

ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 6th February 2012

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

Members of the Public: 7. Cllr E Parr, Cllr D Morson,

Apologies for Absence. Mr. R Franklin.

17003 Mr. Andrew Taylor 'Assistant Director Planning and Building Control' at Uttlesford District Council gave a short presentation on site allocations and development management.
UDC has prepared (SHLAA) maps which identify sites submitted by land owners and developers to the council for possible development.
Identification of a site does not however, mean that UDC will consider it appropriate for development. The views of the residents are being sought on which sites they think are suitable and which are not.

17004 **Declarations of Interest** None.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

17005 Mr. Chris Bush of 'Elsenham History Society' voiced his concern about the proposed alterations that the parish council were considering to the lych gate at Elsenham cemetery. Mr. Bush provided the Parish Council with photographs and diagrams with his suggestions. It was agreed to invite Mr. Chris Bush to an on-site committee meeting, as his views would be greatly valued on the restoration of the lych gate.

17006 A villager reported that many of the paths in Elsenham had not been treated with salt, leaving the pavements dangerous. Mr. S Pimblett said that he had not received many phone calls from residents requesting salt, so still had plenty left, and would be happy to deliver to any villagers who required a bag. The Parish Clerk should be contacted if residents would like a bag; the salt is for the pavements and roads, not for personal driveways.

17007 **Minutes** -The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2012, having been circulated, was approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

17008 **Planning Working Party Report.**

Plans Received:

- (i) **UTT/0003/12/FUL** Single storey side extension and replacement conservatory roof. Elm Close Elsenham. Mr. R Whitehead, 34 Elm Close Elsenham Bishops Stortford Herts. Gird Ref 534-266. The Parish Council's reply; 'No Objection'
- (ii) **UTT/2328/12/FUL** Proposed two storey dwelling, land adjacent to 77 New Road Ugley. The Parish Council's reply; 'The house crowds the site, namely that the full width of the site is required to accommodate the footprint of the proposed building, with the walls of the building forming site boundaries on two sides.'

17009

Playing Field Committee Report – Mr. P Clear recommended to Full Council that Mr. Burke's contract for grass cutting be continued for a further two years starting 1st April 2012. Mr. G Woollvin seconded, the vote was carried.

The work required in Elsenham cemetery was discussed. It was agreed to spend £70 from the cemetery budget to remove fallen leaves, broken twigs, and prune the small saplings growing in the cemetery. Mr. P Clear proposed and Mr. G Woollvin seconded, the vote was carried. It was also noted that the large tree near the front gate may require attention where it overhangs the railway embankment. Mr. P Clear reported that in his opinion the old storage building behind the chapel should be demolished, as it is in the process of falling down, and could be considered a safety hazard. Not all councillors agreed with this, the concern being that if the building was demolished, the Parish Council would not be able to get planning permission in the future for another structure, if one was required. It was agreed that all councillors would try to visit the cemetery to have a look at the building so it could be discussed at a later date. The chapel is generally in a good state of repair, although some attention is needed. The lych gate may require new gate posts, and the woodwork needs treatment and some steel bolts may require to be replaced. New waste bins are also required.

17010

Finance Committee Report – Mrs. P Lees proposed that Mr. M Pitcher receive up to two hours training session from the RBS to improve his understanding of the financial software. Mr. P Johnson seconded, all councillors agreed.

17011

Housing Development in Elsenham – Mrs. P Lees reported that 'Save Our Village' leaflets had been delivered to every house in Elsenham and it was vital that each member of a household responded. Mr. G Gardner, who held the position of 'Head of Planning' at Essex County Council before he retired, has written a report for the Joint Parish Councils Steering Group stating the best approach Elsenham Parish Council could present would be, 'that Elsenham should not be identified as a 'Key village; it is unsuitable for being a 'main focus for development in the rural area'. Elsenham should be included in Rural Settlement – Type A.' The Parish Council agreed that Mrs. P Lees, Mr. P Johnson and Mr. P Clear should write the response on behalf of Elsenham Parish Council taking this approach. Mrs P Lees said she would send a copy of the

response to all Councillors by the 20th March, which would allow a week for any comments councillors may wish to make, before submitted the document to UDC.

17012 Mrs. P Lees and Mr. P Clear agreed to respond to the urgent request for support from CEO, Suffolk Association of Local Councils, for the proposal to 'Empower Town and Parish Councils'. It was proposed by Mr. P Johnson and seconded by Mrs. P Lees that the response is sent to Sir Alan Haselhurst, our local MP.

17013 It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged to discuss at the responses that Elsenham Parish Council will make with regard to the LDF and new housing planning applications.

17014 **Right of Way and Open Spaces Committee Report** – Mr S Pimblett reported that the work on the Spinney had been cancelled for Tuesday 7th due to adverse weather. A bridge on Footpath 27, near Elsenham golf course, is in need of repair and renovation. It is planned to do this work on Thursday, 23rd February 2012; volunteers are needed
Mr. P Johnson read out the tree warden's report. Heather Salvidge had a site meeting with Ann Hooper (ECC Tree Officer) about the trees in Station Road and discussed maintenance/management responsibilities with her; she is to ask for a definitive statement as to property boundaries to try and clarify ownership. The owners are aware of the position regarding the dying oak tree on the boundary of Fenman Court car park, but so far have taken no action.
Ann Hooper confirmed that Essex County Council last year revoked all its TPO's, but Ben Smeeden at UDC pointed out that all TPO's since 1974 had been District Orders and that therefore the orders covering the two groups of trees in The Orchard development site are still operative. The time is right for felling in the Spinney; this will begin in the near future. Heather has found six emergent bee orchids, which she hopes to protect. Items that concerned her in the cemetery were the ivy on the trees and the hedge on the western side which needs to be kept under control.

17015 **District and County Councillors' Reports** – Cllr. D Morson, reported that due to the 'New Home Bonus Money' allocated to each UDC ward councillor, Cllr. E Parr and Cllr. D Morson have two thousand pounds to split between Henham and Elsenham. Cllr. D Morson asked the Parish Council to consider the best way to divide the money and how the money would be best spent.
Cllr. D Morson reported that the 'One Stop' shop had been unsuccessful in changing their licence conditions for selling alcohol.

Cllr. E Parr informed Elsenham Parish Council that she had been invited to the planning presentation by 'The Fairfield Partnership' and would report back findings at the next meeting.

17016 **Clerk's Report** – The Clerk distributed 'The Parish Councillor's Guide' books by Paul Clayden to the Councillors.

Permission was given to the ECA to hold the 'Annual Village Fete' and the 'Fireworks Display' on the Playing Field for this year.

The Clerk explained that the BBC had formed a switchover help scheme. The Switchover Help Scheme is to help everyone aged 75 or over or eligible disabled people by arranging for an approved installer to supply and install everything they need to switch their television to digital. As Elsenham will no longer receive the analogue signal after April 2012 the Clerk asked that if anyone knew of a villager that would benefit from this help scheme would they please let her know.

The forthcoming courses were read out; Cemetery Management on 9th February, the Clerk is booked on this course, and it was agreed that Mr. P Johnson should also attend. Councillor Training Day on 7th March 2012, Mrs. F Lambert asked to attend. The Clerk to attend Law and Procedures on 15th March 2012, and Mr. M Pitcher and the Clerk to attend Finance on 28th March 2012

The Clerk arranged for the LDF Consultation Documents to be circulated amongst the councillors.

It was agreed to add Mr. P Johnson as a signatory to the Elsenham Parish Council bank account.

It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for the annual inspection of the playground by RoSPA.

The Clerk asked if a letter could be sent to a 7 year old boy who had been helping the village litter picking. He has been fostered in the village for the last two years and is now moving on to a new home. Agreed. The Clerk to write letter.

It was agreed to renew the membership to the 'Records of Uttlesford History'.

The following cheques were signed by Mr. C Clarke and Mr. S Pimblett.

002363 Millway office supplies £7.99	002364 E.C.A. £7.50
002365 E.C.A. £45.00	002366 Cartledge £96.46
002367 Ikon Systems £57.60	002368 C. Wylde £62.95
002369 L C Johnson £478.52	002370 Gratuity payment
002371 E.A.L.C. £120.00	002372 E.A.L.C. £70.00
002373 P Lees £75.00	002374 J Barker £186.50
002375 L Johnson £113.82	002376 L Johnson £89.94
002377 D Denis £54.50	002378 Recorders meb £10.00

17017

Community Speed Watch – Mrs. F Lambert reported that they had recently received two more boards for use when out on CSW which say 'NO EXCUSE'.

The 'No Excuses' campaign was launched by the police on the 11th January 2012, and members of the 'Essex Casualty Reduction Board' will be targeting motorists who speed, fail to wear a seatbelt, drink and drive and use mobile devices whilst driving. As part of the campaign, a series of events known as 'Surround a Town' will be held across the county, combining police enforcements, speed watch events at schools, and community speed watch groups. There has already been a 'Surround a Town' event in Chelmsford and Harlow with nearly 200 drivers being issued with fixed penalty notices.

- 17018** **Transport** – Mr. M Pitcher reported that the local trains were run by National Express East Anglia, have changed to Abellio, under the operating name of Greater Anglia. The village is still awaiting the sign for the bus stop in Stansted Road.
- 17019** **Litter-picking Weekend** – Mr. S Pimblett suggested that a litter picking weekend is organised for May, everybody agreed this was a good idea; lots of volunteers are needed to make this a success.
- 17020** **CORRESPONDENCE**
- 17021** Email Saffron Walden Museum. **Noted**
- 17022** Email Recycling Centre. **Noted**
- 17023** Email from Peter Snow Cabinet Minutes. **Noted**
- 17024** Email EALC E-Bulletin 05.01.2012. **Noted**
- 17025** Email South Community Forum 28/02/12. **Noted**
- 17026** Email Weekly planning application from UDC. **Noted**
- 17027** Email New arrangement for refuse collection. **Noted**
- 17028** Email Linda Golding Coffee/Road Show 'It's Not too late. **Noted**
- 17029** Email Rethink the role of the local authority. **Noted**
- 17030** Email From Andrew Taylor – Letter to the press. **Noted**
- 17031** Email Walkers' Projects 2012. **Noted**
- 17032** Email Parish Magazine Article, Spinal Injuries Association. **Noted**
- 17033** Email Sue Haydon South Community forum 28/02/12. **Noted**
- 17034** Email Andrew Taylor Next Parish Forum. **Noted**
- 17035** Email Rebecca Dobson Cabinet 19th January – Agenda. **Noted**
- 17036** Email Weekly planning application from UDC 06/01/12. **Noted**
- 17037** Email EALC-E Bulletin 12/01/2012. **Noted**
- 17038** Email Civil Protection and emergency Planning Meeting. **Noted**
- 17039** Email Transport and Travel Update January 2012 Edition. **Noted**
- 17040** Email News Digest 16 January 2012. **Noted**
- 17041** Email Broxsted Supper Quiz 2012. **Noted**
- 17042** Email Fuel Poverty Leaflet UDC. **Noted**
- 17043** Email Planning. **Noted**
- 17044** Email Essex Works win Family tickets. **Noted**
- 17045** Email Highways Panel Agenda. **Noted**
- 17046** Email The Future of Cyber Security. **Noted**
- 17047** Email UDC New event available. **Noted**
- 17048** Email Complimentary public sector events. **Noted**
- 17049** Email Weekly Email News Digest 23th January 2012. **Noted**
- 17050** Email The Future of Cyber Security. **Noted**
- 17052** Email Highways Rangers Service. **Noted. It was agreed that the service of the Rangers could prove useful with some of the items on the village inspection report.**
- 17053** Email EALC E-Bulletin 26/01/2012 Localism Act Birmingham. **Noted**
- 17054** Email LDF and Parish Forum. **Noted**
- 17055** Email Making the Links – February Edition. **Noted No decision on Elsenham Quarry has been made as yet.**
- 17056** Email News Digest – 30th January 2012. **Noted**
- 17057** Email Saffron Walden Museum. **Noted**
- 17058** Email Planning Committee 08/02/12 agenda. **Noted**
- 17059** Email Scrutiny Committee – 7 February agenda. **Noted**

17060 Email BAA to sell back houses. **Noted**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17061 Mrs. F Lambert informed the Council she had spoken to Mr. Warden, regarding the letter sent to the Elsenham Parish Council about the foliage on the pavement between Elsenham and Stansted Mountfitchet. The part of the road referred to, belongs to Stansted Mountfitchet. Mrs Lambert gave Mr. Warden the Highways Dept. phone number.

17062 Mr. G Jackson asked if the village are preparing any celebrations for the Queens Jubilee. Mr. P Johnson thought that a Musical/Dance is being organised in the village hall.

17063 Mr. N Edwards reported that Stansted Parish Council had asked for volunteers to be stewards for the Olympic torch procession. If anybody would like to volunteer from Elsenham, please contact Elsenham Parish Clerk.

The meeting closed at 10.45

Next Meeting; Monday, 5th March 2012 at 8.00pm held in the Memorial Hall.