

ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th MAY 2014 IN ELMDON VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Jayne Drinkwater (Chair), Penelope Gaine, Kate Chambers, Alan Prosser and John Holford

In attendance:

Clerk Carol Fiske

Councillor Robert Chambers Michael Gaine

14.25 **Election of Chairman**

Proposal that Penelope Gaine be elected as Chairman of Elmdon & Wenden Lofts Parish Council

Proposed: Kate Chambers

Seconded: Jayne Drinkwater

14.26 **Apologies for absence**

Joan Sanderson

Petrea Fagan

14.27 **Declaration of Interests**

Penelope Gaine declared an interest as a member of the DCC

14.28 **Chairman's Report**

This has been a relatively quiet year with no great dramas or major decisions to be made. We continued to battle with the government and the infra-structure providers over broadband speeds and our grateful thanks go to Malcolm Ingham for taking this on board and pursuing various options – sadly none of which have proved viable yet. On a similar subject – as a result of the storms in November, Elmdon was without any means of communication with the outside world for the best part of 2 weeks. BT appear to be singularly disinterested or apologetic about this and will only pay compensation where people claim and can prove being out of pocket. It is hoped that maybe the broadband solution may also provide us with an emergency facility telephone-wise, should there be a similar occurrence.

There has been discussion with the police and council about installing a mirror at the end of Elm Court, but this appears to be currently irresolvable. Various discussions allowed the jubilee elm on Elmdon cricket pitch to remain in its current position. The churchyard in Elmdon has been a point of focus with its retaining wall, the brambles around the remaining graves and the state of one of the graves all giving concern. We thank Robert Smith for his kind offer of assistance dealing with the brambles. The derelict tomb will be made safe and the retaining wall remains an issue for consideration, as our attention has been drawn to possible costs involved in any future repairs.

The most recent development, to end on a more positive note, is our response to an invitation to join the 100 Parishes scheme. It was felt we preferred to keep things under our own village control, so Graham Knight has very kindly produced a skeleton website for Elmdon, for which our many thanks and we look forward to developing this as a village contribution, to work alongside the Duddenhoe End Village Hall web site.

Finally, thank you to all my fellow Councillors for their efforts and support during the year. Very special thanks to Carol Fiske for keeping us all together and coping with the barrage of emails that some topics have produced – all that on top of moving house and I wish Penelope Gaine well in her tenure as Chairman.

14.29 **Election of Vice Chairman**
 Proposal that Kate Chambers be elected Vice Chairman of Elmdon & Wenden Lofts Parish Council
 Proposed: Penelope Gaine
 Seconded: John Holford

14.30 **Minutes of the previous meeting 19th March 2014**
 Were read, approved and signed

14.31 **Matters arising** that were not to be discussed later.
 Churchyard Wall – This was discussed and John Holford assured the meeting that there was public liability cover for this subject to the terms and conditions applicable to the policy.
 Website – The Parish Council wanted to thank Graham Knight for all his work and they would try and find people who would let him know the various pieces of information that he needs for the website.
 The Dial – Planning has asked for a meeting of the Parish Council and The Dial's owner. Robert Chambers has offered to go to a meeting with a representative of the UDC and report back to the Parish Council.

14.32 **Planning**

UTT/13/0911/FUL	Barn at Elmdonbury	Permission refused
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The change of site for the garage at Sebring was discussed and the Parish Council expressed concern that the new position might interfere with an historic Right of Way.

The Clerk gave the meeting the UDC's Locat Plan, Pre Submission Consultation document which said it was unlikely that building outside the village limit would be allowed. There was no building projected for Elmdon & Wenden Lofts.

14.33 **Finance as at 7th May 2014**

Current account	£ 7866.65
Business Saver account (inc ringfenced £5601)	£ 7073.35
Plus precept	<u>£ 4738.50</u>
Less current expenses	£ 1064.00
Total available to the Parish Council	£18613.92

Proposal that the Annual Accounts were approved and signed by the chairman
 Proposed: Jayne Drinkwater
 Seconded; Penelope Gaine

Proposal that Whyare Inspired be the Internal Auditor for 2014/15
 Proposed: Kate Chambers
 Seconded: Jayne Drinkwater

Proposal that Cleartax continue to do the PAYE
 Proposed: Jayne Drinkwater
 Seconded: Kate Chambers

Invoices were approved
EALC subscription
Whyare Inspired
Clear Tax
Homestart Donation
Clerk's salary and expenses

14.34 **Drainage**

The Clerk had written to ECC in December 2013 and had only had a reply in May 2014. The drains are compacted and drainage water is flooding up through the BT conduits. The drains need to be cleared and all underground drains need cleaning. The Parish Council thanked Michael Gaine for all his hard work and he agreed to continue to get this problem solved. (Since the AGM Essex Highways have asked for a meeting and are coming to clear the drains)

14.35 **Broadband**

There was a report from Malcolm Ingham to say he was still waiting to hear the results of the latest survey. The Parish Council wanted to express their thanks for all his hard work.

14.36 **Correspondence and Emails**

Various letters to the Clerk re a resident in Bury Gardens who was causing some concern and distress, were considered. The Clerk was asked to contact Ms Ros Millerskip at UDC housing department and arrange a meeting as it was felt this was imperative. This meeting to be attended by the concerned people.

14.37 **Any Other Business**

The clerk was asked to write again to Highways re the verge in Kings Lane.

The Community Award Scheme was discussed and various candidates were considered. The Chairman will email the form to the Clerk to complete.

The Parish Council wanted to thank Nick Elbourn for mowing by the War Memorial. We will give him £25 for petrol but he has asked his fee be given to the church. The clerk was asked to write confirming this.

It was decided that the church path be repaired. The church warden will be asked when it would be a good time.

The Cricket Pavilion was broken into again and a claim has been put in hand.

Alan Prosser resigned as Footpath Warden but said that dog owners were still allowing their dogs to foul the footpaths.

14.38 **The date of the next Parish Council Meeting**

June 18th 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
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