

ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10th MAY 2016 IN DUDDENHOE VILLAGE HALL AT 7pm

Present: Penelope Gaine
Nigel Bond Martin Collins Ian Donaldson
Petrea Fagan Jonathan Hall John Holford
Clerk: Sheila Jones
Responsible Financial Officer: Jane Guy

12 Members of Public were present

Penelope Gaine was given heartfelt thanks for the tremendous amount of hard work that she had put in during her term as Chairman in what was a very challenging year.

16.27 Election of Chairman

Proposal that Nigel Bond be elected as Chairman of Elmdon & Wenden Lofts Parish Council

Proposed: Penelope Gaine

Seconded: Ian Donaldson

Carried unanimously

16.28 Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

16.29 Declaration of Interests for business in hand

There was no declaration of interests for the business in hand.

16.30 Chairman's Report

We now have Superfast Broadband and Vodafone Open Rural Sure mobile telephone signal in Elmdon and we are hopeful that the Broadband maybe extended to Duddenhoe End and Wenden Lofts, with grateful thanks to Malcolm Ingham for all his hard work to achieve this.

Thanks also to Graham Knight who organises the Elmdon Neighbourhood Watch and Website with great efficiency.

We welcomed our new Clerk Sheila Jones and new Responsible financial Officer Jane Guy in great August with great delight. Sheila keeps the Councillors under control and Jane keeps our finances under control.

We also welcome all those from the Parish who have attended our meetings.

We are still aware of the noise issue from barking dogs in Bury Gardens and are in contact with UDC; unfortunately to date this remains unresolved.

The organisers of the London to Cambridge walk have decided to repeat the event

and follow the same route. This is scheduled for 2nd and 3rd July 2016. We have given them permission to use the churchyard again in order that we will keep control over the noise (loud conversation), which was reported as a problem last year.

The Chairman wrote on behalf of the villages to the Walden Local in response to the very disappointing reduction in the local Police presence and manpower, under the headline 'Commander's sad attempt to paper over the cracks'

At the September meeting it was proposed by the Elmdon Community Group that the Parish Council should set up a neighbourhood plan and that this would be done in co-operation with the ECG. This coincided with the application for the Smith Pyle proposal to be considered within the UDC call for development sites. This was rejected by UDC in February as unsuitable for the two reasons of lack of amenities within Elmdon Village and the narrow roads around the village. However the applicants are still pursuing these plans.

At the November meeting we welcomed the Rural Community Council of Essex to explain the process and procedures of setting up a neighbourhood plan. The Parish Council instructed Edward Rigby of the RCCE to undertake a housing needs survey for the whole Parish.

We received this report in February this year, however unfortunately there was only a 17% response rate.

A full Neighbourhood Plan would be a very onerous commitment in terms of cost, work and time scales for our small villages and Nigel Bond and I had a further meeting with Michelle Gardiner who was able to suggest two simpler alternatives.

A steering group has now been set up consisting of Peter Syfret, Chairman, Bob Woods, Jonathan Hall, Ian Donaldson Alie Porritt and Penelope Gaine. The group has held two meetings, the second was yesterday (May 9th), which included Michelle Gardiner, when the three options were discussed.

The Chairman handed over to Bob Woods, Chairman of the Elmdon Community Group. who gave a report regarding the proposed way forward.:

There were three options available, namely a Parish Plan, a Village Design Statement and a Neighbourhood Plan.

After due consideration a decision was taken in principle to recommend that the parish go ahead and produce a "Village Design Statement".

The first step in the process is to produce a Constitution, which Michelle Gardiner will help the Steering Group to produce. The aim is to have this ready to present to the Parish Council at the July meeting, then to call a village meeting to get agreement from the villagers to go ahead with the project and to seek suitable volunteers.

The Steering Group currently consists of three Parish councillors and three villagers but for balance a further villager from Duddenhoe End would be sought.

16.31 Election of Vice Chairman

Proposal that Ian Donaldson be elected Vice Chairman of Elmdon & Wenden Lofts Parish Council

Proposed: Petrea Fagan

Seconded: Jonathan Hall

Carried unanimously.

16.32 Minutes of the meeting on 22 March 2016

Minutes were read, approved and signed.

16.33 Matters Arising not being discussed later

a. Village Hall Heater costs – in hand

b. Local Bus Timetable and availability – Meeting to take place at Saffron Walden Town Hall on the 16 May 2016

c. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report – covered under Chairman’s report

d. Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations – in hand. Tickets now available.

e. Defibrillator – Investigations continuing.

f. Broadband in Duddenhoe End. A presentation by Gigaclear a fibre-based system had been made. Providing that there was a sign-up of 32%, broadband fibre could be relayed to connect each property in Duddenhoe End and surrounding villages.

16.34 Planning

UTT/16/0747/FUL	Barn and Elmdonbury	No objection
UTT/16/0682/HHF	Hallians, Elmdon	No objection
UTT/16/0683/LB	Hallians, Elmdon	No objection
UTT/16/0836/FUL	Serenity, Elmdon	No objection
UTT/16/1155/FUL	Gallery House. Duddenhoe End	Objections will be submitted by the 27 May 2016

16.35 Clerks Report – Noted.

Clerk to write to Highways Department requesting new sign for the bottom of Pond Street to Hamlet Church, Duddenhoe End.

16.36 Finance

The Responsible Financial Officer provided a report of the balances as at 10 May 2016 (Appendix A).

Current Account	£4,585.41
Plus Uncleared Items:	£68.58
Refund from Transparency Fund	
Precept	£4,821.50
Saver Account	£7,080.46
Total	£16,555.95

Proposal that the Annual Accounts were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Nigel Bond

Seconded: Jonathan Hall

Proposal that Whyare Inspired by the Internal Auditor for 2016/17
Proposed: Ian Donaldson
Seconded: Nigel Bond

Proposal that Cleartax continue to provide Payroll services
Proposed: Ian Donaldson
Seconded: Petrea Fagan

Invoices to the total value of £1,100.19 were approved
EALC Subscription
Whyare Inspired
Duddenhoe End Village Hall
Clear Tax Accounting
Clerk and RFO PAYE salary and expenses

16.37 Correspondence and Emails

- a. Letter from UDC re Elmdon Dial and Assets of Community Value - noted
- b. Storm drains. It has been reported that these require clearing in Ickleton Road, Elmdon. The Clerk to write to relevant body and request all storm drains in Elmdon be cleared.

16.38 Matters to be raised by members for the next agenda

Telephone Box Refurbishment at Elmdon . Councillor Holford to look into organising this.

The Steering Group for the Village Design Statement would like a public meeting and proposed that this take place prior to the Parish Council meeting on the 12th July.

16.39 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

12 July 2016 Elmdon Village Hall

FUTURE MEETINGS

30 August 2016 Duddenhoe End Village Hall
11 October 2016 Elmdon Village Hall
22 November 2016 Duddenhoe End Village Hall
10 January 2017 Elmdon Village Hall

The meeting ended at 8.25pm

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