has been told about the bench and is happy and honoured on his behalf. Possible locations are on the South Green opposite Cllr Beard's house or to replace the metal one on the North Green if a replacement is needed. He is looking into purchasing a teak bench.

15/026 Communications

To discuss the PC newsletter.

Cllr Fairweather suggests that we have a monthly informative half page in Upmarket to pass PC news on to the village.

Cllr Redding: Does not have the time at the moment to work on the quarterly newsletter and can't see the situation changing in the short term so is amenable to the suggestion above.

It was resolved to contact Upmarket with the suggestion and see how it goes. The clerk will write the monthly piece.

15/027 Planning

15/00024/FUL Elmtree Garage Colchester Road Use of premises for B8 usage to allow self storage

It was resolved to make the following comments:

The additional traffic generated by the business may impinge on the vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the forecourt of the adjoining business, which serves as a garage with fuel pumps, a shop and also the pending post office.

15/00025/ADV Elmtree Garage Colchester Road New Signage to premises.

It was resolved to make the following comments:

We have a major concern over the size and location of the roof signs. They are out of character with the existing signage on the other local businesses.

Also the residents living opposite and adjacent to the business should not be subject to a case of "town centre advertising." It's all too large, including the window displays, and needs toning down to fit in with the village environment.

15/00105/AGRIC Agricultural barn at Clacton Road

This application has been turned away as the size of the holding is less than 5 hectares. They will need to submit a full planning application.

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15/00146/OUT Blue Barn Farm Clacton Road erection of three detached dwellings served by new vehicular and pedestrian access

Cllr Heaney relayed concerns of the nearby residents about the water supply and the lack of water. They are worried that additional houses will worsen the water supply situation. Something needs to be done about the water supply first. EPC will make this comment to planning.

Determinations: None

Any applications or determinations for w/e 20th February?

14/01736/FUL Dianthus, Bromley Road, Erection of 3 detached bungalows with associated garages and parking facilities. Full Approval.

15/028 Elmcroft Car Park

Cllr Grotier suggests that parking spaces are marked onto the car park.

It was agreed this was a good idea, we're now waiting for better weather to do it. We need to check the legal minimum size of parking spaces. It was resolved that a working party will do this work.

15/029 Bus Shelters

To discuss upkeep and maintenance

The normal upkeep is a sweep and varnish by the handyman. It was suggested that the bus stop opposite Oatlands has a window put in so that passengers can see when the bus is approaching.

These are tasks for a working party to be done when the weather improves.

15/030 Finance

To listen to the finance report and approve the payments for February (In particular the cost of a 4 year guarantee on the laptop and the renewal of the mower insurance)

It was **resolved** that we would not purchase the 4 year care plan for the laptop.

Action – check the data backup we have in place.

The clerk reported that Aon had quoted £263.94 for renewal of the mower insurance, which was no increase on the previous year. We obtained another quote for £243.27 and Aon reduced their quote to £243.00.

It was **resolved** to renew the insurance with Aon.

It was **resolved** to accept the finance report and approve the payments (excluding the laptop care plan) as requested

Proposed Cllr Fairweather

Seconded Cllr Redding

All Cllrs in favour

Clerk's Pay

15/031

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Mrs. Baxter suggests that her pay, which is currently calculated hourly, be annualised so that it will be the same amount each month, without the need to do a separate calculation and have a different salary each month.

It was agreed for the clerk to do the above. This will commence in the new financial year.

Proposed Cllr Beard

Seconded Cllr Fairweather

15/032 Dene Park

To discuss an offer of purchase from Wivenhoe Town Council.

WTC offered to purchase the land for £1,000 plus payment of the legal expenses of the sale.

It was discussed as to what the best thing to do for the residents of Elmstead would be.

It was **resolved** that EPC would not accept this offer from Wivenhoe Town Council.

Proposed: Cllr Routledge

Seconded: Cllr Kirby

All Cllrs in favour

Action – contact Essex County Council about the application for village green status that WTC tells us has been made on this land.

Reducing the cost of maintenance on the land was discussed and Cllr Heaney advised that you need to mow the land at least once a year. If you don't and other people do, then after 12 years they may claim the land.

15/033 Getting Around in Essex consultation – a bus and passenger transport survey (ends 31st March 2015)

Cllr Routledge suggests that we provide paper copies of the survey to those that request it. The survey is 12 pages long.

Cllr Routledge informed EPC about the survey and said that she would call to request a paper survey for anyone who needed it.

Cllr Redding expressed his concerns that the changes in the bus timetables mean that Elmstead residents can't get back to the village from schools in Colchester as the bus times no longer match the end of the school day. He will e-mail some information to Cllr Routledge in order for her to bring it up at the next transport meeting.

There are 2 transport meetings a year.

15/034 Stinky Lane puddle

A discussion regarding recent changes which have led to the lane becoming flooded at times and possible solutions.

This is a village footpath which has recently started to flood during wet weather. Cllr Fairweather suggested the use of road planings to bring raise the path level.

This issue will be added to the working party list.

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15/035 Community Centre

Cllr Beecham requests on behalf of the Community Centre that the exterior panels at the rear of the hall be re painted and repairs made and that the toilet windows be painted.

The toilet windows are wood framed and are in a bad condition, particularly the gents. Cllr Beecham will obtain quotes for the work required.

15/036 RCCE Best Kept Village Competition

Is there any interest in looking into this for Elmstead?

It was discussed that the village does not have a strong community spirit and therefore EPC would not look further into this. There was a discussion about EPCs role in engendering a community spirit and some ideas about how this could be done. Cllr Routledge mentioned the Big Lunch which is a countrywide street party in June with the purpose of getting neighbours together and talking. No decisions were made.

15/037 Items for next agenda or for information only

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

Cllr Fairweather told EPC that Doris Clevely (the elderly lady who was knocked over on Colchester Road) is out of hospital and in a care home in Dunmow.

Add working party jobs to the next agenda.

Meeting closed at 21.28.

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Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report

Closing Balances from 3rd January 2015 to 6th February 2015 are:

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 727	£13,142.01
Total uncashed cheques	£525.00
Total of cheques below (February payments - request for approval)	£595.14
Balance in current account after cheques	£12,021.87
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 139	£27,687.04
<i>Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit</i>	£39,708.91

Income Details from 3rd January 2015 to 6th February 2015 are:

<i>Total income between 3rd January 2015 to 6th February 2015</i>	£0.00

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Cllr Bell – mileage for attending TDC meetings at Beamount, 24/9/14, 26/11/14 and 21/01/15. 54 miles @ £0.45/mile	£24.30
Aon insurance renewal for mower (same as previous year)	£263.94
ICO data protection registration renewal	£35.00
ECC hall hire January x 2	£30.00
HP laptop extended 4 year guarantee (care plan)	£156.00
EALC Police Partnership Conference for Cllrs Beecham and Brock	£40.00
Mr Dingwall – expenses for 3 drain covers for Elmcroft	£45.90
Total Cheques	£595.14

- 1) February Finance Report for 2014 showed an overall estimated closing balance of £36,191.47.

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO
13th February 2015