

ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2013 IN ELMDON VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Jayne Drinkwater (Chair) ,Penelope Gaine, Petrea Fagan, Kate Chambers and Alan Prosser.

In attendance: Clerk Carol Fiske, Cllr Robert Chambers and Malcolm Ingham

13.79 **Apologies for absence**
Joan Sanderson and John Holford

13.80 **Declaration of Interests**
There were no declarations of interest

13.81 **Minutes of the previous meeting 2nd October**
Were read, approved and signed by that meeting's chairman Penelope Gaine.

Malcolm Ingham reported that Buzcum had visited re broadband connection. After a site visit it was realised that there was zero service in the village and they will revise their projections. It was decided we might have to wait for BT. The Parish Council wanted to express their thanks to Malcolm Ingham for all his work on this matter and co-opted him as technical advisor re broadband.

13.82 **Matters arising** that were not to be discussed later.

The tree on the 1039 seems to have been dealt with. The trees at the Vicarage are still considered a danger and the owner should be asked to trim these back. There has been no further action re the mirror at Elm Court entrance and Alan Prosser asked the clerk for the contact numbers of the Community Police Officers.

13.83 **Planning**

UTT/13/2823/HHF	Lofts Cottage No objections
UTT/13/2820/HHF	1A The Glebe, No objections
UTT/13/3053/HHF	4 Bury Gardens PC to check on this plan
UTT/13/2890/OP	The Forge, Duddenhoe End PC objects as site is small and on curtilage of a listed building

13.84 **Finance**

Current Account	£ 9,587.15
Business Saver Account	<u>£ 7,070.71</u>
Total inc ring fenced £4,601	<u>£16,657.86</u>
Less current expenditure	<u>£ 934.00</u>
Total in hand	£ 15,723.86

The 2014/15 budget was adopted
The 2012/13 audit was accepted
The 2014/15 precept was set as the same as 2013/14
It was agreed to pay the following invoices
PJ Dudley Farms
LittleJohn Audit
Grant to Duddenhoe End Village Hall
Clerks salary and expenses for October

13.85 **Salt distribution**

Whoever is organising salt for Elmdon must contact Robert Chambers. Penelope Gaine offered to enquire who would be willing to collect and where it could be stored. The clerk was asked to get a copy of the Health & Safety rules with regards to the salt distribution.

13.86 **Jubilee Elm**

The Parish Council felt that any problems re the trees on the sports field should be dealt with sensitively as the ground is generously rented to the village. There was a proposal that the Elm should be protected, as far as possible, where it is and the undergrowth around should be cleared. All 5 attending PC members voted for this. John Holford, who was unable to attend the meeting, asked that his email below should be minuted.

“The Elmdon members of the Parish Council plus Jayne met to look at the elm tree this morning. We agreed that if the tree is to remain in its present location on the edge of the cricket meadow with any chance of survival it will need:

1. better protection from deer and rabbits, meaning a more substantial protective enclosure;
2. more space and light to enable it to grow. This will entail removal of (a) the blighted millennium oak on one side of it, (b) the dead shrubbery on the other side and (c) the dead branches of the large ash tree overhanging it.”

“I suggested that an altogether better location for the elm would be the middle of the closed part of the churchyard where there is plenty of space, lots of sun and no problem in protecting the tree against animals. This part of the churchyard is already under the control of the Parish Council, and no faculty would be required (although it would be prudent to obtain the consent of the Archdeacon of Stansted).”

13.87 **Resilience Planning**

Although UDC has many agencies online in an emergency if the phones are out of order they would be of no use to Elmdon and Duddenhoe End parish. It was suggested that a wireless mast could be on the Church tower with an accessible phone below.

Duddenhoe End Village Hall has agreed to be an emergency centre as has Elmdon Village Hall.

It was also noted that with the existing community spirit the elderly would be looked after.

This brought to the attention of the meeting the recent problems with the phone lines. It was suggested that due to problem trees the lines could be put underground, or BT be asked to trim these trees to clear the lines. The clerk was instructed to write to BT pointing out the lack of communication to BT users and asking if there was any compensation available to those who were so badly inconvenienced.

13.88 **Correspondence and emails**

The clerk was asked to chase the UDC re the dustcart damage to the bank near Kings Lane.

The clerk was asked to write to Graham Knight to see if he would be interested in setting up a village website. If this was successful the clerk was asked to contact the "100 Parishes" saying we had our own website and would they like a link.

13.89 **Any Other Business**

Cllr Chambers reported that Wenden Lofts Ward will be joined to Littlebury and Chesterford to come into effect in 2015. This will mean we have one less representative on UDC

The clerk was asked to get a resume of the meeting on 14th November by the EALC.

It was also confirmed that the Parish Notice Board is only to be used for Parish Council business.

13.90 **The date of the next Parish Council Meeting – December 11th Duddenhoe End**

Dates for 2014

February 5th Elmdon

May 7th AGM Elmdon

July 30th Elmdon

October 22nd Elmdon

March 19th Duddenhoe End

June 18th Duddenhoe End

September 10th Duddenhoe End

December 3rd Duddenhoe End

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

NOTE: THE AGENDA AND THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ARE AVAILABLE BY EMAIL FROM THE CLERK Carol Fiske, The Old School House, Caldecote Road, Newnham, SG7 5JZ
Tel 01462 742679 Email cfiske2@btinternet.com