



## Elsenham Parish Council

### Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014

**Present:** Mr. R Bayley (Acting Chairman), Mr. P Clear, Mr. R Franklin, Mrs. F Lambert, Mrs. P Lees, Mr. D Lucas, Mr. S Pimblett, Mr. G Woollvin and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk).

**Members of the Public;** 9.

**Apologies for Absence:** Mr. N Edwards, Miss. E Parr and Mr. P Johnson.

**18338** Declarations of Interest – None.

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

**18339** Mr. Segar reported that the gate from Station Road leading on to the playing fields was not working correctly and was a danger to children. Mr. P Clear said he would speak to the suppliers and arrange for the gate to be repaired as soon as possible.

**18340** Mr. Segar reported that on Sunday morning while the Tennis club was playing a league match, the 'Bootcamp' was performing on the grass 'triangle' by the Tennis Club. The tennis players found this very distracting and asked the Bootcamp to move to another area, which they did. Mr. Drew was contacted by the Parish Clerk and he is happy to attend the next 'Playing Field Committee' meeting to discuss the best options of a new location to stop this from happening again.

**18341** A resident of 'The Orchards' reported that as there are no street lights on the road from Station Road leading up to the 'The Orchards' it made it very dark at night. There is one street light which would throw some light on to the path but this is not working; the Parish Council is to find out who is responsible for this street light and contact them with a view to get it working as soon as possible.

- 18342** Mr. Segar asked that the Parish Council consider the request at their next Parish Council meeting of ‘St. Mary’s Fabric Fund’ holding a car boot sale on the playing fields on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014.
- 18343** Mr. Bush reported that Grove Hill is to be closed for road repair work for 5 days from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 9.30 am until 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Mr. R Franklin reported that all the information from Essex Highways regarding the road closure had gone to Stansted Parish Council. Mr R Franklin phoned Highways and suggested as the closing of Grove Hill will affect residents in Elsenham far more than Stansted, the information should have also been sent to Elsenham Parish Council.
- 18344** Mrs. A Braidwood said that the new bus shelter in Stansted Road was an asset to the village.
- 18345** A resident stated that she was finding it difficult to obtain information regarding the planning application on Hall Road, Mr. R Bayley said the plans were on Uttlesford District Council planning web site and he was happy to show her how to access the site, also Mr. Hamish Battle from ‘Bovis Homes Ltd’ the developer of Hall Road was due to give a 10 minute presentation at the next Parish Council meeting. Mrs. P Lees reminded everyone that the plans for this development had been approved so nothing at this stage can be changed.
- 18346** Dr. Mott asked that when the Parish Council contact ‘Gleeson’ regarding the layout of the allotment plots on the new development land south of Stansted Road, to make sure the land that Gleeson designated for the plots is suitable and not too near the motorway, ‘Gleeson’ have said that the houses near the motorway will be sound prove but you cannot sound prove allotments.
- 18347** **Minutes** – The Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014, having been circulated, was approved by the Parish Council and signed by the acting Chairman as a true record.
- 18348** **District/County Councillors Report.**  
Councillor D Morson was unable to attend the meeting; Mrs. P Lees reported on his behalf that a decision on the ‘Community Infrastructure Levy’ (CIL) which was discussed at the last Parish Council meeting was not due for another two years.  
Mrs. P Lees proposed that a letter is written to County Councillor Ray Gooding with regards to his lack of support over the Hailes Wood development. Cllr. R Gooding had said he would support the village in their fight against this development and would attend the hearing or write a letter; but he failed to do either. Mr. G Woolvin seconded, the vote was carried unanimously. Mr. R Bayley declared an interest as he resides in Hailes Wood. Mrs. P Lees agreed to write the letter.
- 18349** **Planning Committee.**  
**(i)** UTT/14/0271/HHF Single-storey front garage and porch extension, with conversion of part of existing garage to playroom with new window to side. 20 Leigh Drive, Elsenham. Elsenham Parish Council submitted ‘No Comment’

- (ii) **UTT/13/2836/FUL** Amendment to application, land at Alsa Leys 6 new dwellings. **Elsenham Parish Council submitted; 'No Comment'.**
- (iii) **UTT/14/0488/FUL:** Retrospective application for the conversion of 21 + 22 Glebe End, Elsenham, back to 2 dwellings. Elsenham Parish Council submitted '**No Comment**'
- (iv) **UTT/14/0480/FUL:** Full application for demolition of all existing buildings and change of use of site from B2 light industrial to residential. Proposed erection of 5 dwellings and 2 cartsheds to replace existing commercial buildings, uses and external parking/storage. Provision of new vehicular access to one dwelling. Provision of new pedestrian access to site. Elsenham Parish Council submitted '**We are fully in support of this planning application**'

**18350**

#### **Housing Development in Elsenham.**

Mr. R Bayley reported on the Hailes Wood planning application. At the UDC planning meeting the Chairman Mrs. J Cheetham used her casting vote to force through planning approval. There were serious discrepancies between the number of objections quoted by the planning officer and those displayed on the website. After seeking legal advice a letter of complaint is being sent to the Head of Planning Services at Uttlesford District Council, if a reply has not been received within two weeks it will then be referred to the ombudsman. There may be a case for Judicial Review, this is where a planning decision is scrutinised to determine whether proper legal process has been followed in making that decision. Mrs. P Lees said she did not think it was good practice that a Councillor could abstain on a planning committee decision, the only time this should be allowed is if the Councillor has declared an interest.

**18351**

Mrs. P Lees informed the meeting that a planning application for 790 new homes in Dunmow had been submitted by 'Land Securities'; if this application was agreed it would be less likely that 'Fairfield' would be successfull in their application of 800 new homes in Elsenham. However Dunmow has already received their fair share of new housing with 2800 new homes; it was therefore agreed unanimously that it would be morally wrong for Elsenham Parish Council to support 'Land Securities' application.

**18352**

#### **Playing Field Committee**

Mr. P Clear reported that a 'Playing Field Committee' meeting will be held in the next two weeks; Mr. Simon Drew will be asked to attend so that the Bootcamp can be discussed and a different location found to resolve the current problem with the Tennis Club.

**18353**

#### **Rights of Way and Open Spaces Committee**

##### **Tree Warden's Report.** Noted.

Mr. S Pimblett reported that work on the Spinney had taken place although two of the scheduled days were cancelled due to the weather. Mr. S Pimblett thanked all the volunteers that helped.

The ‘Right of Way and Open Space Committee’ are going to produce a booklet on the walks in Elsenham. 250 copies of the booklet are to be ordered at a cost of £380.40, the books will be sold at £2 each. It was proposed by Mr. S Pimblett that the Parish Council lend the committee £380 in order to buy the booklets which would be paid back once the booklets were sold, Mr. G Woolvin seconded the vote was carried unanimously.

Mr. S Pimblett asked that the Parish Council continue to work hard at obtaining a substantial amount of money from the Section 106 agreements, at least £3000, to allow for new booklets to be produced which would take into account all the changes the new estates will force; it was hoped to produce enough booklets to give one to each home in the parish. Mr. R Bayley stated that the developers need to give more than enough to cover booklets; there should be enough funds available to repair any footpaths that are damaged and to make sure that all footpaths are assessable to all members of the public.

Mr. S Pimblett reported there was great concern about the number of trees that the Trisail Towers development was destroying, it was agreed to look at the plans for this development.

**18354**

#### **Finance Committee Report**

The following cheques and payments were approved for signing.

100125	Elsenham Village Hall	£ 12.00
100126	Millway Office Supplies	£ 140.99
BACS	Rigby Taylor	£2789.63
100127	Whyare Inspired Ltd	£ 350.00
100128	Amenity Services	£ 87.50
100129	Records of Uttlesford History	£ 15.00
BACS	Earthworms Sports	£ 800.00
BACS	Arrow Valves Ltd	£ 489.84
BACS	John Scraggs	£ 40.00
100130	EALC	£ 70.00
BACS	Affinity Water	£ 55.85
BACS	M Burke	£ 804.67
100131/BACS	Wages	£ 834.14

**18355**

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

Mrs. P Lees reported that the Parish Council was coming to the end of the financial year and once again Elsenham Parish Council had done very well with their finances.

**18356**

Mrs. P Lees propose that the Parish Council grant approval for the Finance Committee to assess the quotes for the ‘Grass Cutting Contract’ and award the contract to the chosen contractor, Mr. R Franklin seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

**18357**

#### **Speed limit on Stansted Road.**

Mr. R Franklin reported on the cars speeding along Stansted Road. As the electronic speed sign has now been removed opposite Gilby Cottages, there is no speed limit reminder for quite a distance when travelling from Elsenham towards

Stansted, Mr. R Franklin proposed that 30mph speed signs are placed on the two redundant poles, Mr. G Woolvin seconded the vote was carried unanimously. Mr. R Franklin also proposed that the hedge is cut back opposite the Spinney, as the speed limit reminder sign opposite 'Hill Croft' is obscured and it cannot be seen by car drivers until they are almost adjacent to it. The Parish Clerk is to contact Essex Highways regarding both proposals.

**18358**

**State of the road between Elsenham and Stansted.**

Mr. R Franklin stated that the road between Elsenham and Stansted is in a very dangerous state. There are lethal pot holes along this road and there have already been 5 accidents this year. With all the new housing developments allocated to the village more cars will be travelling along this road, it has to be adequately maintained. Mr. R Franklin proposed that the Parish Council contact Essex Highways requesting that when the road is closed from 10<sup>th</sup> March for 5 days this would be the perfect opportunity to put right all the other road defects, Mr D Lucas seconded the vote was carried unanimously.

**18359**

**Clerk's Report.**

The courses run by Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) for the next 4 months had been circulated; Mr. R Franklin and Mrs. F Lambert are to attend the 'Funding Workshop'.

The 'Annual Parish Meeting' will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. The 'Annual Parish Council Meeting' will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 8pm in the Memorial Hall.

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that she had written to Mr. Chris Stoneham at Essex County Council with regards to a request for double yellow lines to be painted on both corners of Hall Road at the junction with the High Street. Mr. Chris Stoneham replied that the Parish Council would have to raise the request with the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) as they will need to assess the proposal under their criteria. The Parish Clerk has sent the request with a location plan to NEPP and is awaiting a reply.

The new litter bin for Robin Hood Road has now been installed by the railway crossing; as Uttlesford District Council (UDC) have refused to empty any new litter bins installed in the village, Mr. M Burke has kindly agreed to empty the bin as part of his duties at no extra charge.

Mr. R Bayley had obtained the deeds for the shop owners at Ambrose Corner and it states that the shop owners are responsible for the maintenance of the car park. The problem has been resolved at present as Essex Highways have now filled in the pot holes.

The Parish Council agreed to enter the 'Best kept Playing Fields' competition for 2014.

Essex Highways have agreed for the work to go ahead for placing a memorial bench at the entrance of Catts Lane.

**18360**

**Litter Picker Tools.**

It was proposed by Mr. R Franklin and seconded by Mrs. P Lees that the Parish Council purchase 6 litter pickers at a cost of £52.20, the vote was carried unanimously.

**18361 Elsenham Chapel**  
Mr. P Clear proposed that the Parish Council except the quotation of £5790.80 from Pickford Builders to carry out the renovation work on the Chapel. The Chapel Committee had tried to obtain further quotes but as this is specialist work there are not many companies that could carry out the renovation, one other company had been asked but said there were too busy, Pickfords Builders have in the past carried out an excellent job for the Parish Council with their work being to a very high standard. Mrs. P Lees seconded the vote was carried unanimously.  
Mr. P Clear proposed that the quotes for the hedge work in the Elsenham Cemetery are studied further and maybe a further quote obtained, as they seemed rather high, Mrs. P Lees seconded the vote was carried unanimously.

**18362 Transport.**  
Mr. R Franklin reported that there was to be another Transport meeting in April. Mr. J Segar reported he had phoned the bus company to discuss the route the busses would take while Grove Hill was closed. Acme said that the busses would travel from Lower Street in Stansted through Ugley, along Station Road in Elsenham and turn round at the mini roundabout, the buses would not be passing the bus stop at Gilbey Cottages, Mr. J Segar said he would place a notice at this bus stop to inform the public. Acme said that they would do all they could to keep the busses on time.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 18363** RCCE Active Communities Coffee Morning 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014. **Noted**  
**18364** CVSU Time Bank Uttlesford. **Noted**  
**18365** Charles Church Again. **Noted**  
**18366** Spinney Work 2014. **Noted**  
**18367** SSE Government must act to end night flights. **Noted**  
**18368** Making the Link. **Noted**  
**18369** Rural Opportunities Bulletin. **Noted**  
**18370** SSE Campaign Update February 2014. **Noted**  
**18371** The Hundred Parishes Society progress report. **Noted**  
**18372** Civil Protection Sub-Committee agenda. **Noted**  
**18373** RSN Seminar. **Noted**  
**18374** Press Release Food Banks. **Noted**  
**18375** UDC New event available Great Hallingbury Conservation Area. **Noted**  
**18376** Meeting with the Local Parish Council's. **Noted**  
**18377** Cancelled – Parish Forum 4<sup>th</sup> March. **Noted**  
**18378** Community Forums March 2014. **Noted**

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

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Next Meeting; Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 8.00pm held in the Memorial Hall.