

Minutes 20th August 2015
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Present: Councillors Bell, Beecham, Brock, Fairweather, Redding, Routledge, Beard and Kirby.

Also present: District Councillor Fred Nicholls, Mrs Baxter (clerk) and two members of the public.

15/137 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from District Councillor Rosemary Heaney and County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi

15/138 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Beecham declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 15/152 as he is a management trustee of the community centre.

15/139 Approval and signing of the minutes from 16th July 2015

A change was noted for item 15/131 and has been recorded.

It was resolved to accept the revised minutes from 16th July as true and accurate.

15/140 Police Report (Crime information)

Information received from PC Dan Heard:

June

Assault on a person in a house-Bromley Road
Threatening behaviour (neighbour dispute) Clacton Road

July

Assault on a person in a house - Colchester Road
Assault on a person in a house - Clacton road
Attempted garage burglary - Lucerne Road
Theft from a motor vehicle - Bromley Road
This is different to the crime information shown on the Essex Police website.
EPC will make a comment about this to Russ Cole (Temporary Chief Inspector) when he next attends a meeting.

Cllr Nicholls: The Police Commissioner is due to attend a district meeting, If he's informed Cllr Nicholls will tell the Clerk.

15/141 Neighbourhood Watch

A follow up and information received from John Wright.

The clerk has been added to the NHW mailing list and receives e-mails which are similar to the ECM e-mails. John Wright has posted a request on Elmstead Market Street Life for NHW volunteers but had no response.
There will be NHW information in the September PC article for Upmarket and in the Essex County Standard. If we don't get any response we could try again, or post in Upmarket to say that we are not proceeding.

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Date

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15/142 Public Speaking

A resident pointed out that if people knew what was involved with NHW they might be more likely to volunteer, for example how many meetings would they have to attend? The clerk will find out.

15/143 County Councillor report

Not available

15/144 District Councillor reports

Cllr Nicholls: The consultation for the TDC local plan starts next week. Every house in Tendring will receive a leaflet with information about the consultation. There will be an exhibition regarding the A120 roundabout (where Harwich Road joins the A120). The roundabout is going ahead next year. Cllr Nicholls was asked about Autumn House and he confirmed that it had been served with an order.

15/145 Planning

Applications: Blue Gates Farm Colchester Main Road Alresford Variation of condition 2 of planning application 14/00352/FUL. - Substitution of drawings listed in condition 2 with the 'As Built' drawings.

Determinations:

15/00948/TPO Mr Payne Thistledoo Church Road Elmstead 1 No. smaller Sycamore – fell Refusal - Full

Any other applications or determinations received after the agenda was issued?

15/01170/FUL Sibbons (Alresford) Ltd Sibbons Plant Hire Keelars Tye Keelars Lane Elmstead Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 14/00411/FUL seeking reduction in floor area and minor changes to the front (south east), and side elevations to that previously approved.

APP/P1560/W/15/3028070 Blue Barn Farm, Clacton Road, erection of three detached dwellings served by new vehicular and pedestrian access – appeal against TDC decision to refuse the application.

Cllr Beard questioned the status of the application for the 6 houses on Clacton Road. Cllr Bell: a local farmer has been in touch to say that he owns the ditch which is part of the development land. TDC have been informed. Cllr Nicholls suggested e-mailing Cath Bicknell at TDC to say that EPC understands that there is a dispute over the ownership of the ditch and could this be resolved prior to a planning decision being made?

Action: After a discussion about ownership of land it was proposed that EPC should put together a map of who owns what land in the local area, in order to be prepared for potential planning applications and developments coming forward prior to the local plan being approved.

Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Brock

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15/146 Village Development

Following our objections to the 32 houses on Clacton Road and 6 houses by the car park on Clacton Road, Cllr Beard is looking into why Elmstead has been designated a "key rural service centre" for growth. Can we challenge this, and in anticipation of more applications being put in for the fields in and around the village what is the council's view on development in the village and do we find a way to find out whether the residents object to, support or are indifferent to more development?

Cllr Beard spoke to Gary Guiver (TDC planning officer) who mentioned that EPC did not ask for any village improvements for the 32 house development on Clacton Road. It's been refused, but if this application comes back on appeal we won't get anything. Mr Guiver kept saying that Elmstead is a "service centre" and that our reasons for objecting to planning were overridden by the village being a service centre. Cllr Beard asked Cllr Nicholls why do we have that title?

Cllr Nicholls: Elmstead has a GP surgery, School, shop, small commercial businesses and a main bus service. It doesn't matter if some of those services are oversubscribed. Thorrington is another key service centre as they have the same services.

Cllr Beard: The PC should get more information, go and speak to the new headmaster at the school, find out more from the GPs and the NHS. EPC need the correct facts to keep arguing against development.

Cllr Fairweather: has been to see Mark, the GP practise manager. He has said they wouldn't cope with growth and would love to expand the practise.

Cllr Kirby: The cars that park on Holly Way for the school, a lot of them are for children outside the village. The GP surgery is part time and could increase their hours.

Cllr Redding: Suggests a working party to create a document which would address the development issues and EPC could try and engage village opinion.

Cllr Nicholls stressed that when the local plan committee next meets it's vitally important that someone from EPC attends, you can ask to speak.

Action: It was resolved that all councillors would be members of a working party to address development in Elmstead and the clerk is to set up a meeting.

15/147 Finance

To see if there are any questions regarding the finance report and approve the payments for August. See appendix 1.

It was resolved to accept the finance report and approve the payments for August.

Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Routledge

15/148 Clerk updates and correspondence

A resident has asked whether the PC paying for the maintenance of the greens should be discussed further when public funds are extremely low, and asking the question, has this situation ever been challenged and if so the outcome.

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Minutes 20th August 2015

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After a discussion it was agreed that the PC are satisfied that they are correct in paying for the maintenance of the greens for the use and enjoyment of the residents. Also, that to do any further research into the history of the arrangement and any previous challenges would be a time consuming and costly exercise. The clerk will respond.

There have been a number of complaints about the post office in the Spar. A resident has taken his complaints to our MP Bernard Jenkin and provided us with copies of the correspondence. We will keep up to date with this correspondence.

A resident has also complained about a lorry parking inconsiderately on Old School Lane. He proposes that double yellow lines be put on the road up to the entrance gateway of the Brethren Church.

Cllr Nicholls: Old School Lane does not meet the criteria for yellow lines. The lorry parking is a police matter and should be referred to the police.

This complaint has come up in the past and it was decided that yellow lines are not a PC matter.

15/149 **Bluegates Solar Farm donation of £10,000**

The working party to put forward 2 main projects for the council to discuss how to spend the donation.

- 1) A "big lunch" style village event
- 2) Improvements to the village environment (to include signage and the Clacton Road car park shrubbery.)

Cllr Routledge: went through some of the discarded ideas and explained why they were rejected.

After some discussion about the best approach for bringing the idea to the village it was decided that an article would be put in Upmarket explaining the 2 options, and asking for feedback and any other ideas. The article will include a cut off slip for handwritten responses and an e-mail address. Cllr Routledge will draft the article and share it for comments before it is submitted.

15/150 **Speeding motorbikes on Clacton Road**

Cllr. Guglielmi has sent a scheme request form for the local highways panel. To discuss whether to complete this for a scheme to reduce the speed of motorbikes along Clacton Road.

Action: It was resolved that the scheme request would be completed to request that the stretch of Clacton road which leaves the village towards Clacton be reduced to either a 30mph or 40mph limit.

Proposed: Cllr Redding, Seconded: Cllr Beecham

15/151 **Shrubbery border between Clacton Road and the car park**

Elmstead in Bloom have informed the council that they will no longer be involved at all with maintaining the border as they are no longer in a position to be able to do so. Subject to item 15/149 what does the council wish to do?

Cllr Redding: Pam Redding's colleague will be checking the shrubbery on 26th August to provide ideas and a cost.

Clerk to check if we can spend the s106 or other money on the shrubbery.

Cllr Bell has spoken to Angus Hopkins again. Subject to the above we would need a meeting with Mr Hopkins' group to make a plan of work on the shrubbery. Cllrs Routledge and Beecham are willing to help.

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15/152 Community Centre Car Park

Discuss the maintenance required to the car park. In particular the surface is eroding and there is a piece of metal sticking up out of the ground.

Cllr Fairweather will cut the metal using an angle grinder. That will suffice for now, as we don't know what ECC will be doing to the car park subject to item 15/153.

15/153 Market Field Lease

An update on the meeting between Essex County Council, Elmstead Parish Council and Market Field School regarding the renewal of the lease on Market Field. What are our next actions?

Cllr Beecham summarised the solution which had been discussed in the meeting with ECC. This would be to fence the majority of the field leaving a walkway connecting the two entrances. The gates to the field would be locked during school hours and open the rest of the time, but dogs are to be prohibited from the playing field area. This is because not all parishioners pick up their dog mess. There would be CCTV which the school will help with. Subject to funding ECC would add a small playground and resurface their area of the car park.

Cllr Beard: Where will the dog walkers go? It's going to be very unpopular. When using the field for football the dog mess has not been that much of a problem, having to pick up 1 or 2 each time. The School groundsman could do it. The CCTV is going to be a problem, who will have time to watch it? There will be problems with the gates being locked and unlocked. The football pitch will be of a minimum size, there will be issues of getting the ball if it gets knocked over the fence. The chances of football being played there again are not good. ECC could put changing rooms on the field if they wanted to do something for the village.

Cllr Beecham: they asked about a unit on the field but they said they can't get the power to it.

There was further discussion about the solution being all in the School's favour.

Action: It was decided to ask Mr Mark Parbury and Mr Simon Hughes, both of ECC, to attend a meeting with the Parish Council to further discuss Market Field.

15/154 Speedwatch

Speedwatch have been out twice in August and three people are being trained soon.

15/155 Footpaths/Pavements

Cllr Kirby: The footpaths in Elmstead are in an appalling state. It took 3 years for them to get the pavement outside their house fixed. Some paths are worse than others and we should prioritise the worst areas.

Action: It was decided that a team will go around the village and take photos and compile a list of the worst areas to send to Essex Highways.

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15/156 Social Media
Does the council wish to explore the use of facebook/twitter etc. as a means to engage and communicate with the parishioners?
Deferred to the September meeting.

15/157 Communications
Use of e-mail communications within the council.
It was requested that for e-mail items of interest to all the council that councillors “reply to all” with their comments and responses.

Items of interest for inclusion in our September Upmarket report.
The article discussed in item 15/149.

15/158 Items for next agenda or for information only
To hear from councillors any items that they would like on the next agenda or of interest only.
Send to the clerk before the next meeting.

**There being no further business councillors were thanked for their attendance.
Meeting closed at 10.15pm**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 15th October 2015
To be held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead**

**Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter
20th August 2015
Contact: elmsteadparish@gmail.com
01206 827139**

Signature

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Appendix 1

Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report

Closing Balances to 31st July 2015 are:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 751 | £19,661.79 |
| Total uncashed cheques | £1,448.71 |
| Total of cheques below (August payments - request for approval) | £901.25 |
| Balance in current account after cheques | £17,311.83 |
| Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 142 | £27,693.95 |
| | |
| Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit | £45,005.78 |

Income Details for July 2015:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| ECC share of waste bin collection | £79.51 |
| Essex County Council Grass Cutting | £683.02 |
| VAT refund | £1332.3 |
| Elmstead Primary School Grass Cutting | £272.5 |
| Total income for July 2015 | £2,367.33 |

Approval is requested for the following payments:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Elmstead Community Centre – Hall Hire July x 1 | £15.00 |
| Mr B Jennings – Grass Cutting Dene Park 4 cuts (1 May, 2 June, 1 July) | £232.00 |
| Lambert Smith Hampton – Rent for Market Field 19/9/15 – 24/3/16 | £450.00 |
| Cllr Beecham – parking cost for risk assessment course | £4.00 |
| Mr S Wright – Grass Cutting during Mr Dingwall’s holiday – 22.25 hours @ £9/hour | £200.25 |
| Total Cheques | £901.25 |

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO
 17th August 2015

Signature

Date