



## *Elsenham Parish Council*

### **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012**

**Present:** Mr. N Edwards (Chairman), Mr. S Pimblett, Mr. C Clarke, Mr. G Woollvin, Mr. R Franklin, Mr. P Clear, Mrs. F Lambert, Mr. M Pitcher, Mr. R Bayley, Mrs. L Johnson.

**Members of the Public:** 12 Cllr E Parr, Cllr D Morson.

Mr. N Edwards introduced Mr. R Bayley to the public and welcomed him to Elsenham Parish Council.

**Apologies for Absence:** Mr. P Johnson, Mrs. P Lees.

**17591      Declarations of Interest** Mr. R Franklin declared an interest on traffic calming along Stansted Road, as he resides in this road.

**17592      A presentation by Mrs Moira Groborz from the Rural Community Council of Essex, on affordable housing.**

Mrs. M Groborz explained that affordable housing exception sites are for local people that have been priced out of the open market. They are small development outside the boundaries of a village, and the houses would be available to people that have full time jobs in the village, or have lived in the village for some years, or have had to move away due to the high house prices in this area.

The tenants of the houses would not be able to fully purchase them so they would remain affordable housing for perpetuity.

The Councillors and public agreed that this was a good idea to help local people, but with the current position of so many proposed housing developments threatening Elsenham, this was not the time to entertain yet another housing development.

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

- 17593** Mr. Segar commented on the new village notice board saying that it was too far back from the pavement, also the amount of foliage that had been cut back would allow children to go through the hedge. Mr. Segar asked if the council would put some kind of footing down in front of the notice board and some wire netting to stop the children. The council agreed to obtain a quote for the work to be carried out.
- 17594** Mrs. Segar reported that on the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2012 a fire work display had taken place in the playing fields, she asked if the council was aware of this display and if permission had been given, the Parish Clerk replied that authorisation had been given.
- 17595** Mrs. Segar reported on the appalling state of Station Road due to Charles Church housing development. Mrs. Segar is going to write to UDC requesting that when the development is finished Charles Church make good any damage to the road and verges that has been caused by their heavy construction vehicles.  
Mr. N Edwards reported that he, Mrs. F Lambert, Mr. R Baylay and Cllr E Parr he had a meeting with Mr. John Baldock (Contract Manager) and Mr. Andy Keys (Site Manager) and discussed the concerns and issues raised by the villagers. Mr. Baldock and Mr. Keys agreed to write a letter to the Parish Council detailing the problems raised, their explanations for them, and how they will address these issues going forward, but the letter has not yet been received.  
Cllr. D Morson suggested that a meeting is arranged with Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council, Highways and Elsenham Parish Council to try and find a way forward in solving the problems.
- 17596** Mrs. Segar reported on the pothole in Stansted Road, which had taken months to be repaired, said she had spoken to ECC who informed her that they were not aware about this pothole until November; Mr. N Edwards raised the point that cones had been placed around this particular pothole for several months prior to November. Several more potholes are now emerging around the village, including two in Stansted Road, and two in Hall road.
- 17597** A resident referred to minute 17546, Traffic Calming along Stansted Road, stating the poll that had been carried out four years ago had been for traffic calming and installing street lights.
- 17598** Mrs. M Asinya asked if the village could have another bus shelter. It was agreed to ask highways, as the bus shelter would have to stand on their land.

- 17599** A resident asked if a 'way out' and 'way in' could be painted at the entrance and exit of Ambrose Corner, plus a high kerb built around the grass area. The council pointed out that the grass area is owned by Highways, and even if signs were painted for 'in' and 'out' there was no way it could be enforced. Mrs. F Lambert suggested that a meeting could be arranged with Highways to show them the work that needed to be carried out around the village, the Parish Clerk to contact Highways to see if they are agreeable to this.
- 17600** A resident asked if the speed bumps in the playing fields could be re-illuminated. Mr. P Clear replied that the white lines in the car park were being re-painted the next day and he would arrange for the illuminating work to be carried out on the speed bumps.
- 17601** **Minutes** – The Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012, having been circulated, was approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 17602** **District/County Councillors Report**  
Cllr. D Morson reported that over 300 people attended the Fairfield exhibition in both Elsenham and Henham, 33 people attended the Dunmow exhibition, 20 in Saffron Walden and 100 in Stansted, with only 3 people in Saffron Walden and 3 people in Dunmow being in favour of the development. If Fairfield hoped to get support for their development from the surrounding villages they did not succeed. Cllr D Morson noted that Cllr E Parr had attended all five of the exhibitions and talked to residents.  
Cllr. D Morson reported that Council Tax Benefit is being abolished, to be replaced by Council Tax Support.
- 17603** UTT/12/5660/HHF. Single storey rear and side infill extension. Birches, Park Road, Elsenham. **No Comment**
- 17604** Department for Transport – The stopping up of Highway at Green Street, Elsenham, to enable development to be carried out in accordance with the planning permission granted to Cheergrey Properties Limited under reference UTT/1473/11/FUL. **Residents must be guaranteed access to their properties at all times.**
- 17605** **Playing Field Committee Report**  
Mr. P Clear reported that the white lines in the car park were due to be re-painted on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012.
- 17606** **Report on the Gypsy and Traveller presentation**  
Mr P Clear reported that he had recently attended a gypsy and travellers course, which he found very interesting and informative. Gypsies and travellers have long been a problem which will not just go away, and needs to

be addressed. The answer is to provide authorised sites where gypsies and travellers can become residents and contribute to the committee, also temporary sites need to be established where gypsies and travellers can stay for up to 28 days.

**17607**

**Finance Committee Report**

The following cheques and payments were approved for signing.

100001	Warren House Ltd	£744.00
100002	L Johnson	£520.63
100003	Elsenham Flower Show	£8.50
BAC's	M Burke	£410.00
100004	P Smith	£140.00
100005	Affinity Water Ltd	£88.03
100006	CPRE	£50.00
100007	Option Hair Salon	£100.00
100008	R Franklin	£8.80
100009	Earthworms Sports Ground Care	£280.00
100010	P R Doughty	£185.00
100011	P Clear	£13.67
100012	Avenue Agricultural Direct	£224.40
100013	F Lambert	£83.40
100014/5	Wages	£422.12
100016	G Jackson	£15.98
100017	L Johnson	£16.96
100018	ECA	£48.75

**17608**

A summary of receipts and payments were circulated, there were no questions.

**17609**

Mr. M Pitcher reported that an internal audit inspection had been carried out on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012, the Parish Council's finances were in order, however the Parish Council do need to address the tenancy agreement on the allotments, so that proper procedures can be put in place for invoicing and collection of the payments, also health and safety procedures are needed for those employed by the Parish Council.

**17610**

Mr. M Pitcher reported that the Parish Council's new bank account was now up and running.

**17611**

The agreeing and signing of the 2013/14 precept was deferred until January 2013 meeting, due to the Government deciding that Parish precept and tax base calculations will be affected by Local Council Tax Support discounts. UDC has therefore asked Parish Councils to defer the actual precept setting until January 2013, by this time there will be precise information about the tax base adjustment, UDC funding and referendum limit.

- 17612** Mr. M Pitcher proposed that £50 is donated to the Big Herts Air Ambulance Christmas Appeal, Mr. C Clarke seconded, and the vote was carried unanimously.
- 17613** **Housing Development in Elsenham**  
Mr. N Edwards reiterated that he had attended a site meeting at the Orchards with Mr. R Bayley, Mrs. F Lambert and Cllr. E Parr to raise the following points,
1. Contractors' vehicles parking on Broom Farm Road.
  2. Mud being deposited by vehicles travelling to and from the site.
  3. An increase in pot-holes, sunken kerbs and other road defects.
  4. Vehicles travelling to and from the site travelling along Stansted Road, in contravention of the road's weight restriction.
  5. Large vehicles making a mess of the grass verge by the flowerbeds.
- The Parish Council are still waiting for a written reply from Mr. Baldock and Mr. Keys on how the issues will be addressed
- 17614** Mr. N Edwards reported that developers were now looking at potential developments south of Stansted Road, Elsenham.
- 17615** It was agreed to invite Mr. Richard Murdock to a Parish Council meeting, to give a presentation on the proposed housing development land west of Hall Road, Elsenham.
- 17616** UDC new parking standards were discussed, it was agreed that this is a good step forward. Elsenham Parish Council has always believed that not enough parking spaces are assigned to new developments but as they met the requirements of the 'Parking Standards Design and Good Practice September 2009' produced by Essex County Council; this could not be voiced as an objection.
- 17617** The Parish Council had recently sent a letter to Mr. Ben Simpson (Senior Associate of Carter Jonas) explaining why they were not prepared to receive a presentation on The Crown Estate's plans for a second phase of development on land north of Stansted Road, until the 106 agreement that the Crown Estate are currently negotiating with UDC has been finalised. Mr. N Edwards read out Mr. Simpson's reply, in which he stated that the provision of a community hall has always been part of the proposals for new development at Elsenham, and The Crown Estate was committed to providing a financial contribution and land for a village/community hall to be built on.
- 17618** As The Crown Estate is owned by the reigning Monarch, Mr. N Edwards wrote a letter to Her Majesty The Queen, explaining how representatives of The Crown Estate intended to renege on their commitment to provide a

community hall for Elsenham Village. Mr. N Edwards was recently in the vicinity of Buckingham Palace so he personally delivered the letter.

**17619 Rights of Way and Open Spaces Committee Report**

**Tree Warden's Report.** Noted

Mr. S Pimblett reported that the Parish Council had purchased two new salt bins, one had been placed in the doctor's surgery the other in the top car park of the playing fields. An article had been placed in the village magazine asking for volunteers to spread the salt, if the weather demands it.

Mr. S Pimblett reminded everybody that the Boxing Day walk will be taking place again and hoped for good weather.

**17620 Clerk's Report**

Mrs. L Johnson clarified that at the October Parish Council meeting, when referring to Alsa Wood, minute 17492, 'to carry out research on different trusts to establish if they would in principle be happy to take over the management of Alsa Wood', this was only referring to the smaller part of Alsa Wood on the east side of Elsenham, the western part is completely privately owned.

Mrs. L Johnson had contacted Highways regarding the progress of the poll that had been carried out four years ago, asking the residents who lived along Stansted Road their views on having traffic calming installed. Highways replied that on the results of the poll two 30mph signs had been installed along Stansted Road.

Mrs. L Johnson had contacted Buckingham Property Management Ltd who own Fenman Court regarding the dangerous oak tree. Buckingham Property Management has agreed to undertake the necessary work needed to make the tree safe.

Mrs. L Johnson reported that the light at Fuller End was now working, the lantern had been smashed beyond repair, and a replacement had been purchased at a cost of £176.

It was agreed unanimously to buy a 'New Councillors File' pack for Mr. R Bayley at a cost of £17.

Mrs. L Johnson reported that the mobile fish and chip van would be visiting Elsenham village on Thursdays, starting on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012 from 5.00pm till 8.00pm.

**17621 Chapel Restoration Project**

In the absence of Mr. P Johnson it was agreed to defer this item until January's 2013 meeting.

Mr. P Clear reported that Mr. Walter Gilbey had replied regarding the funding for the chapel and showed interest in the project.

**17622**

**Allotments**

Mr. N Edwards read out the points raised in Mr. A Taylor's email regarding objections/concerns to serving 'Notice to quit' letters to the allotment tenants. After much discussion it was proposed by Mr. R Bayley and seconded by Mr. G Woolvin that an allotment working party meeting is held as soon as possible to discuss the matter further, and that the Parish Clerk seeks guidance from Essex Association of Local Councils so that the issue can then be re-addressed at the January 2013 meeting, the vote was carried unanimously.

**17623**

**Transport**

Mr. M Pitcher reported that he had received comments stating that the buses were not as efficient as they use to be, but without dates, times and bus numbers, reports cannot be sent to the bus company.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**17624**

Weekly Email News Digest – 12 November 2012. **Noted**

**17625**

Christmas waste and recycling arrangements. **Noted**

**17626**

Saffron Walden Day centre. **Noted**

**17627**

Rural Services Network Annual General Meeting. **Noted**

**17628**

Uttlesford Highway Rangers. **Noted**

**17629**

Weekly Email News Digest – 5 November 2012. **Noted**

**17630**

The 'to follow' items are now available for Cabinet on 20/11/2012. **Noted**

**17631**

Fish & Chip van. **Noted**

**17632**

Sir Howard Davies sets out his stall. **Noted**

**17633**

Ash summit report 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012. **Noted**

**17634**

SSE appeal for support in 2013. **Noted**

**17635**

Assets of community value. **Noted**

**17636**

5 Day road closure, Hall Road, Elsenham. **Noted**

**17637**

Weekly Email News Digest – 19 November 2012. **Noted**

**17638**

Gypsy and Traveller training. **Noted**

**17639**

Local producer of wood briquettes. **Noted**

**17640**

Winter snow clearance guidance pack. **Noted**

**17641**

Uttlesford CAB AGM. **Noted**

**17642**

EALC EBulletin 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012. **Noted**

**Items to go on next agenda** (at the Chairman's discretion, no decisions can lawfully be made under this item).

**17643**

Mr. C Clarke reported that he had been elected Chairman of the Viridor grant allocation, and that monies were still available for grants. Mr. P Clear stated

that the Elsenham Parish Council should apply for a grant from Viridor for the restoration of the chapel, Mr. C Clarke replied that all applications had to be in by the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

- 17644** Mr. P Clear reported that the entrance to the playing fields was in need of repair, the Parish Clerk is to add this to her list for Highways.
- 17645** Mr. S Pimblett reported that the SSE Parish and Town Council Liaison Group were asking for venues to host the meetings in the coming year, it was agreed that Mr. S Pimblett would put forward Elsenham as a host.
- 17646** Mr. R Franklin reported that he had recently sat on the judging panel for 'The Big Society Fund' which is administered by Essex County Council, where he handed out £106,000 to local communities.
- 17647** Mr. R Franklin asked for it to be noted, that at the Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012, minute 17484, he asked District Councillor Ray Gooding to try and speed up the repair to the pothole in Stansted Road as it was very deep and dangerous.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

Next Meeting; Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 8.00pm held in the Memorial Hall