

Minutes 21st April 2016
Elmstead Parish Council Meeting held at:
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Present: Councillors N Bell (Chairman), P Beard, S Beecham, R Fairweather, M Kirby, R Redding, J Routledge and M Ward

Also Present: District Councillor Fred Nicholls, Mrs Baxter (Clerk), and 3 members of the public

16/053 Apologies for Absence

County Cllr C Guglielmi had a clash of meetings, and District Cllr R Heaney was unwell.

16/054 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests

None

16/055 To consider requests for dispensations.

None

16/056 Approval and signing of the minutes from 17th March 2016

It was resolved to accept the minutes from 17th March 2016 as true and accurate.

16/057 To receive an update about the progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Council on 17th March 2016. (Clerk's report – appendix 1)

Item 16/039 – Clerk to pursue who to contact as/in place of a PCSO.

Item 16/045 – Cllr Beecham to begin work on the village sign in June.

Item 16/049 – Cllr Fairweather has ordered a replacement drain cover for Elmcroft and is awaiting delivery.

16/058 Public Speaking

A resident spoke against the application for 32 houses on Tye Road. Cllrs informed him that he can attend the planning committee meeting in Weeley and put forward his objections there.

Clerk to inform 2 of the residents when the application comes up for discussion at Weeley.

16/059 County Councillor report

Cllr Nicholls: The Local Plan is moving forward and they have decided where the options for the new housing will be. Clingoe Hill is a favoured option. The road infrastructure will go in first (a road will join the A133 to the A120). ECC will fund the roads, a new GP and possibly a new School (and then clawback the costs from the development contributions) It's a mixture of housing; aspirational and affordable.

16/060 District Councillor reports

None received

16/061 Planning

Applications:

16/00448/OUT - The Cottage Broad Lanes Elmstead. Demolition of cottage and erection of four new dwellings

To decide a response to submit to TDC planning, to consider whether to request that the application be called in before the planning committee and to decide the reasons for doing so.

Mr B Marshall spoke to the PC about his new planning application – it is the same scheme as before but for outline planning only. The previous application was refused and Mr Marshall will appeal this decision. Mr Marshall asked that the PC

Signature

Date

Minutes 21st April 2016
Elmstead Parish Council Meeting held at:
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support this application as they did the previous application, and also ask Cllr Heaney to call this application in to the planning committee.

It was discussed that although one of the reasons the council previously supported this application was because of the eco-friendly buildings, as this is an outline proposal the council should forget about that aspect. If the application was approved and then eco houses included in reserved matters they could still be refused by TDC planning.

District Councillor Nicholls explained that he could take no part in the discussion as he is on the TDC planning committee, although he offered advice on how to call in an application.

It was resolved to continue to support the application on the basis that it is the building of a small number of houses on a brownfield site and to ask Cllr Heaney to call the application in.

Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Redding, all in favour

No comments made – for information only:

16/00313/FUL - FV Conservatories & Windows Colchester Road Elmstead. Erection of an enhanced orangery structure on front elevation with associated alterations.

16/00390/FUL - Land Adj Bromley Road. Erection of cottage style dwelling with associated parking facilities.

16/00405/FUL - 6 Thatchers Drive Elmstead. Proposed side extension.

16/00438/FUL - Beth Chatto Gardens Clacton Road Elmstead. Charity building/classroom facility.

16/00364/HHPNOT - 6 Thatchers Drive. Single Storey Rear Extension 3.2m depth and 3.6m height. HHPN - Prior Approval Not Required

Determinations (for information only):

16/00055/FUL - Mr Bill Marshall The Cottage Broad Lanes Elmstead. Proposed 4 No. dwellings (following demolition of existing three bedroom detached dwelling and detached garage). Refusal – Full

16/00126/NMA Mr C Board - Lanswood Limited Lanswood Park Broomfield Road Elmstead. Non-material amendment of planning permission 08/01426/FUL for a new monopitch roof design and squared footprint to building 2 and realignment of road and parking to east boundary and parking surrounding building. Approval Non Material Amendment

15/01930/FUL 15/01930/FUL Nanscot Colchester Road Elmstead. Increase in width of existing vehicular access. Approval – Full

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

16/00495/FUL Rosedene, Colchester Road, Alresford First floor front extension

16/062 Village Plan

An update on Cllr Beard and Cllr Fairweather's meeting with NHS England.

Cllr Beard: Met with NHS estates manager, Jane Mower, and NHS manager East of England, Kerry Harding. Cllr Beard explained that as part of the PCs village plan it was identified that a bigger GP surgery was required. The NHS representatives explained that although the GPs may buy a larger premises, with the way that the finances work the NHS pay for the cleaning and maintenance and so the GPs still need their approval. The minimum building size would have to be 350sqm and with the criteria they have Elmstead Market would not be favourable

Signature

Date

Minutes 21st April 2016
Elmstead Parish Council Meeting held at:
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

for approval. Our GP surgery operates part time hours at the moment and they would expect them to go full time before moving to bigger premises. Therefore there is not much we as a PC can do. Even if they are provided with a building the NHS may not accept it.

It was decided to write a letter to the Elmstead GP surgery to say the PC had a meeting with the NHS and to keep in touch.

16/063 Finance

a) *To see if there are any questions regarding the finance report and approve the payments for April. See appendix 2.*

The better interest rate in the active saver account was noted, but Cllr Fairweather stated that he had spoken to Barclays and they no longer provide an active saver account any more.

The clerk is to check the conditions of the Bluegates donation, to see if we could transfer some money from other accounts into the active saver account (which was set up originally to receive the donation from Bluegates Solar Inc.).

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

Proposed - Cllr Beecham, Seconded - Cllr Kirby

b) *Automatic enrolment for employees into a workplace pension.*

To be discussed initially in the upcoming Finance Committee meeting.

16/064 Bluegates Donation

An update from the working party. To discuss the location of the gates and the style of the gates. This information will be needed to contact Essex Highways to agree the installation.

There was a discussion around where the gates should be sited and what information should be on the gates (for example the 30mph would not be needed if the gate was close to the Elmstead signs we have which already have the speed limit on them). It was also asked as to why we need an L shaped sign when it costs more but drivers will only see one side as they drive past.

It was resolved that the four entrance signs will be single gate signs just in front of the current Elmstead signs.

Proposed Cllr Beecham, Seconded Cllr Routledge, all in favour
Cllr Fairweather is to look into the cost of a coat of arms on the gate.

16/065 Community Initiatives Fund 16/17

The Community Initiatives Fund 16/17 is now open. The deadline for an expression of interest for a CIF grant (max £20,000) is 26th August 2016. Are there any initial ideas as to potential projects?

Cllr Nicholls suggested that we could apply for a grant for the gates discussed in the previous item. Cllr Bell requested that any ideas be sent to the clerk.

16/066 LED lamps for PC streetlights

An update on Cllr Redding's request to research the potential impact of upgrading our streetlights to LED on the local bat population.

Cllr Redding wrote to Gary Guiver (planning, TDC) to ask about steps that could be taken to assess the impact. He received a reply from Clare David referring him

Signature

Date

Minutes 21st April 2016
Elmstead Parish Council Meeting held at:
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to the web pages of Natural England. Cllr Routledge has written to the Essex Wildlife Trust to ask about contacting a bat expert. The communication is ongoing.

16/067 Grass Cutting for Elmstead Primary School

EPS has requested that the PC's handyman cut the grass on the School fields until they purchase a mower. They are in the process of researching this and estimate that it will take about two months. They would like the grass cut weekly.
It was resolved that EPC would support the school by continuing to cut their grass.

16/068 Screen for meetings

An update

Cllr Redding has done some research but there is a lot of choice with a great range of prices, features and resolutions. It will require further research.

16/069 Communications

Items of interest for inclusion in our June Upmarket report.

Include information about the CIF 16/17 from item 16/065 for local clubs and organisations.

Regarding e-mails that the PC have received from Mr Gary Smith, the headmaster at Market Field School, the clerk is to include information about the steps the PC are taking to tackle the problem of dog mess on the field. Cllr Bell is to spend a week monitoring Market Field to see how bad the problem is, and we'll put signs up reminding owners to pick up their mess, and provide bags for those that forget. Include a request for volunteers for Speedwatch.

16/070 Items for next agenda or for information only

Cllr Redding has received a query about who cuts the path in the Spinney on Church Road.

Cllr Routledge asked about the caravan on Bromley Road.

The pavement improvements were discussed – Cllr Routledge has seen the pavement outside her driveway repaired and Cllr Kirby noted the markings on Holly Way and Lucerne.

**There being no further public business councillors were thanked for their attendance.
The meeting closed at 9.22pm.**

Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 19th May 2016.

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

Minuted by Mrs. A Baxter

21st April 2016

Contact: elmsteadparish@gmail.com

01206 827139

Signature

Date

Minutes 21st April 2016
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Appendix 1

16/039 Public Speaking

A resident reported that a drain cover on the corner of the Bromley Road/Clacton Road junction is loose and makes a terrible noise as you drive over it. The clerk responded that the defect has been reported to Essex Highways.

From the Essex Highways website: We have inspected a DEFECTIVE SURFACE COVER at BROMLEY ROAD, ELMSTEAD and we are scheduling the repair.

The resident also reported that there are problems with cars speeding down Bromley Road, it sounds like there are boy racers that go past about 11pm. Cllr Beecham responded that speedwatch can't operate on Bromley Road as the operators are not allowed to stand there. The complaint needs to be passed on to our PCSO.

Clerk to find out who to contact.

16/042 Planning

Applications:

16/00219/OUT Hills Residential Ltd - Mr J Hills Land to The East of Tye Road Elmstead. Outline planning application for residential development of up to 32 dwellings, land for a community facility and associated parking and infrastructure. To discuss and decide EPCs response.

It was **resolved** that the PC would object to this application and would write to TDC planning with its reasons for doing so.

Proposed – Cllr Bell, seconded - Cllr Kirby, all in favour

EPC objected to this application and requested that Cllr Heaney ask TDC planning to call it in. It wasn't on the agenda for the April Planning Committee Meeting.

16/043 Market Field Lease

To discuss correspondence received from NALC regarding the legal advice we requested. To decide any further actions and discuss a potential village consultation. (see item 16/050 – possibly an option to include in the annual parish meeting)

It was **resolved** that in the first instance we would request a meeting with ECC, and then hold a village meeting.

The clerk wrote to Mr Parbury requesting a meeting but has not had a response.

16/045 Bluegates Donation

An update from the working party.

As Cllr Routledge was absent Cllr Bell provided an update.

Cllr Bell: We have not received a quote for the village gates yet. He and Cllr Fairweather met with the Glasdon representative, Tim Lane. Mr Lane said to contact Essex Highways about the gates. Cllr Fairweather will call Essex Highways. The clerk will chase the quote.

The clerk has received one quote from Glasdon and has requested the other options discussed in the meeting with Tim Lane. We have not received the other quotes yet.

Cllr Fairweather and Cllr Beecham called Essex Highways and were informed that we need to e-mail them with a description of the gates (preferably a photo), the manufacturer, the contractor for installation if we have one (or we can ask them how much they would charge to install).

Signature

Date

Minutes 21st April 2016
Elmstead Parish Council Meeting held at:
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It was **resolved** that Cllr Beecham undertake the work to refurbish the village sign.
Cllr Beecham to action

16/048 TDALC (Tendring District Association of Local Councils) request
TDALC has requested our support for a letter they are going to send to the two MPs for Tendring to support TDALC against the closure of some courts and police stations. Does EPC agree to support the letter and as requested does EPC have any reasons or examples they would like added to the letter?
It was **resolved** to support the TDALC letter.
The clerk confirmed this to TDALC and asked for a copy of the letter but has not received it.

16/049 Elmcroft Car Park
We have received complaints that one of the drain covers is loose and is going to cause injury or damage to a vehicle driving over it. To discuss the various levels of work that could be done, and quote(s) received for the groundworks.
Cllr Fairweather: We could put a larger grille (12 inch) over the top, cut the top of the pot out and tarmac around. It would cost about £50.
It was **resolved** that the PC would undertake the £50 repair.
Cllr Fairweather and other Cllrs to action.

Signature

Date

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Appendix 2

Elmstead Parish Council Finance Report

Closing Balances to 31st March 2016 are:

Current Account to Bank Statement Ref 784	£17,323.85
Total uncashed cheques	£1,056.08
Total of cheques below (April payments - request for approval)	£929.09
Balance in current account after cheques	£15,338.68
Deposit Account to Bank Statement Ref 147	£27,704.30
Active Saver Account (Bluegates Donation)	£10,020.61
Estimated Overall Closing Balance - Current and Deposit	£53,063.59

Income Details for March 2016:

TDC Tree Grant	£30.00
Business Saver Interest	£3.45
Active Saver Interest	£20.61
Total income for March 2016	£54.06

Approval is requested for the following payments:

Elmstead Community Centre – Hall Hire March x 2	£32.00
EALC – “Local Councils Explained” reference book	£20.00
EALC & NALC 2016/17 Affiliation Fee	£365.51
EALC – Essex Equals 22 CiLCA training course for clerk	£430.00
Mrs A Baxter – office supplies (files, paper, envelopes, dividers, pens, desk tidy, calculator, blu-tack, tipp-ex mouse)	£76.21
Mr A Dingwall – petrol for strimmer	£5.37
Total Cheques	£929.09

Report prepared by A Baxter – Clerk & RFO
20th April 2016

- 1) After the CiLCA invoice is paid, EALC will send a cheque for £322.50 back to EPC, which is the grant portion.
- 2) The EALC/NALC affiliation fee is lower than for previous years, despite there being an increase in their fees because our electorate number has fallen taken us into a lower band for charges.

Signature

Date