

ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 8th MAY 2018 IN DUDDENHOE VILLAGE HALL AT 7pm

Present: Nigel Bond
John Barrow Ian Donaldson
Petrea Fagan
John Holford
Clerk: Sheila Jones
Responsible Financial Officer: Jane Guy

Councillor Robert Chambers
District Councillor John Moran
2 Members of Public were present

18.31 **Election of Chairman**
Proposal that Councillor Donaldson be elected as Chairman of Elmdon & Wenden Lofts Parish Council for a second year
Proposed: Councillor Nigel Bond
Seconded: Councillor Petrea Fagan
Carried unanimously

18.32 **Apologies for absence**
Councillors Penelope Gaine and Bill Hodges

18.33 **Declaration of Interests for business in hand**
Councillor Petrea Fagan declared an interest in Agenda Item 18.37e

18.34 **Chairman's Report**
The last 12 months have continued to be busy for the Parish Council.

Planning. As usual much of our time has been taken up with planning applications. Most of which have been uncontroversial. However in last year's report I said we were increasingly under pressure to approve infill applications, within what were previously known as the Village Development Limits. We are now being presented with applications that are "back land" development which are clearly outside the previous village limits. One particular application in Duddenhoe End for a new house behind the existing building line has been controversial and unpopular with many residents. However although the Parish Council and UDC had objections to this application, it went to appeal and permission was granted by the inspector. Regrettably this decision will undoubtedly undermine our ability to influence more back land development, especially if inspectors refer to previous erroneous claims that the village has a public house, school and industrial development.

Regarding the plot of land known as "land west of Cedar Cottage", despite rumours and local concern that the owners would reapply for more than two

houses, at the time of writing, only the two houses applied for are under construction.

Finally on planning, we have objected to the proposed application by Manchester Airport Group for further development at Stansted Airport. Some of your councillors attended a meeting at UDC, along with councillors from other local Parish Councils, where it was clear that we were being bulldozed into giving an opinion on a 2930 page application that even the case officer had not read. Subsequently it was discovered that buried in an Appendix, was a request that would allow unrestricted night flights. I for one, am very disappointed by the behaviour of the UDC planning department for the way they have conducted this application.

Other matters:

Within the last 12 months The Elmdon Dial has been both bought and then sold again. This time to an actual publican and we have firm expectations that after some serious repairs the property will reopen before the end of 2018.

We have continued to give financial support to both the village halls on Elmdon and Duddenhoe End.

In June 2017 we circulated a questionnaire regarding the provision of defibrillators from which we received positive responses. Following this Councillor Fagan investigated various options for provision and funding. We have subsequently successfully raised sufficient finance for two defibrillators. Funds have come from the British Heart Foundation, the Parish Council, our district Councillors and members of the public.

Village Design Statement. In September last year the VDS Group circulated a questionnaire, following which exhibitions were held in our two village halls. A draft VDS is anticipated to be ready later this year. The VDS is being financially supported by the Parish Council. We are very appreciative of the hard work put in by the group.

We agreed last year to have the 20 odd trees in the deconsecrated part of Elmdon Churchyard pollarded. This was originally going to be spread over 2 years, however due to the complication of some nesting birds, branches overhanging a neighbouring cottage and additional work required on a yew tree, it was found more economic to have all the work completed in one year. We are appreciative that our treasurer managed to smooth out this significant expense from 2 years into one.

Regarding broadband in Duddenhoe End and Wenden Lofts. As there has still been no visible action by Gigaclear, at the end of 2017 residents in Duddenhoe End and Lower Pond Street were encouraged to apply for vouchers from BT which could be put towards the cost the BT providing fibre to the Duddenhoe End cabinet, at a cost of around £45,000. However there was insufficient take

up so we are back in the clutches of Gigaclear. The timeline for proving fibre constantly moves and to say we are disappointed with them would be an understatement. Their current schedule is end of September this year. We appreciate the efforts put in by Shona Molyneux, Brian Barker and others.

I regret to record that although the owner of the wrecked car in the middle of Elmdon had agreed that, once certain parts recovered from it, that he would allow UDC to remove the vehicle, this has not happened. I have spoken to the residents recently and was told that it is still their intention to remove it.

Pot holes and road signs. There has been action on much of the long over due patching of surfaces and some complete resurfacing. We believe the Essex Highway Authority is about to now tar and grit many of our roads, though when and where is all a bit of mystery as signage of impending work is often very confusing. Regrettably EHA has not been quite as good when it comes to road signs, though the new finger post on the B1039 to Littlebury Green and the repainting of the signpost in the middle of Elmdon, were appreciated.

The Parish Council pay the peppercorn rent for the Cricket meadow on behalf of the community. Subsequently when the Landlord and the Cricket Club decided that they did not want the Football Club to continue to use the meadow, they strangely felt it should fall upon the Parish Council to tell the footballers that they were no longer welcome. This was not a comfortable conversation

Again we would like to thank our Clerk for continuing to interpret the complications of bus service.

In the latter half of 2017 Councillor Hall felt that due to work commitments he was unable to guarantee regular attendance at meetings and consequently resigned from the PC. In November Councillor John Barrow was welcomed onto the council.

I would like to thank all the Councillors for their continued support and willingness to get involved in the variety of issues that constantly come our way.

When their schedules allow, our meetings have been attended by Councillor Robert Chambers, Councillor Julie Redfern and Councillor John Moran. Their input and support has been appreciated, and I would also like to thank Robert Woods, as Chairman of the Elmdon Community Group for his regular attendance and updates on the Elmdon Dial, or I should say, The Maltings.

Finally, without the constant support of our Clerk, Sheila Jones and our responsible Financial Officer, Jane Guy, the Parish Council simple could not function and we are very appreciative for all their hard work.

The Councillors unanimously thanked the Chairman for all his dedication and hard work during the year especially tackling some difficult situations.

18.35 **Election of Vice Chairman**

Proposal that Councillor Holford be elected Vice Chairman of Elmdon & Wenden Lofts Parish Council

Proposed: Councillor Ian Donaldson

Seconded: Councillor Nigel Bond

Carried unanimously.

18.36 **Minutes of the meeting on 27 March 2018**

Minutes were read, approved and signed.

Meeting was suspended for open discussion.

Bury Gardens. Despite numerous complaints the situation of a resident owning 4 dogs and 4 cats continues, with the yapping of the dogs causing a nuisance to neighbours. The council tenant has health issues and there is concern about the lack of exercise for the dogs and their general cleanliness. Since it was last reported to the Parish Council the tenant has obtained a further dog, which contravenes the Tenancy Agreement. The RSPCA has visited in the past but as the dogs are not subject to cruelty they say they can take no action.

Councillor Chambers will continue discussion with Uttlesford District Council and advise the Parish Council as to progress regarding the ongoing problem and Councillor Moran will take up the matter with Essex Social Services.

Councillor Holford undertook to send Councillor Moran a synopsis of the current situation.

Meeting resumed.

18.37 **Matters Arising not being discussed later:**

- a. Village Design Statement – Progressing.
- b. Defibrillators – Quotations are being obtained for fitting the equipment
- c. Elmdon Village Pub Update – As reported in the May edition of the Gazette.
- d. General Data Protection – Although the Parish Council were advised that parish councils do not require a Data Protection Officer, Councillor Barrow will continue to oversee this for the Parish Council
- e. Abandoned Vehicles Ickleton Road, Elmdon – Ongoing.
- f. Bury Gardens – Discussed in the Open Discussion part of the meeting.
(see 18.36)

18.38 **Finance**

Current Account as at 31 March 2018	£8,405.55
Less Cheques uncleared	-£525.90
Precept received 10 April 2018	£6,250.00
Defibrillator Donation	£50.00
Sub Total Current Account 1 May 2018	£14,179.65
Less payments (See Appendix A)	-£1,306.50
Business Saver Account	£7,087.87
Total in hand inc ring fencing of £5,801	£19,961.02

Proposal: That (a) the Bank reconciliation of accounts for 2017/18 are accepted by Elmdon & Wenden Lofts Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Councillor: Nigel Bond
Seconded: Councillor John Barrow

(b) Parish Council is satisfied that it has acted properly, within its powers and in accordance with any relevant Regulations as set out in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2017/18 Section 1,

(c) the Accounting Statements 2017/18 as set out in AGAR Section 2 be approved,

(d) the note of variances be approved

(e) the timetable for the Exercise of Public Rights be approved, and

(f) the completed AGAR Return 2017/18, including the comments of the Internal Auditor, be submitted to the meeting on 19 June 2018, prior to dispatch to the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP.

Proposed: Councillor Nigel Bond
Seconded: Councillor John Barrow

(g) That the internal auditor, M G Howard FCPA, be appointed for 2018/19
Proposed: Councillor Ian Donaldson
Seconded: Councillor Nigel Bond

(h) That ClearTax & Accounting Ltd continue to provide payroll services for 2018/19.
Proposed: Councillor John Barrow
Seconded: Councillor Nigel Bond

18.39 **Planning**

UTT/18/0594/FUL Land South of Ickleton Road, Elmdon. * No Objection (Decision was taken prior to the meeting due to the application deadline.)

18.40 **Clerks Report**

Nothing of significance to report.

18.41 **Correspondence and Emails**

Nothing of significance received.

18.42 **Matters to be raised by members for the next agenda**

Nothing of significance was noted.

Comments made by Councillor John Moran were noted on issues relating to the County Council.

18.43 **Date of Next Parish Council Meeting**

19 June 2018 Elmdon Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

FUTURE MEETINGS

19 June	Elmdon Village Hall
31 July	Duddenhoe End Village Hall
28 August	Elmdon Village Hall
30 October	Duddenhoe End Village Hall
20 November	Elmdon Village Hall

2019

8 January	Duddenhoe End Village Hall
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NOTE: THE AGENDA AND THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ARE AVAILABLE BY EMAIL FROM THE CLERK, Sheila Jones, Cregneish, Ickleton Road, Elmdon, Saffron Walden, Essex. CB11 4LT Tel: 01763 838518 Email jsheila285@gmail.com