



**Elsenham Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held in The Memorial Hall at 8.00pm on 6 March 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. R Franklin (RF), 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:
6, plus Essex County Cllr. R Gooding (RG), District Cllr. G Le Count (GL)
and District Cllr. P Lees (PL).

Apologies for absence: Cllr. B Ogilvie (BO).

22747. Declarations of Interest: PJ declared an interest in the Elsenham Youth Football Club (EYFC), item 10 on the agenda.

22748. Teresa Buglass, The Practice Manager for Elsenham Surgery.
Theresa Buglass was unable to attend the meeting. It was agreed that LJ would ask if she would be available to give her update on the Elsenham Surgery at the Annual Parish Meeting on 15 March.

Meeting opened to public participation.

There were no questions from members of the public.

Meeting closed to public participation.

22749. Actions from previous minutes.
EYFC establish if a planning application is required for the fencing around the rolled goals.
PJ said that the EYFC did not have an update on this. GL said he would research whether planning permission is required.

22750. Minutes.
The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2023.
Page 4 of the minutes was missing from the minute book. GM will sign February's minutes at the next Parish Council meeting on 3 April 2023.

22751. District Councillor's report.
In Uttlesford, the population size has increased by 14.9%, from around 79,400 in 2011 to 91,300 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800.

UDC have increased Council Tax by £5 a year for an average Band D property. This will generate an additional £195,000, this money will be put into a Cost-of-Living Support Fund, to provide council tax discounts to households who may be experiencing hardship, with a particular focus on those who are not eligible for other forms of support.

There is a lot of information and help for residents that are experiencing hardship on UDC's website.

The Government has given £15 million to UDC to help home Ukrainian people that are living in Uttlesford.

The leader of Essex County Council, Kevin Bentley with a group of Essex council leaders and executives have agreed to put together devolution proposals, which will go to the government. A devolution deal would create a new combined authority, with representation from all three top tier councils, ECC, Southend and Thurrock.

PL said after May's election it was intended there should be a referendum, to give residents a vote on whether they agree with these proposals.

GL is still having ongoing talks with Stansted Airport regarding parking. GL has suggested to Stansted Airport that they could reduce their parking fees or set up a park and ride just outside of the airport.

Stansted Airport are looking at plans to vary the flight paths. At present the flight path takes the planes over Thaxted. The new plans would divert the planes, with a third over Thaxted, a third over Elsenham and a third towards Bishop's Stortford.

GL is the Chairman of the Patient Participation Group.

GL is attending a meeting with the Stansted Airport Community Trust on 23 March 2023. This trust supports capital projects of the community within a 10-mile radius of Stansted Airport. The fund is financed by Stansted Airport and any aircraft noise fines. GL said that EYFC could apply for a grant.

County Cllr. Lee Scott is looking at how Essex Highways Panel could be improved.

PL said that UDC had given Essex Highways £200,000 to help repair the roads in Uttlesford. Essex Highways have failed to do this and they will not return the money.

FL said that one of the reasons people purchased their houses in Elsenham was because they were not on the flight path. This would reduce house prices in Elsenham.

PJ asked how EYFC could apply for funding from the Stansted Airport Community Trust. GL said after the meeting on 23 March he would have forms that EYFC could complete.

A resident pointed out that on the website the Stansted Airport Community Trust says it is currently closed to new applications. A new fund will be launched this summer.

22752. Planning Committee.

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023 – **Circulated.**

Planning report circulated – **Noted.**

The Countryside, 130 dwellings south of Henham Road planning application has submitted a Transport Addendum Report with appendices. EPC's transport consultant, Simon Watts, advised that in effect it amounted to a new report with 747 pages.

The date for this application to be heard by the inspectorate is 13 April 2023.

Bloor Homes development of 350 homes, said they expect the first new resident to move in at the end of April/early May 2023. Bloor Homes have not yet got anyone to take responsibility for the affordable housing on the site.

Proposal: EPC sends an email to Bloor Homes and UDC Planning as follows: Elsenham Parish Council is agreeable to the transfer of the football pitch and changing rooms, as defined in the S106 Agreement, Definitions 1.35 and Schedule 2, Part 4, to include an index linked maintenance payment to cover a period of twenty-five years, stipulated as Maintenance Costs: £39,750, Sinking Fund: £19,900, Total: £59,650. The Parish Council expects that an agreement will be drawn up, together with a plan which makes clear that the NEAP and Gas Governor are excluded.

GM proposed, SW seconded the vote was carried unanimously.

EPC will take over the ownership. EPC will own the land and then lease the land to EYFC.

The section 106 did not provide any maintenance funding for the open spaces. Plus, if EPC did take them over it would also include three SuDs which would require professional maintenance. The open spaces and the SuDs are one package.

Proposal: EPC sends an email to Bloor Homes and UDC Planning as follows: Elsenham Parish Council does not wish to proceed with transfer of the public open space areas, in view of the inclusion of SuDS features and the failure to define any maintenance provisions.

GM proposed, PJ seconded the vote was carried by 7 in favour and 1 against.

Documents circulated.

Site Plan of the football pitch area.

Plan of the proposed sports pavilion.

Phasing Plan.

Revised Open Space Plan.

Applications submitted to UDC Planning.

1.1 and 1.2 will be discussed at the planning meeting on 8 March 2023.

1.1. UTT/22/1610/FUL Section 73A Retrospective application for earthworks infill The Stables, Elsenham Hall, Elsenham. **A planning reason for refusing this application is required.**

1.2. UTT/22/2184/FUL Erection of 5 dwellings with associated garages. Landscaping and a new vehicular access. The Old Vicarage, Hall Road, Elsenham.
This is a revised application which was called in by PL on heritage grounds: this still stands.

Decisions made by UDC.

1.3. UTT/22/3278/OP Outline Planning Application, with all matters reserved except scale & access, for the erection of up to 7 dwellings and associated work. Land West of Old Mead Road, Henham. **Refused.**

1.4. UTT/22/3245/LB Demolition of existing single storey garage. Erection of new single storey side extension. Tye Green Cottage, Tye Green Lane, Tye Green, Elsenham. **Approved.**

1.5. UTT/22/3201/HHF Section 73A Retrospective application - detached annexe to replace the previously approved cart lodge. Granary Barns, Gaunts End. Green Street. Elsenham. **Approved.**

1.6. UTT/22/2602/LB Timber frame repairs and associated repair works. Tumble Weed Cottage, Green Street. Elsenham. **Approved.**

1.7. UTT/21/2687/FUL Improvement of existing vehicular access point and the construction of a single storey 'wellness hub' building and associated car, cycle and motorcycle parking area. Eastfield Stables, May Walk, Elsenham Road, Stansted. Appeal lodged 26 January 2022 on grounds of non-determination; **appeal allowed by The Planning Inspectorate 20 February 2023.**

22753. Playing Field Committee.

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2023 – noted.

Elsenham Football Club have obtained a Pitch Power report. This report is the basis of applying for grass pitch maintenance funding. The football club has until now been unable to move forward with the application due to the condition that the grant applicant must either own the freehold or hold a long lease on the land. However, this rule has now changed to allow a football club to apply so long as they have the agreement of the landowner.

PJJ asked for further clarification.

PJ explained that EPC will continue to cut the grass and maintain the playing field as it has always done. The funding is to carry out additional maintenance procedures to improve the quality of the pitches. It will be a joint scheme between the grass cutter, the maintenance contractor that EPC have employed and the maintenance contractor that EYFC have employed.

Proposal: EPC give EYFC authority to seek funding under Football Foundation grass pitch maintenance and to carry out such work on the field that funding entails. SW proposed, BD seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

The repairs to Leigh Way are to start on Tuesday 7 March 2023.

22754. Rights of Way and Open Spaces Committee.

Tree Warden's Report, noted.

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2023 - **noted.**

A resident said that Alsa Wood is being damaged by motor bikes using the wood. GM explained that the wood is owned by Dandara. Dandara, as part of the section 106 agreement, will be improving the path through Alsa Wood to the motorway bridge.

22755. Financial Payments

The following cheques and payments required for approval:

BACS Beltons Gardening	£210.00
BACS Zoom	£14.39
BACS Wages	£2,571.48
Shaw and Sons	£187.20
Sharon Jones	£20.00
Zoom	£14.39
HEU Benefice Account	£40.00
3G Mobile	£6.00
Hp Ink	£22.49
BACS M Burke Landscaping	£902.50
BACS M Burke Landscaping	£276.50

All payments approved for signing.

A summary of receipts and payments **Noted.**

GM and LJ signed the summary and receipts form.

The financial year ends on 31 March 2023, EPC finances are in a healthy position.

LJ to asked Simon Watts and Alison Hutchinson, who have both worked as planning consultants for EPC, to send in their invoices for work they have carried out this financial year.

22756. Clerk's Report

LJ signed an agreement form on behalf of EPC, giving permission for Gigaclear to dig a trench and lay a cable inside a conduit between the Bowls Club and the Memorial Hall. This will give the Memorial Hall the internet.

22757. Flowerbed Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February – **Noted.**

Proposal: EPC adopts the amended Flowerbed Committee Terms of References. SW proposed, BD seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

Proposal: Sam Ashenden is co-opted onto the Flowerbed Committee. SW proposed, RF seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

22758. County Councillor's report.

RG said he would give an update report on the problem of the large lorries driving through the villages, at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Local Highways Panel are to get extra funding and powers to get work completed. Clearing footpaths will be one of the items on the agenda, RG asked for a list of the footpaths that need clearing.

RG said he would try and find out if the road is to be closed when the repairs of the potholes on Grove Hill are carried out.

FL thanked RG for all the help he had given on the 20 is plenty campaign.

22759. Transport.

The busses are sometimes running about 10 minutes late, this is due to all the road works, traffic lights and diversions in this area. The bus company said they are doing their best.

22760. Communication Committee.

An article was posted on Facebook asking for suggestions for the new community hall, so far there has been 40 replies with some good ideas. The Annual Parish meeting is also being advertised on Facebook.

22761. 20 is Plenty.

FL had put an article in the Village Magazine regarding 20 is plenty and had received a lot of replies supporting the campaign. Many residents would like the High Street by the school to be 20mph, but as this would only be classed as a '20 is plenty' it would not be enforceable. The idea is to keep the main roads in Elsenham, Stansted Road, Station Road and the High Street, at 30mph, as the speed watch team can enforce this, making the estate roads to 20mph.

Proposal: EPC join the '20 is Plenty for Essex' campaign, with a view to reducing some of the minor roads in Elsenham to 20pmh.

FL proposed, BD seconded the vote was carried unanimously.

Correspondence

22762. Parish Forum, planning.

22763. PFCC Newsletter Update 3 February 2023.

22764. Uttlesford 'call for projects' as part of UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

22765. Gigaclear Elsenham Roadworks.

- 22766. EALC E Bulletin W/C 6 February 2023.
- 22767. EALC Police, Fire and Crime Bulletin.
- 22768. Business News: Uttlesford Business Awards 2023.
- 22769. PFCC Newsletter update 10 February 2023.
- 22770. Coronation Grant.
- 22771. Stansted area agenda - 28 February 2023.
- 22772. PFCC Newsletter update 20 February 2023.
- 22773. The Hundred Parishes Society - member update 15 February 2023.
- 22774. Recycling at Waste Centres.
- 22775. EALC E Bulletin W/C 20 February 2023.
- 22776. PFCC Newsletter Update 24 February 2023.
- 22777. EALC E Bulletin W/C 27 February 2023.

- 22778. **Items to be added to next month's agenda.**
The King's Coronation.

Meeting opened to public participation.

There were no questions from members of the public.

Meeting closed to public participation.

Public were asked to leave the meeting.

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.

- 22779. **Football Pitch Maintenance Contract.**

To discuss and agree on a contractor for 2023/26.

Proposal: EPC give the Football Pitch Maintenance contract to Tom Belton.

SW proposed, RF seconded, the vote was carried by 6 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstaining.

LJ to ask Tom Belton what weed killer he will be using.

- 22780. **Grass Cutting Contract.**

To discuss the recommendation from the Finance Committee for the 2023/24 grass cutting contract.

Proposal EPC give the Grass Cutting contract to Mick Burke. The vote was carried unanimously.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Date of next meeting:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 8pm on Monday 3 April 2022 in the Memorial Hall.