



## **Elsenham Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 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:** 12, Cllr E Parr, Cllr D Morson, Cllr R Gooding.

**Apologies for Absence:** None.

**17715        Declarations of Interest - Mr. R Franklin** declared an interest in the restoration of the chapel and lych gate, due to being a member of the Elsenham History Society.

#### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**17716**        Mr. Segar was pleased with the improvements that had been carried out on the notice board in Station Road.

**17717**        Mr. Segar reported that during the icy weather the playing fields car park had not been salted or cleared of ice, making it very dangerous especially for the older residents, some of whom would not get out of their cars for fear of slipping. Mr. P Clear agreed to bring this point up at the next playing fields committee meeting. Mr. S Pimblett said that he had kept all the grit bins topped up and delivered bags of salt to volunteers in the village.

**17718**        A resident of Stansted stated that he had attended this Elsenham Parish Council meeting to see if there was to be any discussion on gypsy and travellers sites, as potential sites have been indicated in Henham, Takeley and Stansted, Mr. N Edwards replied that gypsy and travellers was not on the agenda this month, but he was most welcome at the meeting.

- 17719** Mrs. Braidwood raised the point that over the Christmas period the village went over two weeks without a waste collection. Cllr. Ray Gooding said that Essex County Council had received numerous complaints regarding this. It would hopefully not happen again, the refuse collections had been reduced to a four day week to save money, and this had caused lots of teething problems.
- 17200** Mrs Asinya asked about the progress of an addition bus shelter in the village, the Parish Clerk replied that Mr. Andrew Scullion (Passenger Transport Officer at Highways) was due to visit Elsenham to assess the possibility of a bus shelter in Station Road, if he felt that this was not feasible then other potential sites would be identified in the village, Mr Scullion will be sending his report to the Parish Council.
- 17201** Dr. Mott reported on the lack of information on the Hall Road development, and that no public exhibition had been held. Mr. N Edwards replied that the Elsenham Parish Council was soon to be holding a meeting regarding this development, one of the comments that the Parish Council could state was the lack of a public exhibition.
- 17202** **Minutes** – The Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013 with the amendment to 17678 to read ‘A resident living in Henham Road’ having been circulated, was approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 17203** **District/County Councillors Report**  
Cllr. R Gooding reported that ‘Home Start’ which gives support to families, were under threat of having to close due to Essex County Council not continuing to fund their work from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. This has now been resolved and Home start is to receive funding so they are now no longer under threat of closure.  
He also reported on flooding in the village due to drains overflowing. The situation is not helped that the village is served by two different water providers, Thames Water and Anglia Water. With more housing developments in Elsenham the situation will become worse. Essex Highways are to produce a report on the problem by the end of this week. Cllr. R Gooding said he would keep the Parish Council informed.
- 17204** Cllr. E Parr and Cllr. D Morson reported that they had attended a meeting with Mr. Andrew Taylor (Assistant Director Planning and Building Control at UDC) regarding The Crown Estate intent to renege on their commitment to provide a community hall for Elsenham village. Mr. A Taylor informed the Councillors that it was unlikely that The Crown Estate would provide a new hall as their proposed development was not on a large enough scale. The scenario would probably be that all three developers would contribute to a new community hall. This implied that UDC had already decided that Elsenham would get all

three developments. Mr. A Taylor also reported at the meeting that if Stansted Airport has a second runway the Local development Plan would have to be re-addressed.

Cllr. E Parr reported that The Fairfield Partnership development is likely to go before the UDC Planning Committee in April or May; it may be rejected by UDC and go to appeal. UDC has a deficit of 800 houses in their local development plan and as The Fairfield Partnership development is for that exact number this may go in their favour.

**17205**

**Plans Received**

**UTT/12/6002/FUL** – Erection of two dwellings and cartlodes with new vehicular access. 27 Mill Close Elsenham. The Council are concerned that parking may be an issue and that the UDC parking standards must be adhered to.

**UTT/12/6000/FUL** – Application for 1 new house adjacent to No 27 Mill Close and a range of carlodes for both No 27 and the adjacent new house. The Council feel that the site is overcrowded and that UDC parking standards must be adhered to.

**UTT/13/0177/OP – Planning development, Hall Road, Elsenham.**

It was agreed to hold an additional planning working party meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February to discuss this planning application in greater detail.

**Decisions Made**

**UTT/12/5656/FUL** – Demolition of outbuilding and brick boundary wall. The Crown, Elsenham. Approve with Conditions. Noted

**UTT/12/5508/FUL** – proposed development of 6 new dwellings. Land at Alsa Leys, Elsenham. Approve with Conditions. Noted

**17206**

**Playing Field Committee Report**

Mr. P Clear reported on the playing fields committee meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013. Two quotations had been received, one for £550 from Amenity Services to cut back the vegetation around the boundary of the recreation ground and to tidy any damaged trees, the other from Mr. M Burke for £130 to repair the damaged car park barrier. These had been agreed by the playing field committee as they were within their spending budget. The annual maintenance had been discussed at the meeting, the price from Sports Care was within the budget allotted for 2013/14. The ground may need a top dressing this year to improve the drainage, the committee was waiting for a quote. It was agreed last year that the football club would pay 50% of the annual maintenance of the playing fields for 2013/14.

**17207**

**Finance Committee Report**

The following cheques and payments were approved for signing.

100038/41	Wages	£ 79.15
BACs	M Burke	£ 580.00

100039	EALC	£ 195.00
100040	EALC	£ 60.00
Card	Amazon	£ 33.25
Card	Argos	£ 15.99
Card	Argos	£ 13.94
BACs	Wages	£ 483.52
BACs	Pickford	£ 4389.60
100042	Millway	£ 185.95
BACs	M Burke	£ 161.50

- 17208** A summary of receipts and payments were circulated, there were no questions.
- 17209** Mr. M Pitcher explained that the Parish Council was now using a debit card and electronic payments as well as cheques, all payments still required two signatures.
- 17210** The signatures and the address on the bank account the Parish Council hold with NS&I are no longer valid, and new signatures were required, Mr. R Franklin, Mr. C Clarke and Mr. P Clear signed the bank document to become signature on the account.
- 17211** Mr. M Pitcher proposed that up to £40 is spent on a mobile pay-as-you-go phone for the Parish Clerk to make outgoing calls, Mrs. P Lees seconded the vote was carried unanimously.
- 17212** Mrs. P Lees proposed and Mr. M Pitcher seconded that gift vouchers for the value of £25 are purchased as a late Christmas present for the Parish Council employees, the vote was carried unanimously.
- 17213** **Housing Development in Elsenham**  
Mrs. P Lees proposed that some of the money in the 'Save our village' budget is used to employ a lawyer to fight The Crown Estate on the grounds of misrepresentation of the agreement to provide the village with a new community hall. Mrs. P Lees agreed to research the matter and to bring the results to the next Parish Council meeting.
- 17214** Mr. N Edwards reported that The Fairfield Partnership had contacted Stansted Parish Council for a private meeting, Stansted Parish Council refused.
- 17215** **Rights of Way and Open Spaces Committee Report**  
**Tree Warden's Report.** Noted  
Mr. S Pimblett reported the footpath that was being blocked by airport-related car parking had now been resolved.

A lilac tree on the DeMandiville green has been cut down without authority; which could constitute criminal damage on Parish Council land. Mr. R Bayley agreed to write to the village magazine stating that if any damage is inflicted in the future on Parish Council land, the Parish Council will take further action.

**17216**

**Clerk's Report**

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had written a letter of 'thanks' to Mrs. H Salvidge for all the work she does as Elsenham's Tree Warden.

The Clerk had contacted the police about the lorries from The Orchard development, the police had reported back that evidence was needed, but they would continue to patrol the development and deal with any offences that come to light.

The Clerk had contacted Highways for the second time regarding the broken road in Leigh Drive leading to the playing fields, as yet no reply had been received.

The Clerk had contacted Mrs. J Jarvis regarding the donation of £100 that the Parish Council donated to help restart the 'Senior Citizens Club', Mrs. J Jarvis replied that the club was up and running, although numbers are a bit thin.

The Clerk read out a letter of thanks from Mr. Segar on behalf of the Poppy Appeal, for the donation they received from the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Mr. C Clarke and seconded by Mrs. P Lees that permission is granted to the Elsenham Community Association to hold the annual village fete for 2013 in the playing field, the vote was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. P Clear that the Parish Council except the quote from Amenity Services for £690 to remove the Cherry tree on The Green at De Mandeville Road, as it shows signs of decay, Mr. P Johnson seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. P Johnson and seconded by Mrs. P Lees that the membership for the 'Records of Uttlesford History' is renewed at the fee of £5 plus a £5 donation, the vote was carried unanimously.

The Parish Clerk reported that she has received an email address from Charles Church which is to be used for any issues or concerns regarding the development in Station Road. If any residents have issues that they would like Charles Church to address, they should inform the Parish Clerk who will forward it to Charles Church, the email address will be checked daily by the Construction Secretary, Sara Grainger.

- 17217** Mr. J Barker an employee of the Parish Council had informed the Council that he would not be able to carry out his duties this week due to health reasons.
- 17218** **Cemetery Chapel Restoration Project**  
Mr. P Johnson and Mr. P Clear had attended a meeting with the structural engineer, so that a schedule of work can be drawn up and put out for tender. Mr. P Johnson asked the council if Mr. P Clear and himself could represent the council and vet the tenders, and make commitments to spend monies on behalf of the council. The £3000 grant money from UDC had already been agreed by the Parish Council (minute 17673) to be allocated to the restoration of the chapel to restore it as a historical centre, so the Parish Council agreed that Mr. P Johnson and Mr. P Clear could proceed with the project.
- 17219** **The Lych Gate**  
The work to repair and conserve the Lych gate has now been completed. At present the new wood is very noticeable against the colour of the original timber, the Parish Council were advised not to stain the new wood as this could be detrimental in the longer term, and over a short period the new timber would blend in. It was agreed by the council that a high quality job had been carried out and Lych gate looked excellent.
- 17220** **The Oziens Open Green**  
The Green at Oziens is currently registered to Federated Homes (a company in liquidation). Mr. P Johnson proposed that the Parish Council instruct Nockolds (Council's Solicitor) to investigate and advice on the feasibility of a possible claim by the Parish Council to take over the ownership of the Oziens Green land. The claim would be for Bona Vacantia to the Treasury Solicitors on the possible ground that the land is now effectively 'ownerless' and that the Parish Council would be able to preserve and maintain the land in the future, Mr. R Bayley seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.
- 17221** **Placing of 'Gordon Barker's' Stone**  
In 2011 while Mr. Barker was ploughing the field opposite Hall Road, the plough hit a very large stone. The stone was confirmed by the members of the Saffron Walden Museum to be a 'Sarsen Stone' dating back to the ice age, and weighing half a ton. The owner of the stone would like it to be displayed for local residents and visitors to see and appreciate this part of our geological history. The Council agreed to ask the Elsenham History Society there advice and views on where best to place the stone.
- 17222** **Allotments**  
It was proposed by Mr. P Clear that the Parish Council agree to the allotment working group recommendation that the new allotment tenancy agreement

is circulated to all allotment holders, with a covering letter asking for comments by the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013, Mr. S Pimblett seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. P Clear that the cost of a plot should not be agreed until further consultation, is completed due to plots varying in sizes, and to set one cost for all did not seem fair.

It was proposed by Mr. P Clear that up to £400 is approved for the purchase and installing plot designation posts and number plates, Mrs. P Lees seconded, the vote was carried unanimously

**17223 Transport**

Mr. J Segar reported that he was going to be placing an article in the village magazine asking people to report any issues/complaints with the bus service. Unless people were prepared to fill out a form, with dates and times when a problem occurred, then complaints could not be followed up. Mrs. F Lambert stated that a bus had been recorded doing 37mph along Stansted Road, the bus was also so dirty that the number plate was unreadable.

**17224 Green Waste Skip Schedule**

Mr. P Clear proposed that Elsenham village does not take part in UDC garden waste skip service for 2013/14 due to the very high cost, Mr. C Clarke seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**17225** Weekly Email News Digest 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013. **Noted**

**17226** Free training for Uttlesford parishes 11<sup>th</sup> February. **Noted**

**17227** Transport and travel update January 2013. **Noted**

**17228** Proposals for new district wards meeting 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013. **Noted**

**17229** Weekly Email News Digest 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013. **Noted**

**17230** Giving Parishes and Town council a voice in localism. **Noted**

**17231** Rural Opportunities Bulletin. **Noted**

**17232** Broxted Supper Quiz. **Noted**

**17233** Planning Committee 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013. **Noted**

**17234** Documents ready for cabinet meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013. **Noted**

**17235** Next Parish Forum. **Noted**

**17236** Integrated Risk Management Plan 2013 - 2016. **Noted**

**17237** Sale of Stansted Airport. **Noted**

**17238** Weekly Email News Digest – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013. **Noted**

**17239** ECC Superfast Broadband (BDUK) Communications. **Noted**

**17240** Uttlesford Local Highway Panel. **Noted**

**17241** Campaign Update SSE January 2013. **Noted**

**Items to go on next agenda** (at the Chairman's discretion, no decisions can lawfully be made under this item). None

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Next Meeting; Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 8.00pm held in the Memorial Hall