

**Minutes 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018**  
**Meeting of Elmstead Parish Council**  
**Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET**

Present: Councillors Paul Beard (Chair), Nick Bell, Sally Fairey, John Gray, Mike Kirby, Jean Routledge, Jane Triscott and Martine Ward  
District Councillors Fred Nicholls and Rosemary Heaney  
County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi  
Also Present: 11 Members of the public

**18/247 Chairman's welcome**

Cllr Beard wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He thanked the councillors for all the work they do behind the scenes and the handyman and clerk. He also thanked Cllrs Nicholls and Heaney for their support.

**18/248 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Triscott apologised as she would need to leave early for another commitment.

**18/249 Resignation of Councillor Ahmed**

Mrs Ahmed has been unable to attend meetings and so has sent her resignation. Cllr Beard wished her luck and thanked her for her help.

**18/250 Co-option of a Councillor**

*Sally Fairey has expressed her interest in joining the council.*

Mrs Fairey moved into the village 2 years ago. She is retired and has the time and is keen to get involved and help out.

It was resolved to co-opt Mrs Fairey as a councillor. Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Routledge, all in favour.

Cllr Beard welcomed Cllr Fairey to the council.

**18/251 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests**

None

**18/252 Approval and signing of the minutes from 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018.**

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 as true and accurate.

Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Triscott, all in favour.

**18/253 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 not covered in this agenda.**

Cllr Nicholls updated that for the LHP application for bollards outside Dormers, Clacton Road, the validation is in place and it recommends 5 bollards at a cost of £6,500. It will be progressed in the next financial year.

Cllr Bell updated that the Post Office is still considering the sign for outside FV when they are operating the mobile post office inside. Business has increased in the lead up to Christmas.

**18/254 Public Speaking**

A resident stated that Go Homes built a traffic calming island in the road by their Clacton Road development which was then demolished. Can the PC find out anything about it?

Another resident raised the fly tipping issue, the council responded that we report fly tipping to TDC and they do clear it up quickly.

**18/255 County Councillor report**

See attached.

Cllr Guglielmi: regarding the libraries consultation there will be a meeting in Manningtree the week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> January. For Manningtree Library the members of staff were not consulted and they will lose their jobs. There is a strong feeling in Manningtree to keep the library.

The LHP application scheme to upgrade the crossing for Colchester Road will be considered. There is no spare s106 money in Tendring. The scheme is in validation so will be considered

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in 19/20. The trigger point for the developer of the land adjacent to Meadow Close to contribute to the crossing is the 10<sup>th</sup> dwelling. The scheme should be tied in at the same time. Cllr Beard explained that we are trying to obtain additional funding for the crossing for Colchester Road. He thanked Cllr Guglielmi for all his support this year. Cllr Guglielmi is trying to get a date to attend Kevin Bentley's surgery, Cllr Triscott offered to attend along with Cllr Nicholls.

**18/256 District Councillor reports**

Cllr Heaney: The garden community development will be going before the Inspector in October 2019. It will be assessed in Spring 2019 and they need to show evidence of how the infrastructure will be funded.

Cllr Nicholls: The roundabout on the A120 will be open in July 2019. There is a new casualty reduction officer. They investigate cluster sites where there are more than 3 accidents in a 3 year period within 300 yards.

Cllr Beard raised the issue with the junction outside Budgens, it is dangerous and someone will be hurt, surely action should be preventative.

Cllr Heaney: they did try to get a mini roundabout there but it wasn't accepted.

Cllr Nicholls: A 20% increase in planning fees has been approved by the government. TDC will spend the additional income on appointing a s106 officer who will monitor building projects.

**18/257 Planning**

*i) A report from the planning committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018.*

Cllr Beard apologised that he could not attend that meeting.

Cllr Routledge: A representative came to talk to us about a new plan for Bromley Road.

The original application for 90 houses was withdrawn as it received a lot of negative feedback. The new plan will be for a maximum of 45 houses and include affordable houses to buy. The houses will be along Bromley Road and the land behind will be given to the council to do whatever it likes with. There is no time frame as yet.

For the Meadow House reserved matters application all 20 properties are to be bungalows which is good for the Meadow Close and Harvest Way residents. The plan shows no possibility of a road or access through to the Tye Road development. The planning committee had no issues and made no comments.

Hills Group have put in an application for new offices at Grange Farm. It's to be a 1 and 2 storey office building but there are no details. The committee made no comments.

*To decide a response to the following applications:*

**ii) Planning Application 18/01884/FUL**

*Mr Newell - Newell Homes. Land to The West of Church Road Elmstead Essex CO7 7AR. Erection of 41 no. residential dwellings, open space, allotments, parking, access and landscaping.*

*Deadline for comments 21st December 2018.*

Cllr Routledge: The original plan was for 20 houses, a community centre, a football pitch and allotments. The site has since been sold to a new developer who told us from the outset that he would not build a community centre. He has made a new application for 41 houses and includes a sum of £400k towards the build of a community centre elsewhere. At the planning committee meeting the public were against the application as there are too many new houses in the village, Church Road is too narrow for the additional traffic and it will cause problems for the junction. If the council objects it may lose the £400k towards the community centre. Differing opinions were discussed;

- that if it goes to the planning inspector it will be approved anyway and the new community centre is so important to the village,
- that as TDC has well in excess of its 5 year housing supply why would the extra 21 houses be approved?

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- this application takes away the playing field and the community centre, TDC will not approve it.
- it is difficult to second guess which way the planning inspector would go if the application is taken to appeal.

There was a discussion around the viability study for the scheme, it would be good to know if it's correct. Cllr Gray pointed out that he believes that when a developer submits his study he is allowed by law to use the current value of the land rather than the amount he actually paid for it.

Cllr Beard: Clarified that where the application says the PC has decided to put the community centre on Charity Field, that is not right, the PC said that it was the preferred site for certain reasons.

Our current cost estimate for the new community centre is £800k-900k and we have £400k from the Charity Field developer. Are we ever going to get a figure like the Church Road £400k again? The council has a dilemma as if there is a delay to the funding Go Homes will not be able to build the community centre. We'd then have to arrange the building ourselves which would increase costs. If TDC rejects Church Road and it goes to appeal it could take 18 months to 2 years and we run the risk that the decision will be too late for the community centre funding.

The New Community Centre Committee has 14 members and 13 were in favour of the application because of the community centre funding. There was one against.

We can object or we can make a neutral response and still make comments.

There are safety issues with houses being too close to the cricket club and the nets that would be required to stop the cricket balls going into the development.

It was proposed that the council objects to the applications for the reasons discussed.

Proposed: Cllr Gray, Seconded: Cllr Bell, 3 in favour, 5 against. Motion not carried.

It was resolved that the council returns a neutral response with comments.

Proposed: Cllr Triscott, Seconded: Cllr Kirby, 5 in favour, 3 against.

Cllr Triscott left the meeting.

The comments for the response are to be; the cricket club safety net issue, the loss of the football pitch with the option of sharing facilities with the cricket club, the traffic on a narrow road, the junction, education, that the original application was a tilted balance approval and that we don't have sight of the viability study. We'll also comment that we accept the £400k contribution.

**iii) Planning Application 18/01863/DETAIL**

*Mr Oliver Hookway - Go Homes Ltd. Charity Field Land South of Colchester Road Elmstead Essex CO7 7ET. Erection of up to 50 dwellings and a new community building, provision of dual-purpose car park, new village allotments and public open space.*

*Deadline for comments 21st December 2018.*

Since the planning committee meeting Go Homes has revised the site plan to move the open space and community facility to the northern end of the site, with the houses at the southern end. This was in response to comments made by residents regarding the reserved matters application.

Cllr Routledge: The main concern was the layout and these issues have been resolved. Residents of Pauls Crescent were concerned that their bungalows would be overlooked by houses and this will no longer be the case.

There was a discussion as to whether allotments are need on Charity Field as Church Road will also be providing them. The New Community Centre Committee has also raised that they would not be needed and that the land could be used for other community facilities being considered.

A resident raised the issue of there being no crossing on School Road. Cllr Beard responded that the council did challenge this with the original application request but this is not something we can do with the reserved matters application.

A resident asked what's to stop the developer filing in the open space, the answer being that the developer will gift that land to the council.

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There was a discussion around the ring barking of trees on the site near the entrance. Unfortunately those trees did not have tree protection orders (TPOs) and so the developer can do what he likes with them.

It was resolved that the council supports the application subject to the revised layout.  
Proposed: Cllr Routledge, Seconded: Cllr Triscott, all in favour.

Cllr Nicholls will speak with Matthew Lang, the planning officer, and Cath Bicknell to withdraw the "call in".

**18/258 New Community Centre Committee**

*i) A report from the committee meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018.*

Cllr Beard: There has been good attendance and it is all going well.

*ii) To discuss the registering of the current community centre with land registry.*

Held over.

**18/259 Streetlights**

*To decide on a recommendation from the finance committee to replace the current LED lamps. Details to be circulated.*

Cllr Routledge: The lights have been failing as the lamps have been put on old fittings and there has been water ingress. Also electrical surges knocks them out. Our contractor has been sending them back to the manufacturer but as it is not a manufacturing problem they are no longer being covered by the warranty.

If we replace them all it will cost over £7k. If not we'll have to keep paying for replacements. So far this year we've had 9 replacements. The finance committee recommends that we replace all the lights, the cost to be funded by reserves.

It was resolved to agree to the above. Proposed: Cllr Routledge, Seconded: Cllr Ward, 5 in favour, 2 abstentions.

Cllr Kirby left the meeting.

**18/260 Vehicle Activated Sign Clacton Road**

*This VAS has not worked since installation. To discuss options and potential costs for Swarco to investigate the problem.*

Cllr Routledge: The Clacton Road VAS has not worked since installation. The TDC rangers have looked at the part need to fix it which costs £150. We don't know if it would violate the warranty. We could get Swarco to come and look but if it's an installation error it will cost £532 plus parts. The Tendring Rangers say it can't be an installation problem as they did both exactly the same and the other one on Bromley Road is working.

It was resolved to ask Swarco to come and look at the VAS.

Proposed: Cllr Routledge, Seconded: Cllr Bell, all in favour.

Cllr Bell suggested that the Rangers be present when Swarco visit.

As the time was approaching 10pm and the standing orders allow 3 hours for a meeting it was resolved by the council to continue the meeting past 10pm.

Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Routledge, all in favour.

**18/261 Pavement safety outside the fish and chip shop**

*The owner of the fish and chip shop has suggested that a safety barrier be installed between the pavement and road to protect customers using her shop from the traffic. Does the PC wish to make an application to the LHP to investigate this matter?*

Held over.

**18/262 Essex Libraries Consultation**

*ECC is carrying out a 12 week consultation on a draft 5 year strategy for future library services in Essex. The survey is open until 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019.*

Held over.

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**18/263 Finance**

*To look through the finance report and approve the payments for December. See appendix 1.*

It was resolved to accept the finance report and approve the payments. Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Routledge, all in favour.

**18/264 Communications** *Items of interest for inclusion in our February Upmarket report in addition to the report of meeting.*

Send items to Cllr Routledge

**18/265 Items for next agenda or for information only**

Send an e-mail to the clerk.

**There being no further public business councillors were thanked for their attendance.**

**The meeting closed at 10.04pm.**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**To be held in the Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead**

**Minute written by Mrs. A Baxter**

**Contact: 01206 827139**

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**Appendix 1**

<b>Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report</b>			
<i>Closing Balances to 30th November 2018 are:</i>			
Current Account to end of month	£ 10,019.21		
Total Expenses unpaid at end of month	-£ 5,029.38		
Total of expenses below (November payments - request for approval)	-£ 1,440.72		
Balance in current account after monthly expenses	£ 3,549.11		
Business Premium Account	£ 47,763.46		
Active Saver Account	£ 10,076.60		
<b>Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit</b>	<b>£ 61,389.17</b>		
<i>Income Details for November 2018:</i>			
TDC section 106 monies for open spaces (3 benches)	£ 2,364.76		
<b>Total income for the month</b>	<b>£ 2,364.76</b>		
Approval is requested for the following payments:	Net	VAT	Total
Community Centre Hall Hire for November x 3	£ 48.00	£ -	£ 48.00
A&J Lighting New LED lights o/s 14 & Hunters Moon, Old School Lane (£698 excl VAT)	£ 698.00	£ 139.60	£ 837.60
Deans' Nursery Christmas Tree	£ 90.00	£ 18.00	£ 108.00
Cllr Ward mileage claim for attending Community Resilience meeting on 23rd October 2018 at Weeley Council Chamber 14.1 miles @ £0.45/mile	£ 6.35	£ -	£ 6.35
CiLCA registration for Mrs A Baxter	£ 350.00	£ -	£ 350.00
Expenditure already paid:			
Mr A Dingwall: Multi sander, charger & sand sheet, line marker paint & black bin bags (reimbursement approved by clerk/Chairman and paid 6/12/18)	£ 75.64	£ 15.13	£ 90.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 1,267.99</b>	<b>£ 172.73</b>	<b>£1,440.72</b>
Parish Council resolved to approve the above expenditure 20th December 2018 meeting item 18/263			
Signed			
Examined invoices			

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## ECC Report December 2018

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### **Primary School Admissions open**

Parents of children starting primary school in the academic year starting in September 2019 are now able to apply online for their child's Reception school place.

Children are entitled to start primary school in the September after their fourth birthday so parents and carers of children born between 1 Sept 2014 and 31 August 2015 need to apply. Parent and carers can apply for their child's school place online here between 12 November 2018 and 15 January 2019.

Applications received after the 15 January deadline will only be considered once all on time applications are determined. Applying late could reduce your child's chance of getting their preferred school place.

Essex County Councillor Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member for Education said: "Starting school for the first time is an exciting milestone in a child's life so it's important to get the application process right. It is vital parents apply on time and use their four preferences to ensure their child gets the best possible chance of a place at a preferred school."

A helpful film outlining the primary admissions process can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V8Sa3hITu4&feature=youtu.be>

Further information about the admissions process and individual schools can be found at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/EducationSchools/Schools/Admissions/Pages/Admissions.aspx>

### **Essex Housing launches 'Norton Road' development**

The building of a six home development, providing accommodation for adults with disabilities, has now completed.

The site at Norton Road in Ingatestone was previously a children's home and has been developed by Essex Housing, the council's in-house property developer.

Essex Housing is working to tackle housing shortages by pledging £42m over the next five years to develop unused, taxpayer's land into much needed affordable and private housing across the county.

Work on the 0.20 acre site began in October 2017 and practical completion took place in July 2018. The site consists of six independent living units which have now been sold to Larch Housing Association, a registered provider of social housing, with Essex County Council Social Care retaining the right to place adults with disabilities there who are most in need of this type of accommodation.

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Cllr Gagan Mohindra said: "This development will provide much needed housing for those that most need it. This site is yet another perfect example of how Essex Housing is striving to build the homes our county so desperately needs, while using land or buildings that are unused or vacant."

Wayne Feltham, Director at Larch Housing Association said: "The completion of Norton Road will provide more housing for residents who most need it, providing them with safe, secure accommodation to call home."

Norton Road connects directly to Ingatestone High Street, providing access to its retail, commercial and community services.

Cllr Lesley Wagland, County Councillor for Ingatestone said: "Local residents have told me how delighted they are to see the transformation of this disused property into an attractive, well maintained building on this prominent corner site. The Essex Housing team are to be

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congratulated for providing comfortable, accessible new homes for those with disabilities and for improving the outlook for the residents of Norton Road and surrounding areas.”

Last month Essex Housing launched their Flagship development

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/News/Pages/Council%e2%80%99s-flagship-property-development-unveiled-today.aspx>

They have also started work on a 26 home development in Waltham Glen,

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/News/Pages/Work-starts-on-26-new-homes-in-Chelmsford.aspx>

**Extra work gangs to speed up A133 Ipswich Road Improvements**

Plans are being put into place to accelerate essential work on improving the A133 Ipswich/Harwich Road roundabouts.

The work, which is complex and involves an initial several months of work underground by both BT and the Water Company to move utility pipework and cabling, was due to last for 15 months from its October commencement.

However, given the levels of traffic congestion and disruption, the County Council, with partners Essex Highways and contractors Eurovia, will seek to speed up the work by increasing work gangs once the ‘overground’ roundabout and road widening works begins in the New Year.

The site is complex, with several different contractors, including those from BT and utilities, working underground and on different parts of the site at different times, which is why people may not have seen workers on site as they have driven past. This complex picture is completed by piling work to strengthen the wall at Waitrose and adjacent to the railway line. Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, said: “We apologise for the delay and disruption to businesses, motorists and residents, but this work really is essential. Without it, we run the risk of gridlock in a few years’ time, with dire impacts for the local economy.

“This is complex work, with much of the current work going on underground as utilities and BT excavate, remove and divert cables and pipes. There are actually two large underground service chambers beneath the surface, where this work is going on.

“Once all this preliminary work is complete in the New Year, we can begin work on the new roundabouts and road layout. It is at this stage when we believe we can speed things up.

“We will also keep residents, business and motorists in touch with how the work is progressing through regular newsletters, website updates at [www.essexhighways.org](http://www.essexhighways.org) and social media.

“Colchester is an old town with an old road network and with work this scale, delays are inevitable. But we will do all we can to speed things up once the initial work is complete, so that we can ensure the road layout at this important junction is fit for the future.”

**Alcohol testimonial: “It nearly killed me, now I want to help others”**

With an estimated 12,300 adults alcohol dependent in the county and around 350,000 still drinking at risky levels, this Christmas we have joined forces with Nathan, a recovering alcoholic, to tell his story in the hope of helping others seek support.

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Last summer, Nathan Marsh, 40, was frail, significantly underweight and hooked up to IV drips in hospital. He was close to death as a result of years of abusing his body with alcohol. Nathan who lives in Chelmsford was born into a middle class family, he attended a Grammar school and started taking drugs and alcohol at just 13 years old.

He said: "I started taking alcohol and drugs, not for any great need to anaesthetize myself from some hidden trauma or life event but more over to fit in with the crowd and be liked. In hindsight I used addictively from the outset."

"Upon leaving school, whilst others went to university, I decided to take the alternative route of employment and travel in varying degrees and with varying results. Eventually with some preprogrammed idea that I had to get a stable job I bumped into the world of banking."

Nathan worked his way up the corporate ladder and was soon engulfed in a world of casual drug use and excessive alcohol consumption. Over his 12 years in banking he was repeatedly promoted and ended up as a Senior Commercial Bank Manager, however the pressure of the job and his addiction soon became too much and he left his job.

"By this point in my life drug use had, in the large part, fallen slightly to the wayside and alcohol had become the mistress that would eventually bring me to my knees. With a limited network of friends i.e. none, alcohol was readily available and socially acceptable." In the months that followed, Nathan faced daily challenges with his alcohol dependency becoming more difficult to manage. His health was deteriorating and he was referred for treatment to Open Road which he believes is where his recovery began.

Open Road, a registered charity, is commissioned by Essex County Council (ECC) to provide support for individuals affected by drugs and alcohol across the county.

Following initial treatment with Open Road, he was then referred for further treatment with SHARP.

SHARP, another ECC commissioned service, is a structured treatment programme, which aims to help people understand their addiction and support them as they begin - or continue - their journey of recovery. The 48-day programme takes places in both Braintree and Wickford, and is run over the course of eight weeks, with an additional week for induction.

However Nathan's treatment wasn't plain sailing: "I thought, if I'm going to have to stop drinking for a bit I might as well drink as much as I can now. My dependency was now at a horrendous level and soon ascites began to develop, and things were swiftly coming to a head."

Soon after, Nathan's weight dropped dramatically and he was using a walking stick due to pain when moving. He was admitted to Broomfield Hospital with a swollen abdomen.

He was hooked up to intravenous drips and told if he had not attended hospital on that day his life expectancy was around two months, he was close to death. He later found out he was also suffering with the early signs of the onset of dementia.

It was at hospital where his successful detox took place, he then restarted treatment at SHARP as well as Futures in Mind, which offers inclusive support for people with substance/alcohol misuse and mental ill health by providing peer support and mutual aid. Due to this treatment, Nathan has been in recovery for 20 months and is now drawing from his own experiences to help others in the same position. He has set up his own business, Recover This, a motivational life coaching & drug and alcohol awareness business.

Reflecting on his life during the height of his addiction, Nathan recounts Christmas as being a particularly difficult time.

Nathan said: "For many, Christmas is a time of celebration but to others a time when emotions are heightened and the demons of memory come knocking that little harder on the door."

"For the addict, a month of permission to feed their mental health disorder lays before them. A time when consumption and excess are not only tolerated, but celebrated."

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“Helping out at one of the drug and alcohol centres in Essex recently, it was hard not to be struck by the poignancy of person after person stumbling through the doors, lost with Christmas songs merrily chirping away in the background on the reception radio. As a recovering addict myself I know what it is to be lost and I know what it is to stumble, and how bitter and distant those Christmas songs sound in the depths of the disease of addiction.”  
“I celebrated my first Christmas last year without drink or drugs for 27 years. I had to, for the sake of my recovery, look at Christmas with fresh eyes, away from the bars and the parties and the drug fuelled 'all weekers'. What did I find? I found Christmas lights in home windows, I found the sound of the salvation army on a street corner. I found a child with his face pressed to a toyshop window desperately trying to drag his mother through the door way. I found goosebumps at the back of my neck when I hung a bauble on my own tree, sober.”  
“Addiction affects every corner of our society and we desperately need an adult conversation about it, in the open with everyone on board. I hope that by working with the County Council and sharing my story it gets people talking and that more people are encouraged to seek support”

“If you are struggling, don't let another Christmas come around without reaching out for help.”

If you, or someone you know is suffering with alcohol or drug misuse, there are a number of organisations that can help.

SHARP- [www.actiononaddiction.org.uk/essex](http://www.actiononaddiction.org.uk/essex)

OPEN ROAD- [www.openroad.org.uk](http://www.openroad.org.uk)

FUTURES IN MINDS- [www.futuresinmind.org.uk](http://www.futuresinmind.org.uk)

You can also take our online alcohol test to see how risky your drinking is-  
[www.dontbottleitup.org.uk](http://www.dontbottleitup.org.uk)

### **Alcohol Dependency**

The estimated number of alcohol dependent adults in Essex for 2016/17 is 12,299.

Below is the link for the alcohol dependence figure if you want more detail:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alcohol-dependence-prevalence-in-england>

### **Hospital admissions**

The 16/17 year for Hospital Admission episodes for alcohol-related conditions (Persons) is 8,433.

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/alcohol#page/3/gid/1/pat/6/par/E12000006/ati/102/are/E10000012/iid/91414/age/1/sex/4/nn/nn-1-E10000012>

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