



**Elsenham Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held in The Memorial Hall at 8.00pm on 6 February 2023**

Members of Elsenham Parish Council (EPC) present at the meeting:
Cllr. G Mott (Chairman GM), Cllr. B Donald (Vice-Chair BD), Cllr. G Bentley (GB),
Cllr. P Jarvis (PJ), Cllr. P Johnson (PJJ), Cllr. F Lambert (FL), Cllr. S Waite (SW)
and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk – LJ).

Members of the public present at the meeting:
7, plus Essex County Cllr. R Gooding (RG), District Cllr. G Le Count (GL)
and District Cllr. P Lees (PL).

Apologies for absence: Cllr. R Franklin (RF) and Cllr. B Ogilvie (BO).

22694. Declarations of Interest: None.

Open to the public

22695. Allan Hathaway asked, if the proposal for the Elsenham Youth Football Club (EYFC) to fence off a section of the playing field was agreed, would it impact on the village fete. PJ said the fenced off area would be in the top left-hand corner and would not affect the village fete.

22696. A resident of Isabel Drive informed the meeting of the anti-social behaviour that was happening near his property. The East Herts Housing Society and the police have been informed. PL said that this was not the first complaint she had received. UDC were trying to help, and she would talk to the resident privately. FL said Elsenham has been assigned a new PCSO, Keeley Twitchett, who may be able to help.

22697. A resident said it was now a pleasure to drive down Hall Road now that the potholes had been repaired. However, there was still some very dangerous potholes on Grove Hill. An ambulance disabled its steering by going into one of these potholes: it was stuck on Grove Hill for 20 minutes.
PL asked RG for a copy of the Highways written planned schedule on repairing the potholes.

22698. A resident said he had attended a Zoom meeting in December 2020 on the subject of 20 is plenty and had raised the issue in January 2021 by writing a letter to RG and the Highways Panel. Two years later it was now on the agenda.

22699. A resident asked why the result of the vote not to continue with installing ‘no airport parking’ signs at the January’s meeting had not been reported in the Elsenham News.

Closed to the public.

22700. Actions from previous minutes There was no actions carried forward.

22701. Minutes

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2023, GM signed the minutes as a true copy.

22702. District Councillor's report

A planning application covering 150 acres for business premises near Stansted Airport has been approved. This will bring more employment into the area. The football pitch used by Elsenham teams plus the Air Cadets which currently use this land will be re-sighted.

GL said he was disappointed that EPC had voted not to continue with the 'No Airport Parking' signs, as they had helped in Stansted. GL said he would however continue and had a meeting with Stansted Airport at the beginning of March.

The main person working on the Local Plan had stepped down and UDC has now appointed a new person to take over.

PL said that UDC had set their budgets. It had been a cross party collaboration to help people with the cost of living.

UDC had announced the launch of the Uttlesford Business Awards 2023.

The Government has made £1 million available for Uttlesford spread over the next three years through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, as part of its 'levelling up' agenda.

The War Memorial Trust are giving grants to support and conservation of war memorials.

GM asked as UDC planning department have difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff could UDC not increase their salaries?

PL said that UDC was not the only council to be experiencing this. Planning Officers are being offered more money and so they move around. There is also a shortage of planning officers in the district. UDC had agreed with Epping and Chelmsford Councils to work together by not offering planning officers an increase in their salaries, hopefully this will stop the officers moving from one council to another. The salaries are also based on Government Scales so there are constraints that the private sector does not have.

22703. County Councillor's report

RG said that ECC have the same problems as UDC with social workers being offered higher salaries, so councils are always competing for staff.

RG is going to ask the Highways Panel to set up two 40mph buffer zones. One in Hall Road on the Takeley side of the sharp bend. The other near the May Walk entrance on Stansted Road.

At the last meeting RG said he was going to write a letter to Essex Waste regarding the HGV vehicles illegally driving through the villages. ECC legal department has now advised him not to write a letter, but to leave it to the police.

The wording on the weight restriction on Grove Hill is very badly worded and needs to be re-written.

GB said that RG should speak to the Traffic Commissioner regarding the HGVs. RG is trying to arrange a meeting with all the villages involved.

A resident said the drains on the bridge in the High Street were still not working. The bad smell further along the High Street could all be connected. The last report that RG gave said there was an underlying problem that needed to be carried out, this has never been done. RG said he would get the company back out.

A resident said he had suggested a 30mph speed limit on Hall Road and 20mph past the school in 2021.

ECC are bringing out a booking system for using the tip in Saffron Walden. PL asked if there was enough evidence that a booking system was not required at Saffron Walden, would ECC re address their decision? RG said yes possibly, it had been a county-wide decision and individual sites had not been assessed.

22704. Planning Committee

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 11 January 2023 – **Noted.**

Minutes of the New Community Hall Working Group meeting on 25 January 2023 – **Noted.**

Dandara planning application is to be heard by UDC on Wednesday 8 February, GM is going to speak.

UDC are not going to defend their refusal at the appeal for 50 houses on Bedwell Road. The advice from the planning QC is that this is not a winnable appeal, therefore UDC could be faced with further costs. GM said costs would only be awarded against UDC if they were found to have engaged in ‘unreasonable behaviour’ (not because the decision goes against you). It could not possibly be regarded as ‘unreasonable’ to refuse on grounds of noise as the Gladman application on the other side of the road was recently refused on the amount of noise.

Concerning the application by Countryside for 130 dwellings, south of the Crown, two new documents have been lodged on the PINS website recently, one from ECC Highways, the other from ECC Planning and Development. The additional information, including a new traffic survey, has not been located on the PINS website. EPC asked under section 62A applications be notified of the amendments and the new information. A reply was received saying the inspectorate would consult on it at that time with responses being due by 17 March. They would of course include EPC in that consultation. The provisional date for the hearing is 13 April 2023.

PJJ said that it should be made clear at Parish Council meetings when a councillor is giving a personal view, otherwise it could be perceived as being the view of EPC.

Applications submitted to UDC Planning.

UTT/23/0178/FUL Erection of stables, Eastfield Stables, May Walk, Stansted.

Decisions made by UDC Planning.

UTT/22/1488/FUL Section 73a retrospective application for the formation of earth bunds and erection of timber gates to secure land. Land to the East of May Walk,

Elsenham Road, Stansted. **Appeal dismissed by Planning Inspectorate. If they have not started removing the earth in 2 weeks, EPC will contact UDC Enforcement Department.**

UTT/22/1050/FUL Demolition of garage and rear extension and erection of a two-storey dwelling together with associated access, car parking and amenity space. 13 Broom Farm Road, Elsenham. **Refused.**

PL said with reference to 50 houses south of Bedwell Road that UDC must proceed with care when spending public money. UDC's own planning KC has advised that in his opinion the appeal will not be dismissed. This is clear advice. It had nothing to do with the Director of Planning consulting a noise expert. If UDC went against this advice it could be presented as unreasonable behaviour, it has nothing to do with win or lose.

GM replied saying he had asked UDC to consult the noise consultant Stephen Gosling who was engaged for the Gladman. He was probably the most important factor in the refusal of that appeal; UDC did not consult him.

22705. Playing Field Committee

Minutes of the meeting on 18 and 30 January 2023 – **Noted.**

Proposal: EPC give permission for the Village Fete to be held in the playing field on 17 June 2023.

SW proposed, GM seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

Proposal: Paul Jarvis becomes a member of the Playing Field Committee.

SW proposed, FL seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

Proposal in principle: Elsenham Youth Football Club, (EYFC) are given permission to fence off an area, no larger than 12 meters by 20 meters, to store roll on goals. The area would be in the far-left corner on entering the recreation ground from the car entry (facing the Football container). It was agreed that EYFC would be responsible for cutting the grass within the fenced-off area.

SW proposed, BD seconded, the vote was carried unanimously, on the proviso that the EYFC establish if a planning application is required.

Proposal: EPC investigates the possibility of a legal licence agreement with EYFC. Allowing them to play football on the Elsenham playing field for the next 25/30 years.

SW proposed, BD seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

This would allow EYFC to apply for grants.

PJJ said the legal agreement could not be in the form of a lease. This would give exclusive use of the land to EYFC, stopping other people from using it.

A licence for this agreement would need to go through EPC's solicitors and therefore costs would be involved.

GM said the play area with the new equipment was a great success.

There was still no firm date for the work on the Leigh Way path.

22706. Rights of Way and Open Spaces Committee

Tree Warden's Report, noted.

The work in the Spinney had been completed below budget.

22707. Financial Payments

The following cheques and payments required for approval:

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BACS Beltons Gardening	£210.00
BACS Zoom	£14.39
BACS Wages	£2,571.48
HEU Benefice Account	£30.00
Sharon Jones	£20.00
Suregreen	£90.90
Touchpoint	£314.00
A & J Lighting	£524.80
3G Mobile	£6.00
Hp Ink	£22.49
BACS M Burke Landscaping	£902.50
BACS M Burke Landscaping	£276.50
ROE Environmental Ltd	£540.00
Amazon	£169.99
Beltons Gardening	£210.00
Beltons Gardening	£659.00

All payments approved for signing, a summary of receipts and payments **Noted**.

GM and LJ signed the summary and receipts form.

GM and LJ agreed and signed the Bank Reconciliation Statement.

22708. Finance Committee

Proposal: SW attends EALC Chairman's Training 3 days at a cost of £300.

PJJ proposed, GB seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

Proposal: EPC accept the quote from UK Networks Power to restore the electric to the streetlight near the doctor's surgery, for £1,671. EPC will go through their insurance for the money to be refunded.

PJJ proposed, FL seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

22709. Clerk's Report

The date for the Annual Parish meeting is to be held on Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Notice of Election is 22 March with Election Day on 4 May 2023. The period between Notice of Election and Election Day is called pre-election period.

The pre-election period does not stop councils working. However, it places restrictions on local authority publicity which may imply public support for a candidate or political party. EPC must not give the impression that they are promoting the public image of a particular candidate, or group of candidates.

It was therefore decided to ask GL and PL not to give a report at the April Parish Council meeting.

LJ to research the implications that the pre-election period will have on Parish Councillors.

There had been no further correspondence regarding the war memorial in Church Lane, which had been damaged by the lorries. Allan Hathaway has very kindly offered to make a memorial with the original wood, he will however be restricted as there is very little of the original structure is left.

22710. Flowerbed Committee

Proposal: Sam Ashenden is cop-opted onto the Flowerbed Committee. Before this proposal can be passed the Flowerbed Committee terms of references needs to be changed from 2 co-opted members to 3 co-opted members. The Flowerbed Committee are holding a meeting on 20 February 2023.

22711. Communication Committee

No issues to report.

22712. Allotment Committee

All the allotment plots on the Smith Road allotments have now been allocated. The skip on the allotment needs to be removed. The skip is too full, another skip may be required to take the surplus.

22713. EPC Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24

After giving due regard to the recommendations made by the report of the Parish Remuneration Panel for Uttlesford District Council in December 2022, the following is proposed.

Proposal: EPC adopts the 'Members Allowances Scheme' in doing so, gave due regard to the recommendations made by the report of the Parish Remuneration Panel for Uttlesford District Council in December 2022. PJJ proposed, BD seconded, the vote was carried 6 in favour 1 against. LJ can now display the public notice on the notice's boards informing residents that EPC has adopted a Member's allowance scheme. The scheme will apply from 1 April 2023, unless amended or revoked, until 31 March 2024. At the end of the year a record of how much each councillors have claimed must be placed on EPC's website.

22714. Connecting with Uttlesford Foodbank

Proposal: RF becomes the key contact between EPC and the Uttlesford Foodbank. GM proposed, GB seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

22715. 20 is plenty.

FL had attended 3 meetings regarding 20 is plenty. Several Essex Parish Councils are campaigning to make 20mph the standard speed limit in villages where people and vehicles mix. It is unclear if a 20mph speed limit would be enforceable by the police. The speed limit through Elsenham is currently 30mph, but many vehicles exceed this limit. It was agreed that FL would do some further research and put a proposal to EPC at the next Parish Council meeting.

Correspondence

22716. Crime Data 5 January 2023.

22717. PFCC Weekly update 2 January 2023.

- 22718. PFCC weekly update 6 January 2023.
- 22719. EALC E Bulletin 9 January 2023.
- 22720. Crime Data 10 January 2023.
- 22721. EALC Police Bulletin 11 January 2023.
- 22722. PFCC Newsletter Update 13 January 2023.
- 22723. 100 villages member update 14 January 2023.
- 22724. Elections 2023 - update on Voter ID and timetable of events.
- 22725. AED defibrillator training.
- 22726. Rural Cost of Living Survey.
- 22727. Crime Data 16 January 2023.
- 22728. Chairman's training.
- 22729. EALC E Bulletin W/C 17 January 2023.
- 22730. PFCC weekly update 20 January 2023.
- 22731. Rural Crime Open Day 10th March.
- 22732. EALC E Bulletin W/C 23 January 2023.
- 22733. Crime Data 23 January 2023.
- 22734. PFCC Weekly Update 27 January 2023.
- 22735. Connecting With Uttlesford Foodbank - Cost of Living.
- 22736. EALC E Bulletin 30 January 2023.
- 22737. Rural Engagement Team Newsletter January 2023.
- 22738. UALC January 2023 Newsletter.
- 22739. Upcoming EALC Courses for February
- 22740. EALC Police, Fire and Crime Bulletin W/C 31 January 2023.
- 22741. Parish Forum Planning, 28 March 2023.

22742. Items to be added to next month's agenda

1. Flowerbed Committee Terms of Reference.
2. Proposal, Sam Ashenden is co-opted onto the Flowerbed Committee.
3. 20 is plenty.
4. Planning on the roll goals enclosure.
5. Bloor, do EPC want to take responsibility for the public open space areas on the development of 350 homes. Bloor, is EPC prepared to accept responsibility for the football pitches and changing rooms on the development of 350 homes.

Meeting opened to the public.

- 22743. Allan Hathaway is liaising with Gigaclear to make the Memorial Hall a Hub. This would require Gigaclear digging up approximately 20 feet of EPC's land. It was agreed that ECA could proceed.
- 22744. EPC receive Community Special Constables monthly updates. Unfortunately, there were no further updates this month in relation to recruiting a Special Officer for Elsenham.
- 22745. A resident stated that if EYFC moved their goals so they were covered by the CCTV, it would not help if the goals were vandalised during the night as the cameras did not have night vision.
- 22746. A resident stated that it was easy to spot Essex Waste HGV's but would be very difficult to identify all the other companies.

Meeting closed to the public.

Meeting closed at 10.08pm

Date of next meeting - The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 8pm on Monday 6 March 2023 in the Memorial Hall.