

ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 2015 IN DUDDENHOE END VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00PM

Present Penelope Gaine, Nigel Bond, Martin Collins, Ian Donaldson Petrea Fagan,
Jonathan Hall and John Holford
In attendance: Malcolm Ingham and Sheila Jones
Clerk Carol Fiske

15.39 Election of Chairman

Proposal that Penelope Gaine be re-elected as Chairman
Proposed: Petrea Fagan
Seconded: Martin Collins
Agreed unanimously and the Acceptance of Office was signed

15.40 Apologies for Absence

None

15.41 Declaration of Members' Interests

Ian Donaldson declared an interest in the planning item
Penelope Gaine declared an interest in the churchyard
Nigel Bond declared an interest in the community grant scheme

15.42 Chairman's Report 2014/2015

First of all, the Parish council, those of us who were left, report with sadness on the loss of four of our councillors, Joan Sanderson, Jayne Drinkwater, Kate Chambers and Alan Prosser. We shall miss their company and their wise council and we have written to them to express our gratitude for their long service.

However, we now welcome four new members, Martin Collins, Nigel Bond, Ian Donaldson and Jonathan Hall and I am sure that we shall continue, with their help, as the good and active team that we have been up to now. We all agree that the function of our Parish Council is to be of service to our local villages and to be active in the interests of everyone and in fact, to this end, we have had an active year.

We found ourselves at the beginning of the year with the substantial funds of £18,613.92 and were warned by our clerk that if some of this was not spent this year we were in danger of a reduced precept for the coming year. In Elmdon we gave £1500 for the restoration, overseen by John Holford, of an important tombstone in the churchyard, and even more importantly, again instigated by John, the clearing of the south bank so that now the church is once again visible to the rest of the village. This project is ongoing as we are still waiting for the electricity people to come and cut back the trees away from the electric cables so we don't yet know the final cost. In Duddenhoe End we provided money for the village hall roof to be made bird and weather proof (sadly the birds are still squeezing in) and also money for Hamlet churchyard, £500 for the refurbishing of the war memorial, as well as work on the bus shelter, and future plans for the two notice boards. In addition the Essex Playing Fields Association has given Elmdon an award for the best-kept sports field again, we contributed £300 for the old folk's lunch and we now have a playground committee looking for a suitable site for a children's playground, which we are very happy to support and help finance when a suitable site has been found..

Sadly we still have an ongoing problem with the tenant in Bury Gardens in Elmdon and we await another report in due course.

One of the other huge benefits is the help we have received from members of the villages who are not members of the Parish Council, first of all Malcolm Ingham who has been working like a beaver in his efforts to provide better broadband and Vodaphone sure signal coverage for Elmdon. Much progress has been made and I am sure this year will see its final fruition. Graham Knight has set up the Elmdon website and organises Neighbourhood Watch, with regular reports on disappearing lawnmowers, etc. in which the Ukrainians have now enthusiastically joined. Petrea and I have agreed to tour the village to enlist those who are not already members. Also thanks to Michael Gaine who sorted the overflowing drains in Elmdon (26 tons of silt were removed from the blocked pipes) apparently by sending a polite email to Rodney Bass, instead of the 400 abusive ones that he received every day! Finally Mr John Bosworth has produced a very elegant colour document on Elmdon and its various houses. According to him we are now to be preserved.

However I can't end without paying tribute to our clerk Carol Fiske who has worked tirelessly to keep us on the right road, to keep us legal (especially in coping with the endless bureaucracy of the election documents) and who produces financial accounts that even I can understand.

15.43 Election of Vice Chairman

Proposal that Nigel Bond be elected for the position of Vice Chairman

Proposed: Ian Donaldson

Seconded: John Holford

Agreed unanimously and the Acceptance of Office was signed

The remaining Parish Councillors signed their Acceptance of Office.

15.44 Minutes of the meeting on 8th April 2015

Minutes were read, approved and signed.

15.45 Matters Arising

1 Bury Gardens- John Holford reported that the paperwork has been returned to UDC but there is still no progress in finding a solution.

The situation on the pavement of Ickleton Road seems to have improved but an item re parking on pavements will go into The Gazette

The clerk was asked to enlarge the Bus timetables she had acquired and they are to be put up in the bus shelter. The clerk was asked to enquire about route 31 from Richmonds

15.46 Planning

There were no objections to any of the applications received

15.47 Finance Balances as at 20th May 2015

Current Account	£ 11,104.59
Business Saver Account	£ 7,076.87
Total inc ring fenced £7,101	<u>£ 18,181.46</u>
Less unrepresented cheques	£ 300.00
Less current expenditure	<u>£ 566.70</u>
Total in hand	<u>£ 17,314.86</u>

Proposal that the 2014/2015 accounts should be accepted
Proposed: Penelope Gaine
Seconded: Jonathan Hall
Unanimously agreed

Proposal that Whyare Inspried should continue as Internal Auditor
Proposed: Petrea Fagan
Seconded: John Holford
Unanimously agreed

Proposal that ClearTax Accounting should continue to do the PAYE
Proposed John Holford
Seconded: Nigel Bond
Unanimously agreed

The following Invoices were approved
ClearTax Accounting
Whyare Inspried Ltd
Duddenhoe End VH hire
Clerk's salary and expenses

15.48 Broadband and Sure Signal

Malcolm Ingham reported that he was still waiting for an estimate from Buzzcom. Fibre is due to come to Elmdon hopefully over the next 2 to 3 months. Elmdon was surveyed by Vodaphone and the Sure Signal box can be purchased from Vodaphone who will pay for the installation but each household who has the box will be expected to pay a small amount annually after signing the contract. The Parish Council felt it would not be appropriate for the PC to pay this amount.

**15.49 Correspondence and Emails
Community Grant Scheme**

Papers from Sue Hayden of UDC were discussed and the clerk was asked to give them to the Village Hall committees and ask for further copies

15.50 Any Other Business

The Police Support Officer will send a timetable of future meetings.
There is no news re Littlebury Bridge
Although the PC is not directly involved in the walk through Elmdon John Holford will undertake to confirm the contract that the DCC has undertaken for the churchyard as the PC is responsible for part of it.

15.51 Date of the next meeting

1st July in Elmdon Village Hall

Next Meetings	26 th August Duddenhoe End
30 th September Elmdon	4 th November Duddenhoe End
9 th December Elmdon	