

Elsenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 8th April 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, Mr. M Pitcher, Mr. R Bayley, Mrs. L Johnson.

Members of the Public: 17, Cllr. E Parr. Cllr. R Gooding.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr. D Morson, Mrs. P Lees.

17793 **Declarations of Interest** – Mr. R Bayley declared an interest in allotments, as he has recently become an allotment tenant.

17794 It was with regret that Mr. N Edwards read out a letter of resignation from Mr. Colin Clarke. Mr. C Clarke had been a member of Elsenham Parish Council for over twelve years, and had enjoyed his time spent on the Council, but due to health reasons with members of his family it was with deep regret he tendered his resignation. Mr. N Edwards said he was very sorry that Mr. Clarke was leaving and thanked him for all the dedication he had given to the village as a Councillor, all the Councillors echoed these sentiments. Mr. C Clarke was the 'Viridor Waste Management' Council representative, Mr. R Bayley agreed to take over this position. The Parish Clerk is to start the procedures of advertising for a new Councillor.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

17795 A resident stated if you did an internet search with the word Elsenham, the first web page that was listed is very derogatory to Elsenham and its residents. The Parish Council felt that this was unfortunate but there was nothing the Council could do to remove the item and it did not warrant a reply.

17796 Mrs. Asinya repeated her request for signs to be placed at Ambrose Corner to denote the entrance and exit. Mr. N Edwards reinforced the fact that this land did not belong to the Parish Council, and is in fact in private ownership. The Parish Clerk had asked the land owner in January, but would contact them again.

17797 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2013, with the alteration to minute 17760 to read 'The playing field committee are awaiting for 'Earthworms to submit their quotation for the annual maintenance'

having been circulated, was approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

17798

District/County Councillors Report

Cllr. R Gooding thanked Mr. C Clarke for his work as the Council's Viridor representative, and said he had enjoyed working with him.

Due to the long spell of very cold weather conditions, lots of potholes have appeared on the roads in Essex. Potholes cannot be repaired in cold weather, so as it is now becoming warmer, 44 teams from ECC have now started the job of repairing them.

The drainage and flooding still continues to be a problem around this area. UDC has now teamed up with environment agencies to look at the problem. Landowners have a new responsibility, that they must keep all ditches clean on their land, this will help alleviate some of the problem.

Cllr. R Gooding reported that some rural areas may have to wait before B.T. increase the Broadband speed. To be moved up the waiting list residents need to log on to www.superfastbroadband.org.

Cllr. R Gooding had received a complaint from a resident, that when buying a bottle of wine from 'One Stop' in the village, his passport had been scanned. The Parish Council confirmed that when identification is shown in 'One Stop', the shop assistant has to key in the customer's date of birth, this is probably what had happened, as there are no facilities or reasons why a passport would be scanned.

Cllr. R Gooding reported that he now had funding of £220,000 towards establishing a new pre-school in Elsenham. This is nowhere near enough, so to gain additional funding, the village needs to show that there is a demand for a pre-school.

17799

Cllr. E Parr reported that 'Fairfield Partnership' had now submitted their planning proposal for 800 homes, leading to 3000. All households would be receiving a pack from 'Save Our Village' with an envelope to return comments to UDC by the 2nd May 2013.

UDC has now produced a new 'Local Plan Position Statement'. The effect on Elsenham is, policy 1 – Land West of Station Road is amended to

- Inclusion in the policy of the requirement for a contribution towards a community centre rather than the provision of a community centre.

Policy 2 – Land West of Hall Road is amended to

- Increasing the number of dwellings from 115 to 130
- Increasing the site area from 6 hectares to 6.5 hectares to reflect ownership.

Cllr.E Parr said she would try and collate all the complaints regarding the 'Orchard' development in Station Road, as many complaints have gone straight to Mrs. Sonia Williams at UDC, and some to the Parish Clerk.

17800

Plans Received

- (i) **UTT/13/0449/FUL** Replace existing building and stores with a new workshop and stores building. Loppingdales, Grants End, Green Street, Elsenham, Bishop's Stortford. Mr. Eugene Corr. **No comment**
- (ii) **UTT/13/0208/FUL** Erection of wooden outbuilding to serve as home office. 3 Wells Cottages, Robin Hood Road, Elsenham. **No comment**
- (iii) **UTT/13/0622/HHF** Single storey rear and side extension, 13 Oziers, Elsenham. **No comment**
- (iv) **UTT/13/0364/FUL** The formation of a maximum 7 metre high x maximum 25 metre wide Acoustic Earth Bund, to the southern and western boundaries of the site of Motts Hall which is a listed building. Motts Hall, Gaunts End, Elsenham. The Council have concerns about the access and exit of the lorries leaving the site. A time restriction should be put in place regarding the movement of the construction vehicles. There are also concerns regarding the amount of noise, dust and pollution and how this will affect the residents that live nearby. The drainage situation is also a concern, and also the bund cuts across a public footpath.
- (v) **UTT/13/0552/HHF** Proposed front porch, 44 Alsa Gardens Elsenham. **No comment.**

Decisions Made

- (i) **UTT/12/6000/FUL** Erection of two dwellings and cartlodes with new vehicular access, 27 Mill Close, Elsenham, Bishop's Stortford. Mr. P Bye. Refuse. **Noted**
- (ii) **UTT/12/6002/FUL** Erection of new dwelling and cartlodes. 27 Mill Close, Elsenham Bishop's Stortford. Approve with conditions. **Noted**

17801

Playing Field Committee Report

The playing field committee held a meeting last week to discuss the annual maintenance of the playing field. Earthworms have submitted a quotation of £3,800 but with a recommendation that a further £4000 is spent this year on a top dressing, to take out any lumps and bumps leaving a lush surface, this would make a total of £7,800. The budget for maintenance of the playing field this year is £5000, the football club is contributing a further £2000, leaving a short fall of £800. Mr. P Clear proposed that the Parish Council spend a further £800 on the playing field maintenance this year, Mr. G Woolvin seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

Mr. P Clear proposed that the Parish Council spend up to £200 to replace the wooded boarder, which was broken around the wooded climbing frame in the children's playground, Mr. G Woolvin seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

17802 Finance Committee Report

The following cheques and payments were approved for signing.

100053	Millway Office Supplies	£220.08
100054	Amenity Services	£130.00
Card	Amazon	£ 17.00
BACS	G A Coleman	£648.00
BACS	L C Johnson	£150.00
BACS	P Clear	£ 10.48
BACS	L Johnson	£ 50.00
100055	G Jackson	£ 70.26
100056	ICCM	£ 90.00
100057	Affinity Water Ltd	£ 15.98
100058/9/BACs	Wages	£1481.55
BACs	M Burke	£896.50

17803 A summary of receipts and payments were circulated, there were no questions.

17804 The Parish Clerk had recorded the number of extra hours she had worked over the last four months, on average the Parish Clerk was working an extra 22 hours per month. Mr. M Pitcher proposed that the Parish Clerk's hours are increased from 56 to 72 hours per month, Mr. P Johnson seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

17805 Mr. M Pitcher informed the Parish Council that at the Finance meeting it had been agreed to pay the Parish Clerk overtime accumulating over the last 4 months.

17806 Mr. M Pitcher proposed that the Parish Council pay for a laminator and ink cartridge for the NHW at a cost of £70.26, this would take them over their budget by £45.26. Mrs. F Lambert seconded the vote was carried unanimously.

17807 Housing Development in Elsenham

Mr. P Johnson agreed to attend a planning committee site meeting for the 'Land West of Hall Road Development', he would also attend the meeting at UDC in the afternoon. This would give Mr. P Johnson the opportunity to raise questions about the changes in the plans, such as the school drop off point, which had been a big attraction of this development and was now no longer conceded by UDC, also UDC had not taken any consideration of their own

waste study, this had stated that the drain system in Elsenham would not be able to cope with any more housing. The traffic report had not taken on board any of the Parish Councils concerns regarding the blind corner and the increase in traffic using Hall Road, which is a very narrow and dangerous road.

The 'Joint Parish Steering Group' will be holding a meeting on the 15th April, to discuss Mr. Geoff Gardiner's recommendations on how the public and the Parish Council should respond to the 'Fairfield' development.

Mr. N Edwards reported that he had attended a meeting with the Major of Saffron Walden Mr. David Watson and the parish Chairs from Thaxted, Newport, Stansted and Great Dunmow. The meeting was called to gather parish councils that are most affected by UDC's housing plans and find some common ground between them, which would allow the parishes to try and influence UDC. It was agreed that a joint approach would work best with all the villages working together, each Parish Council would be given the opportunity to voice their comments to planning applications that are submitted for the surrounding villages. To allow this to work all Parish Councils would have to use common sense, some development was necessary in this area, but councils can object en masse to developments that are clearly unsustainable. Another meeting is to be held in 3 weeks.

17808 Rights of Way and Open Spaces Committee Report

Mr. S Pimblett reported that the oak tree at Fenman court had now been cut back, not as much as the committee would have liked, only the minimum amount of work required to make the tree safe had been undertaken.

17809 Clerk's Report

After visiting Elsenham, Mr. Andrew Scullion from ECC reported that he did not think it was feasible to have another bus shelter in Station Road, this was due to the width of the pavement. A site visit is to be arranged to discuss other options which could include moving the bus stop.

The Parish Council decided to give the proprietor of the burger van permission to park his van in the playing field top car park on a month's trial basis. The forms for the 'Best Kept Village' have been sent off, village contact details have been placed on all the notice boards as this was one of the requirements. Mr. N Edwards reported that someone had put graffiti on the train time table, the notice boards and the gold letter box. The Parish Clerk is to arrange for the graffiti to be removed, the police will be informed.

It was proposed by Mr. Ray Franklin and seconded by Mr. Colin Clarke that the Parish Council renew their membership to EALC at a cost of £469.46, the vote was carried unanimously.

The Parish Council asked the Elsenham Village History Society for their views on the Sarson Stone, The Elsenham Village History Society voted overwhelmingly in favour on the Sarson Stone being placed on Tye Green.

The Council were reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting was to be held on the 22nd April in The Village Hall at 8.00pm.

EALC are running a planning course on the 1st May, Mr. P Clear, Mr. M Pitcher and Mr. R Bayley are to attend.

A letter from EALC was read out, congratulating the Parish Council on a Gold Award for its children's playground and a Silver Award for its playing field. The 'Senior Circle' has now closed due to lack of support, the Parish Council donated £100 towards helping to get this club established. Mrs. J Jarvis has now returned the money. She hoped the money would go towards another charity or flowers for the village.

An email had been received with regards to setting up a pre-school in Elsenham, this would require renting a corner of the recreation ground. The Parish Council agreed that the best solution would be if one of the proposed developers were able to consider including such a facility in their plans. The email is to be sent on to the Primary School and Cllr. Gooding.

The Parish Clerk has asked the Highway Rangers to cut back the brambles along Station Road, as they are obstructing the pavement. The lilac tree on the corner of Broom Farm has been cut back, as it obscures the view at the junction.

The Parish Clerk thanked the Council for the voucher she had received as a late Christmas/Easter present.

A request had been made by 'Gleeson Strategic Land' to make a presentation at the next Parish Council meeting regarding the proposal for the site known as South of Stansted Road. As the next meeting is the 'Annual Parish Council Meeting' it was agreed that this would not be a good idea. The Parish Clerk is to contact the developer and ask them to give an exhibition for the village to allow villagers to have their say. If they agree to this then the Parish Council will hold an extraordinary meeting one hour before the 'Annual Parish Meeting' on the 22nd April 2013 and allow the developer to give a presentation.

The Parish Clerk informed the Council that she has now passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

17810

Cemetery Burials

It was agreed that more information and advice was needed before any resolution was made, on whether or not the Parish Council should be providing grave diggers with a cover to place on open graves, and shoring to stop graves from collapsing during the interment.

17811

Proposed Membership to Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium.

It was proposed by Mr. P Johnson and seconded by Mr. R Bayley that the Parish Council becomes members of the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium at an annual fee of £90 the vote was carried by 7 votes, with 3 abstentions.

17812 Chapel Restoration Project

The Council has accepted a quote from Diamond Cutters Ltd. A site meeting has been arranged for 17th April 2013 to discuss and confirm the work to be carried out. This is for the brick work only, there is still drainage work to be carried out at a later date.

17813 Allotments

It was suggested by 'Nockolds' the Parish Council solicitors, that the allotment tenancy agreement is changed to an allotment 'license'. The Council have asked Karen Kenny her opinion on this matter and are awaiting a reply. As The Parochial Parish Church own the land the allotments occupy, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been drafted between the PPC and the Parish Council, this was also shown to 'Nockolds' who were happy with the legality of it. The PCC however want to discuss it again before it is finalised. It is hoped that a meeting between the plot holders and the Parish Council can be arranged within the next month.

17814 The Orchards Development and Station Road.

Mr. N Edwards read out Mr. Segar's letter about his concerns regarding the development in Station Road, and what he saw as lack of interest by Councillors. Mr. N Edwards responded by saying that the Parish Council are doing all that they can. Councillors have held a meeting with 'Charles Church', The Parish Clerk has reported every complaint to either Mrs Sonia Williams, (Enforcement Team Leader) at UDC, Highways the Police or directly to Charles Church developers. The Parish Council have very limited influence on these authorities and there is only so much that can be done - any action would be the responsibility of the respective enforcement authorities.

17815 Village Litter Pick

The litter pick day is to be held on Saturday 13th April from 10am till 1pm. Posters have been placed around the village.

17816 Bench at the Spinney

It was proposed by Mr. R Franklin and seconded by Mr. C Clarke that the Parish Council purchase preservatives and materials to apply to the seat in the Spinney up to the value of £30, the vote was carried unanimously.

17817 Transport

Mr. J Segar has recently placed an article in the 'Village News' asking for any complaints regarding the buses in Elsenham, he is now collating the responses and compiling a report, he will give a copy to the Parish Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE

17818 Weekly Email News Digest 4th March 2013. **Noted**

17819 New Public Right of Way interactive map. **Noted**

- 17820** EALC EBulletin. **Noted**
- 17821** Weekly Email News Digest 11th March 2013. **Noted**
- 17822** Parish Council planning advice. **Noted**
- 17823** First neighbourhood plan approved. **Noted**
- 17824** Emergency Planning Rest centre exercise. **Noted**
- 17825** EALC EBulletin 14th March 2013. **Noted**
- 17826** Weekly Email News Digest 18th March 2013. **Noted**
- 17827** SSE Campaign Update March 2013. **Noted**
- 17828** Publication of County Council Notice of Election. **Noted**
- 17829** Uttlesford Residents Health Forum. **Noted**
- 17830** Rural Services Network Twitter Account. **Noted**
- 17831** Community Led Planning Network Event 13th May 2013. **Noted**
- 17832** Parish Forum. **Noted**
- 17833** Local Plan Position Statement. **Noted**
- 17834** EPC Fairfield applications. **Noted**
- 17835** Local Plan. **Noted**
- 17836** Latest from UDC Media 22nd March 2013. **Noted**
- 17837** Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Consultation. **Noted**
- 17838** Uttlesford residents Health Forum. **Noted**
- 17839** Mr. Gordon Fulton Thank you email. **Noted**
- 17840** Weekly email News Digest 25th March 2013. **Noted**
- 17841** SSE Government's New Aviation Policy is a Hollow Sham. **Noted**
- 17842** Latest from UDC Media – correction. **Noted**
- 17843** Photos needed for 2014 Community Calendar. **Noted**
- 17844** Good Friday Walk. **Noted**
- 17845** Waste Collection arrangements. **Noted**
- 17846** EALC EBulletin 27th March 2013. **Noted**
- 17847** Disturbed by Night Flights. **Noted**
- 17848** Planning Committee 10th April 2013. **Noted**

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

- 17849** Mr. P Clear reported that the Elsenham Football Club had agreed to contribute £2,000 to the maintenance of the playing field.
- 17850** Mr. S Pimblett asked that 'Dog Bins' are put on the next agenda, there had been complaints that some dog walkers using the footpath by the Elsenham Cricket club, were bagging their dog waste but then leaving it behind the cricket pavilion or hanging in trees.
- 17851** Mr. S Pimblett said that he would remove the poppy wreaths from the Memorial Gardens.

17852 It was noted that today Baroness Margaret Thatcher died, she was the longest serving British Prime Minister from 1979 – 1990 and the only woman to have held the office.

In accordance with section 1 of the Public Bodies [admissions to meeting] Act 1960, the public and press will be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

17853 **Vacancy for a recreation ground litter picker.**
It was proposed by Mr. Peter Clear and seconded by Mr. G Woolvin that Mr. M Burke is contracted for 3 hours per week to pick up rubbish in the playing fields, the vote was carried unanimously.
It was proposed by Mr. P Clear and seconded by Mr. G Woolvin that Mrs. C Wylde's hours are increased to 10 hours per week and her area will now include the Memorial Gardens, the vote was carried unanimously.

The meeting closed at 10.40pm

Next Meeting; Monday, 13th May 2013 at 8.00pm held in the Memorial Hall.