



Elsenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 4th March 2013

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

Members of the Public: 21, Cllr. E Parr, Cllr. D Morson.

Apologies for Absence: None

17750 **Declarations of Interest** – Mr. R Bayley declared an interest in allotments, as he has recently become an allotment tenant.

17751 Mr. Jim Collins gave a short presentation on the planning application to convert 'The Old Sawmill' Tye Green Road, from commercial to residential use. The planning application is for 5 new houses with adequate car parking spaces, the trees, bushes and the meadow would be restored improving the local environment, bringing back the wildlife to this part of the village. In the past there had been numerous complaints to Uttlesford District Council from residents regarding conflict between the commercial users on this site with regards to noise, traffic, smell and dust. As several residents from Fullers End were present Mr. N Edwards asked if they were in favour of this development, all the residents present said yes, this development would be most welcome in Fullers End. Mr Collins asked the public to write to UDC showing their support.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

17752 Mr. Segar reported that he had recently sent a letter to the Parish Clerk regarding the continuing deterioration of Station Road caused by the construction vehicles from the 'Charles Church Development'. The Parish Clerk has reported this to Highways and would continue to monitor it. Mr N

Edwards asked that it is also reported to Charles Church via their direct email, set up for the village to report any problems.

Mr. Segar asked about the items that had appeared in and around the Memorial Garden. Mrs. F Lambert replied that she had now removed all these items. The Parish Council are unaware of why these items were placed in the Memorial Garden, or who put them there.

17753 Mr. Segar read part of the minutes from the Planning Working Group meeting regarding the Hall Road development. 'There is a local need in Elsenham for housing on both ends of the spectrum. Larger houses for Elsenham residents who would like to move up the property ladder, also flats and one bedroom houses to help the first time buyer stay in Elsenham'. Mr Segar felt that this implied that Elsenham Parish Council were in favour of new housing in Elsenham. Mr. N Edwards was adamant in his reply that this is not the case. Elsenham Parish Council has, and always will continue to fight inappropriate housing developments in Elsenham, and that these comments were made in response to a specific planning application, not as a general invitation for more housing development. These minutes were about one in light of the fact that the specific development proposal consisted mainly of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses, if Elsenham is to have new houses then developers should consider the local needs and not just build property that make them the most money.

17754 Mr. Lucas reported that the Tour de France race will be coming to Elsenham, the contestants will be cycling down Hall Road, and he hoped that this might make Highways repair the potholes.
Mr. Lucas asked about the Lych gate regarding the different wood colours. Mr. P Johnson replied that the Parish Council had been advised not to stain the wood as this could be detrimental in the longer term, and over a short period the new timber would blend in.

17755 Dr. Mott praised the Parish Council for their very comprehensive reply to the planning application for the development of land west of Hall Road.
Dr. Mott stated that The Crown Estate's intent to renege on their commitment to provide a community hall, was not the only point of contention with this development, it must be made clear that even if The Crown Estate were to provide a village hall, it would not mean that Elsenham were in favour of this development.

17756 Mr. Segar asked if the Parish Council had received a reply from Highways regarding a new bus shelter for the village, the Parish Clark said she had not heard any more but would contact Highways again.

17757 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2013 with amendments to the numbering from 17720 – 17750, having been circulated, was approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

17758 **District/County Councillors Report**
Cllr. E Parr reported that Fairfield Partnership development consultation which was due in January is now to take place in the spring. Cllr. D Morson added that Fairfield’s planning application would probably be presented to UDC in July, if it is turned down it would then go to appeal in December, so the village should know the outcome of this development by Christmas 2013. Cllr. D Morson reported that he had recently made a television appearance where UDC had been congratulated on their budget figures, which included reducing council tax by 1%; however there are other figures that contribute to the final amount that tax payers have to pay, one of which is the police who have submitted a 5% increase

17759 **Plans Received**

UTT/13/0002/HHF. 7 Oziers, Elsenham, Bishop’s Stortford, CM22 6LS
Proposed extension and garage conversion. No adverse comment.

UTT/12/6116/FUL. The Old Goods Yard, Old Mead Lane, Henham, Bishop’s Stortford. Proposed erection of 10 dwellings. Elsenham Parish Council had previously made comments on this development which are still relevant.

UTT/13/0255/FUL. Elsenham Sawmill Fullers End. 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 and external parking/storage. Provision of new vehicular access to one dwelling. Elsenham Parish Council is in support of this development with one minor comment regarding the bridge on Tye Green Road over Stansted Brook. The wear and tear on this bridge has increased substantially in recent times, and would need work carried out if it is to be used by heavy construction vehicles.

17760 **Playing Field Committee Report**

A vacancy has arisen in the council of ‘Recreation Ground Rubbish Picker’, it was agreed to advertise the position on the village notice boards and in the Village News, until the position is filled it was agreed to ask Mr. M Burke to pick up any litter while doing his other duties in the playing fields. The playing fields committee are waiting for ‘Earthworms’ to submit their invoice for the annual maintenance of the playing fields for 2013/14. Once this has been received a committee meeting will be called with the football club to discuss the maintenance programme and finance.

17761 Finance Committee Report

The following cheques and payments were approved for signing.

100043	Records Uttlesford History	£ 10.00
100044	Elsenham Village Hall	£ 12.00
100045	Wildlife Trust	£300.00
100046/BACS	Wages	£543.12
100047	Millways	£ 21.29
BACS	May Gurney Ltd	£ 96.46
BACS	Mick Burke	£660.00
Debit Card	02 UK	£ 49.99
Debit Card	Pay as you go	£ 20.00
BACS	L Johnson	£ 21.29

17762 A summary of receipts and payments were circulated, there were no questions

17763 Mr. M Pitcher proposed and Mrs. P Lees seconded that the Parish Clerk is reimbursed £150 which she had paid for the Cilca registration fee, the vote was carried unanimously.

17764 Mr. M Pitcher proposed and Mrs. P Lees seconded that £17 is spent on the purchase of the 'Parish Councillor's Guide' book for Mr. R Bayley, the vote was carried unanimously.

17765 Housing Development in Elsenham

Mrs. P Lees reported that she had consulted lawyers regarding the validity of a challenge to the Crown Estate's misrepresentation of the community hall element of their planning application. However as 'The Crown Estate' had used the word 'provision' rather than 'provide' when discussing the community hall a challenge would most likely be unsuccessful. Mrs. P Lees said she would write a letter to 'The Crown Estate' stating that the village felt very strongly that they had been misled, and would be informing other parish councils to be on their guard when dealing with 'The Crown Estate'. Mrs. P Lees reported that flyers would be distributed this weekend regarding the 'Fairfield Partnership Development' housing application. Once the planning application is submitted to UDC then the campaign begins in earnest with only six weeks to get responses back.

17766 Rights of Way and Open Spaces Committee Report

Tree Warden's Report. Noted

Mr. S Pimblett thanked the residents who had helped with the work in the Spinney; a lot had been achieved, just leaving a little hedge cutting still to do. Mr. S Pimblett asked the Parish Clerk to chase the owners of the oak tree in Fenman court, the owners had still not cut down this tree and it is a potential hazard.

- 17767 Clerk's Report**
It was agreed to enter Elsenham into the best kept village competition, the flower bed working group with the Parish Clerk agreed to complete the entry form.
It was agreed to enter the 'Best Kept Playing Field' competition at a cost of £10.
Elsenham Parish Council have received a request from a proprietor of a burger van asking if he can park his van in Elsenham in order to sell kebabs and burgers, it was agreed that the Parish Clerk would find out more details before a decision was made.
- 17768 The Broom Farm Flower Beds**
The flower bed working group asked 'Charles Church Developers' to plant some flowers in the Broom Farm flower beds opposite the road to The Orchards, and suggested the type of plants that would be best suited. 'Charles Church Developers' has now carried out the planting, using the suggestions made by the flower bed working party. It was agreed to write a letter to 'Charles Church Developers' thanking them, but asking them to address the damage that had been caused to the grass areas surrounding the beds and verges along Station Road.
- 17769 Chapel Restoration Project**
The structural engineer has drawn up a schedule of work for the restoration of the chapel and has sent it out to tender to three companies that specialise in this work, when all three have replied the structural engineer will make a recommendation. To allow this project to move forward it was proposed by Mrs. P Lees and seconded by Mr. G Woolvin that the Finance Committee are given the power to spend up to £5000 for the chapel restoration, the vote was carried unanimously.
- 17770 Mr. Gordon Fulton's Letter.**
Mr. Fulton stated in his letter that regrettably due to health problems would no longer be able to work in the Memorial Gardens. It was agreed that a letter and a gift is sent to Mr. Fulton, thanking him for all the years he has worked on the Memorial Gardens, transforming them from an over grown state to a beautiful well-kept garden. The Parish Council sincerely hope that Mr Fulton will be able to return to working in the garden at some time in the future. It was agreed that Mrs. F Lambert and Mr. P Clear would look after the Memorial Garden liaising with Mr. Fulton. Mr. S Pimblett proposed that £30 is spent on a gift for Mr. Fulton, Mr. C Clark seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.
- 17771 Allotments**

It was agreed that the new tenancy allotment agreement needed to be revisited, this was due to information gained on a recent allotment course held by the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners. On advice from the NSALG Mr. P Johnson proposed that a notice to quit letter is sent to all allotment holders, this would give the Parish Council a fall-back position, but it was sincerely hoped that an amicable agreement with the allotment holders would be reached. Once the new draft allotment tenancy agreement is drawn up, a meeting between the Parish Council and the allotment holders would be arranged, Mr. P Clear seconded, the vote was carried unanimously. Mr. P Johnson proposed that Elsenham Parish Council become members of the 'National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners' at an annual cost of £55 this would give the Parish Council access to expert advice and guidance including legal matters, Mr. P Clear seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

17772 Cemetery High Street

Mr. P Johnson reported that Elsenham Cemetery only have 10 burial plots left, it would then become a closed cemetery. The question Mr. P Johnson put to the Council was, should the Council be looking for a new burial site and if so where and how? It was agreed that the Parish Council would be mindful of this fact in its responses to future consultation on development in the village. Mr. P Johnson reported that he had recently visited the cemetery after a grave had been dug; the only precaution the grave digger had taken in securing the open grave was 3 planks of wood. This is not adequate, an open grave should be completely covered. It was agreed that Mr. P Johnson would speak to the undertakers.

17773 Transport

Mr. Segar reported that he was hopeful he would be receiving his first finance claim from the bus company in the next few days.

CORRESPONDENCE

17774 Weekly Email News Digest – 4th February 2013. **Noted**

17775 Rural opportunities Bulletin. **Noted**

17776 ECA quiz night. **Noted**

17777 EALC E-Bulletin 7th February 2013. **Noted**

17778 Uttlesford District Council, New event available. **Noted**

17779 Weekly Email News Digest – 11th February 2013. **Noted**

17780 Fish & Chip van. **Noted**

17781 Latest MPs demand rsonline. **Noted**

17782 RCCE Village of the Year/Best kept village competition 2013. **Noted**

17783 Community Forums – 7th March 2013. **Noted**

17784 Broxted Quiz. **Noted**

17785 Essex Flood Seminar. **Noted**

17786 Weekly Email News Digest 18th February 2013. **Noted**

- 17787** Transport and Travel Update February 2013. **Noted**
17788 Rural campaign starts to bear fruit. **Noted**
17789 UDC Local Parking Standards. **Noted**
17790 Weekly Email News Digest – 25 February 2013. **Noted**

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

- 17791** Mr. C Clark informed the Parish Council that he would be attending a Viridor committee meeting on the 27th March, where funds of £58000 were to be distributed.
- 17792** Mr. R Bayley reported on the fish and chip van, he was trying to find a different site for the van to park with more street lighting, where the owner would feel more secure. The youths that upset the proprietor had not used any bad language or threats, and there was no evidence that they lived in the village.

The meeting closed at 10:10 pm.

Next Meeting; Monday, 8th April 2013 at 8.00pm held in the Memorial Hall.