

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of full Council held on Monday 17th October 2011 at 7.30pm at the Wesley Hall, School Road.

Present: Cllrs Mrs Abbott, Barker (Chairman), Burch, Edmonds, Friend, Hawes,
Ms Indurain, Lloyd, Petchey, Reed, Ms Richards

Attending: District Council Ward Member Mrs Sarah Mansell
PCSO Steve Pendergast
5 members of the public
Parish Clerk Mr Dow

11.10.01 **Noted:**
That there were no apologies for absence to be noted or accepted.

11.10.02 **Resolved:**
That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th September, as tabled, be agreed as a true record.

11.10.03 **Noted:**
The following when any Members' Declarations of Personal Interests and/or Personal – Prejudicial Interests in subsequent agenda items were invited and any additions or deletions to the Register of Interests noted;

- 3.1 Cllr Burch declared a Personal Interest in agenda item 18 regarding the allotments as he was an allotment tenant.
- 3.2 Cllr Ms Indurain declared a Personal Interest in agenda item 18 regarding the allotments as she was an allotment tenant.
- 3.3 Cllr Friend declared a Personal Interest in agenda item 18 regarding the allotments as he was the husband of an allotment tenant.
- 3.4 Cllr Ms Indurain declared a Personal Interest in agenda item 9.4, Planning application at Mill Gardens as she was a neighbour to the site.
- 3.5 Cllr Friend declared a Personal Interest in agenda item 9.4, Planning application at Mill Gardens as he was a neighbour to the site.
- 3.6 Cllr Reed declared a Personal Interest in agenda item 9.1, Planning application at Highbury, Church Road, as she was a neighbour to the site.

11.10.04 **Noted:**
The following when the Meeting adjourned to receive reports from external bodies, to invite public comment or questions on those reports and to invite public comment or questions on any other Agenda items.

- 4.1 A written report from County Council Ward Member Mrs Jane Storey
- 4.2 A written report from District Council Ward Member Mrs Sarah Mansell
- 4.3 A written report from Youth Worker Mrs Sue Messenger
- 4.4 A written report from PCSO Steve Pendergast and PC Luke Swain
- 4.5 Cllr Mrs Mansell spoke to update her report pointing out that the integration with Babergh District Council was progressing with 2 management appointments recently made and that the recent decision on the application for a BMX track had been granted by a unanimous decision of the Planning Committee.
- 4.6 A member of the public spoke to point out that the agenda for this meeting was not yet on the Parish Council website and the Clerk explained that the website was currently being re-designed and undertook to speak to the organisation concerned.

- 11.10.05 **Noted:**
The following correspondence.
- 5.1 With Jane and Grahame Woods re their retirement as cleaners at Blackbourne
 - 5.2 With MSDC / Cllr Hawes re Register of Interests
 - 5.3 With MSDC re Footpath 4 (*Agenda item 15 refers*)
 - 5.4 From Messrs BDO LLP Annual Return, signed off (*Agenda item 20 refers*)

- 11.10.06 **Noted:**
The meeting noted further correspondence, being:
- 6.1 A grant application from Vitalise
 - 6.2 A letter from Messrs Januarys, Consultant Surveyors, regarding proposals for development adjacent to White House Farm which the Clerk confirmed he would deal with at agenda item 12.

- 11.10.07 **Noted:**
The Clerk's report as per Appendix B.
- 7.1 Cllr Hawes suggested that the variation of fire exit arrangements to the main hall of the Blackbourne Phase II development should not be charged to the project as the matter should have been dealt with at the design stage. Cllrs Barker and Friend confirmed that the situation with regard to fire regulations was subject to re-inspections which could require such ad hoc changes and that this must be accepted.
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COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

- 11.10.08 **Noted:**
That when any Complaints Committee business for information, to be noted, or for inclusion on a future agenda none was forthcoming and that the date of the next Complaints Committee meeting was not known.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 11.10.09 The following Planning applications, as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council, were discussed:
- 9.1 3292/11
3 N^o. Tilia – reduce weight to lessen stress on long heavy limbs, retain shape if possible, if not possible reduce crown by 20%. Operation to improve light and reduce risk of breakage.
Highbury, Church Road
Councillors agreed to support this application.
 - 9.2 3087/11
Subdivision of 2 N^o. five bedroom houses to form 2 N^o. one bedroom flats and 2 N^o. three bedroom flats
23 & 24 Pightle Close
Councillors agreed to support this application.

Cllr Reed declared a Personal/Prejudicial Interest and left the Meeting during this item as she is a friend of the writer of a letter which was tabled objecting to the Application.

- 9.3 3054/11
Erection of single-storey side extension
Hazeldene, New Road

Councillors agreed to support this application.

Cllr Reed rejoined the Meeting at this point

9.4 3206/11

Erection of detached garage
24 Mill Gardens

Councillors agreed to support this application.

9.5 3012/11

Use and occupation of dwelling without any controlling condition of agricultural occupancy being enforceable

Hedgerows, Grove Lane

Councillors decided not to comment on this application

9.6 2926/11

Replacement of glazing to 4 N^o. Windows with aluminium louvres
Telephone Exchange, Church Road

Councillors agreed to support this application.

11.10.10

Resolved:

That Elmswell Parish Council makes known to the Professional Lead Officer, Planning Services, at Mid Suffolk District Council its views on the above Planning application.

11.10.11

Noted:

Planning application results as received from MSDC:

11.1 3406/10 ERECTION OF OPERATION OF TWO WIND TURBINE GENERATORS...

POTASH FARM, WYVERSTONE

REFUSED EPC objected

11.2 2669/11

CONSTRUCTION OF BMX TRACK..

OLD SCHOOL COURT, SCHOOL ROAD

GRANTED EPC no comment

11.10.12

Noted:

The following when any other Planning Committee business for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda was invited;

12.1 Confirmation from MSDC that an additional first floor window at St Lucy, Church Road under existing permission 1675/11 was a non-material amendment and was therefore permitted.

12.2 Thanks to Councillors from the senior Planning Officer at MSDC regarding their recent decision on Grantrose, Rose Lane, which he considered to be pragmatic.

12.3 A copy letter from Messrs Januarys, consultant surveyors regarding Elmswell CP school and the possibility of its incorporation into new development at White House Farm.

11.10.13

Resolved:

That a Grant of £50 be made to each of the following organisations;

13.1 MacMillan Cancer Support

13.2 Suffolk Family Carers

13.3 Suffolk Age UK

13.4 Optua

13.5 Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau

13.6 Suffolk Accident Rescue Service

13.6 Vitalise

11.10.14

Resolved:

That Elmswell Parish Council seconds the nomination of Mr John Barker of Mildenhall Town Council for the Executive Committee of SALC at the AGM on 07.11.11.

- 11.10.15 **Resolved:**
That Elmswell Parish council make no objection to proposals for creation and extinguishment at footpath 4 in Grove Lane Elmswell as defined on plan T132/1.
- 11.10.16 **Resolved:**
That the Clerk be asked to attend the SALC Budget Training session on 20.10.11 at a cost of £20 + VAT.
- 11.10.17 **Noted:**
A consultation from the National Association of Local Councils regarding the National Planning Policy Framework to which no response was considered necessary.
- 11.10.18 **Resolved:**
That the allotment rules be amended so as to allow the sale of allotment produce at community events within the village provided that any proceeds of sale shall be donated to a bona fide club, organisation or charity which exists for the benefit of residents of the village.
- 11.10.19 **Noted:**
An invitation to send a team to the Baptist Church quiz night on 22.10.11 and that the Clerk would forward any suggestions for a team from EPC.
- 11.10.20 **Resolved:**
That Council notes, approves and accepts the Conclusion of Audit from Messrs BDO LLP and the Issues Arising Report on which no further action is required.
- 11.10.21 **Noted:**
Reports on recent training undertaken by Councillors & Clerk:
21.1 Cllr Reed reported on a SALC Planning workshop on 24.08.11. The session had been excellent but rushed and she recommended other Councillors to undertake the training.
21.2 The Clerk reported on a SALC / Prettys Solicitors 'Dealing With Difficult People' seminar held on 21.09.11. The solicitor had given an exhaustive and obviously well-informed overview of the statutory regulatory frameworks often used maliciously by vexatious individuals against Local Government, such as the Freedom of Information Act, which frequently result in enormous wastes of time and money. This has, in the past, been experienced by Elmswell Parish Council, although the Council has not been subjected to much recent abuse of process. However in the matter of the relationship between Councillors and between Councillors and Officers, EPC's experience made a very worthwhile contribution to the discussion. The strategies used over recent years by the Council had worked effectively, the problem was managed and the damage minimised. The feeling of the session had been that there is a very fine line being genuine social concern on the part of individuals and psychosis driven by personal agendas and it was accepted that a determined and driven individual can do a really effective wrecking job unless the corporate body against which they pit themselves is equally robust. All present accepted that, however upsetting to individuals or to the work of the corporate body concerned, this must be 'part of the job'. In conclusion it is clear that Elmswell have done very well in this regard but Councillors were warned that they must stay aware of the possibility of trouble ahead at any time.
- 11.10.22 **Resolved:**
That Council adopts the rules as scheduled in the document dated 17.10.11 entitled, "Elmswell Green Cemetery Rules".

- 11.10.23 **Noted:**
Authorised payments made since 19th September 2011 as per Appendix C.
- 11.10.24 **Resolved:**
That proposed payments, scheduled as Appendix D, be authorised
- 11.10.25 **Noted:**
Balance as per Appendix E
- 11.10.26 **Noted:**
Cashflow Forecast as per Appendix F
- 11.10.27 **Noted:**
The following when the meeting was adjourned to allow public comment on matters relevant to Council business:
- 27.1 A member of the public spoke to suggest the fire access at the new Phase II development might be an issue. Cllr Friend spoke from his professional experience to say that he considered the access to be adequate.
 - 27.2 Cllr Mrs Mansell spoke to point out that there was a grant available for the planting of trees at the proposed green cemetery site. The Clerk confirmed that an application had already been made.
 - 27.3 A member of the public asked if Phase II would be ready to use when the building work was finished. The Chairman confirmed that the building when completed would be ready for use but not fitted out with any furniture.
 - 27.4 Cllr Mrs Abbott queried the statement from Cllr Mrs Mansell in her previous month's report that Council Tax could be paid at the Post Office. Cllr Mrs Mansell confirmed that this would not now be the case until April 2012.
- 11.10.28Noted:**
The following when any other Council business for information, to be noted, or for inclusion on a future agenda was invited;
- 28.1 Cllr Barker drew the meeting's attention to the recent report by Cllr Friend regarding the closures of the A14 and subsequent problems and commended the report as a very useful piece of work.
 - 28.2 Cllr Mrs Abbott raised the problem of the telegraph pole in New Road at Malting Field which stands in the middle of the footpath blocking access and requiring dangerous manoeuvres by pedestrians. The Clerk confirmed that this problem had been the subject of several site meetings over recent years and that as he, too, had been recently made aware of it he was reviving the issues with Highways. He suggested that it might, paradoxically, be easier to have the electric cables in New Road undergrounded completely than to have 1 transmission pole removed and undertook to pursue both possibilities.
- 11.10.29 **Noted:**
That the next meeting of the Council was scheduled for Monday 21st November beginning at 7.30 p.m. at the Wesley Hall.
- 11.10.30 **Noted:**
The Meeting closed at 8.47pm

