



Elsenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in The Memorial Hall at 8.00pm on 5 June 2023

Members of Elsenham Parish Council (EPC) present:

Cllr. G Mott (Chairman GM), Cllr. B Donald (Vice-Chair BD), Cllr. G Bentley (GB), Cllr. B Burlton (BB), Cllr. R Franklin (RF), Cllr. P Jarvis (PJ), Cllr. F Lambert (FL), Cllr. B Ogilvie (BO), Cllr. S Waite (SW) and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk – LJ).

Members of the public present:

6, plus, District Cllr. P Lees (PL).

Apologies for absence: Mr. J Minor (JM).

Declarations of Interest: None.

Open to the public

- 22883.** Two residents that have allotment plots on Smith Road questioned why the annual fee was being increased. They felt it was unjust when the grass was not cut regularly, the taps are leaking and the unallocated plots were overgrown with weeds. They would like the grass to be cut with a lawn mower and not strimmed and asked why they could not keep chickens on their plots. BO explained that all the plots were currently allocated and EPC had written to over 50% of the tenants asking them to clear the weeds off their respective plots. The grass is only cut around the boundary and the main paths, the tenants are responsible for the paths between the plots. If the grass needs cutting, please contact the Parish Clerk who will arrange for it to be cut. EPC need to arrange a plumber to repair the taps. Even with the increase the Elsenham allotments are a lot cheaper than neighbouring allotments in Stansted and Henham. BO explained that communal chickens would never be allowed. As for individuals keeping chickens, the chicken food would attract vermin, such as rats, that, plus the noise of the chickens could result in EPC getting complaints from the residents in the neighbouring houses. BO said the use of a grass mower would be considered next year in the new contract. It would be a good idea if tenants formed an Allotment Association.

- 22884.** FL, as a resident, thanked EPC, for objecting so appropriately to the planning application in Glebe End.

Closed to the public.

22885. Minutes

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2023. GM signed the minutes as a true and accurate record.

22886. District Councillors' reports.

PL said she was pleased that R4U won the election under her leadership.

At the Annual Council meeting on 23 May 2023, PL was elected to continue her position as Leader of the Council. She then confirmed the appointments of the Cabinet, numbers were reduced to six members.

Next month UDC will be looking at their corporate plan for the next 5 years, which sets out the key priorities for the council.

The Highways Panel is only going to consist of ECC member, ECC do not want to be associated with UDC anymore.

The police have said there has been an increase in the area of domestic violence.

There has also been an increase in burglaries due to a gang of burglars coming from Brighton into this area; the police have now caught them.

There has been a lot of car thefts, the police have advised car owners to purchase wheel locks.

BD said she had attended meetings, 'Code of Conduct' and 'How to be a councillor'.

BD has been elected to the Investigatory Disciplinary Committee and the Scrutiny Committee.

22887. Planning Committee

Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 17 May 2023 – noted.

Minutes of the NCHWG meeting held on 11 May 2023 – noted.

Planning Report – noted.

GM and LJ are meeting Peter Roberts from Dandara on 6 June 2023. Dandara now own Alsa Wood and EPC want to bring to their attention the barbed wire fencing in the wood, which is dangerous and needs removing: the fencing has been there for over 40 years.

Bloor Homes has called a meeting on 8 June 2023, to present their Reserved Matters Scheme and Consultation Programme. The meeting is to be held in the afternoon as an UDC Planning Officer is attending.

Application submitted to UDC Planning

- I. **UTT/23/1223/FUL** Construction of 3 holiday let cottages and associated infrastructure together with improvements to site access. Land At The Stables, May Walk, Elsenham Road, Stansted. **EPC are going to object to this application.**

Decisions made by UDC

- II. **UTT/23/1148/HHF** Removal of existing Conservatory and erection of single storey extension. Turner House, Station Road, Elsenham. **Withdrawn.**
- III. **UTT/23/0847/HHF** Conversion of integrated garage, internal alteration and addition of dormer window to the front elevation. The Limes, Robin Hood Road, Elsenham. **Approved.**

IV. UTT/23/0780/HHF Erection of two storey rear and side extension, internal alterations and changes to fenestration. 2 The Croft, Elsenham. **Refused**

22888. Playing Field Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2023 – Noted.

The proposal to purchase a heavy-duty freestanding basketball stand and hoop, costing £1,000 was withdrawn. The committee are looking at an alternative basketball stand and hope to obtain funding from UDC Community Project Grant Scheme, which will match-fund projects such as this.

A new proposal will be on the agenda for July’s meeting.

BO said he was not against a basketball stand, but he was against installing one on the top car park extension. Although there are not parking bays, cars do park on this hard standing, especially when there are football matches and even when there is football training during the week. For the new community hall consultation only 7 people mentioned basketball, table tennis was more popular. BO said he would like to see a purpose-built area, maybe with a metal goal and hoop.

There was no recommendation from the Playing Field Committee regarding the Legal Agreement with the Elsenham Youth Football Club, but various issues were being considered.

22889. Rights of Way and Open Spaces Committee

There was nothing to report.

22890. Financial Payments

The following cheques and payments required for approval:

Beltons Gardening	£210.00
Zoom	£14.39
Wages	£2,685.25
A & J Lighting Solutions	£491.80
S W Transport Planning	£1,092.00
SLCC	£236.00
L C Johnson	£65.81
3G Mobile	£12.00
Hp Ink	£22.49
M Burke Landscaping	£1012.50
EALC	£697.73
ICCM	£95.00
R Franklin	£30.28
Instant Ink	£22.49
L Johnson	£85.00
Beltons Gardening	£548.05
Beltons Gardening	£220.50
Play Safety	£310.80
Beltons Gardening	£550.00

All payments approved for signing.

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

Detailed receipts form – **Noted.**

Bank Statement – **Noted.**

GM and LJ signed the summary and receipts form.

BB said he would like EPC to transfer some funds to an interest-bearing account. EPC already have funds in NS&I, but it is only earning 0.6% interest. NS&I have other accounts with higher interest.

Proposal: EPC renew their insurance policy with Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd and set up a 3-year binding long term agreement at an annual cost of £1,142.44. BO proposed, BD seconded, the vote was carried unanimously. This insurance does not cover the Chapel, the Finance Committee to consider other insurance options for the Chapel.

22891. Clerk's Report

ECC are offering, free of charge, one tonne wrapped pallet made up of individual 25kg bags for use by the community on the local highway. EPC do require more salt. PL said that the salt can be stored at her home. PL would like EPC to formalise how the salt is distributed, only one bag per street etc.

LJ had presented Peter Johnson with his leaving present. Peter had been a Parish Councillor since 1987 but had decided at the elections in May this year not to stand again. Peter was very grateful for the gift and said it was a very kind thought and very much appreciated.

EPC now have three candidates who would like to be co-opted on to the parish council. EPC currently have 10 councillors so they can only co-opt one new member. A date and time needs to be arranged to carry out the three interviews.

22892. Flowerbed Committee

The committee now have a five-year plan to make Elsenham even more beautiful. The goal is that one-year Elsenham could win 'Essex Village of the year' or 'Essex in Bloom.'

22893. Allotments Committee

Due to the increase in water rates, general maintenance, hedge cutting, grass cutting and admin, the allotment committee would like to increase the allotment fees.

Proposal: One year's notice is given to all allotment plot holders that as from 1 October 2024, rent on the Smith Road allotments will be increased by an average of 25%. The Church allotments will be increased from £32.50 per year to £36.00. BO proposed, FL seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

22894. Transport

RF is still waiting for the results of the tenders for the 7 and 7A buses. RF has an official letter to say Elsenham is a rural area and therefore people wishing to use the bus may put their hand out to stop the bus, the bus will stop unless it is dangerous to do so.

22895. Communication Committee

The committee are to hold a meeting soon. At present there are only 2 councillors on the committee BD and BO. The committee can only be quorate if GM attends as ex-officio.

22896. Pesticides Policy – Cllr. B Donald.

The aim of this policy is to start the process of reducing pesticide usage on EPC's land wherever possible, with a goal of phasing out pesticide use completely, other than in exceptional circumstances. It is the Council's aim to effectively phase out the usage of pesticides using alternative weed control and management methods; the target date for this transition is currently, by 2023/24.

Proposal: EPC adopts the Pesticides Policy.

BD proposed SW seconded the vote was carried unanimously.

22897. Environmental Policy

BB explained that he would like to establish an Environment and Climate Change Committee with a budget in the current EPC's year of £2,000. One of its main objectives will be to build on this version of the Policy and recommend future updates to EPC. A second key objective will be to promote awareness and action by residents to limit climate change effects and to improve the local environment.

Proposal: EPC adopt the Environmental Policy.

RF proposed, BB seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

BB to write the Terms of Reference for the new committee.

22898. Annual Litter Pick

SW has organized a village litter pick for Sunday 11 June.

22899. Correspondence

- I. EALC Police, Fire and Crime e-Bulletin week commencing 8th May 2023.
- II. Joining Link for Highways Briefing.
- III. Essex Police Business Crime Team May Newsletter.
- IV. Invitation to attend a Workshop with Planning Advisory Service.
- V. Update from your Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex. 12 May.
- VI. Elsenham Village Hall AGM.
- VII. EALC News e-Bulletin Week Commencing 15th May 2023.
- VIII. NALC events.
- IX. Violence and Vulnerability Unit Newsletter.
- X. 100 Parishes Member Update 12 May 2023.
- XI. EALC Police, Fire and Crime e-Bulletin- Week Commencing 15th May 2023.
- XII. Evening & Saturday courses in June.
- XIII. Weekly update from your Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex.
- XIV. EALC Police, Fire and Crime e-Bulletin- Week commencing 22nd May 2023.
- XV. Update from your Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex 26 May 2023.
- XVI. NALC Events.
- XVII. Evening Councillor Training Modules.
- XVIII. Rural Engagement Team May Newsletter.
- XIX. Pesticide and Environmental Policies.

22900. Items to go on the next agenda.
EPC give a grant of £150 to the Brownies.

Meeting opened to public.

There were no further questions for the public.

Meeting closed to public.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date of next meeting: 3 July 2023.