

ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELMDON & WENDEN LOFTS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9^h MAY 2017 IN DUDDENHOE VILLAGE HALL AT 7pm

Present: Nigel Bond
Petrea Fagan Jonathan Hall
Bill Hodges John Holford
Clerk: Sheila Jones
Responsible Financial Officer: Jane Guy

3 Members of Public were present

16.27 Election of Chairman

Proposal that Councillor Bond be elected as Chairman of Elmdon & Wenden Lofts Parish Council for a second year
Proposed: Councillor Holford
Seconded: Councillor Fagan
Carried unanimously

16.28 Apologies for absence

Ian Donaldson.
Penelope Gaine

16.29 Declaration of Interests for business in hand

Councillor Fagan declared an interest in item 17.37 (f).

16.30 Chairman's Report

The last 12 months have certainly been fairly busy for the Parish Council and I would like to thank all the Councillors for their support and unfailing willingness to get involved in the various issues that come our way.

Thanks must also go to our Clerk Sheila Jones and our responsible Financial Officer Jane Guy, without whose constant support we would have been unable to function.

Sadly after a long illness Councillor Martin Collins died at the latter part of 2016. His contributions to our meetings have been missed. This created a Casual Vacancy and Bill Hodges was co-opted as a councillor with effect from January 2017.

Much of our time has been taken up with planning applications, around 14 in the last 12 months, some of which have caused considerable discussion. The proposal for 30 plus houses in Ickleton Road, Elmdon may have gone away for the time being but could always been resurrected in another form.

An application from the owner of the Elmdon Dial for a change of use to a licensed cafe, delicatessen and hairdresser generated more than 50 minutes of public discussion at the October 2016 meeting with 24 members of the public in attendance. Objections and discussion to this application continued until March

2017 when the application was suddenly withdrawn and the property was reported as sold to Mr Gavin Davidson. Considerable effort had been put in by members of the public and councillors to combat the application, including at the planning meeting on 8 February at UDC. We are hopeful that Elmdon will regain its pub. A planning application that had been approved but became contentious was Hallians where a wall was constructed within the Elmdon Conservation area that had not been approved. Although the PC and members of the public objected to this construction, it was retrospectively approved by UDC.

We are increasingly under pressure to approve infill applications within the existing Village Development Limits and but we are now presented with applications that are back land development that are clearly outside the villages' limits. Applications, particularly in Duddenhoe End are now becoming increasingly controversial and I suspect there will many more in the future which are going to be challenging.

In January four parish councillors attended a meeting with Councillor Rolfe and a Senior Planning Officer at UDC offices, the discussion centred around planning. We were left with the confirmed opinion that as a Parish Council, our input was insignificant.

We have continued to support both the village halls, with £1000 going toward the cost of new heaters in Elmdon and £500 for Duddenhoe End which will go towards resurfacing the play area.

The provision of defibrillators is ongoing and much work has been done in investigating the various options and possible sites and we have been given £200 from UDC courtesy of Councillor Julie Redfern.

Village Design Statement. The steering group set up in 2016 made a presentation at the 30 August meeting which was attended by 35 members of the public and it was agreed that we should draw up a Village Design Statement with the committee reporting back to the Parish Council three times a year. We are very appreciative of the hard work put in by the committee.

We are responsible for the maintenance of 20 odd trees in the deconsecrated part of Elmdon Churchyard. Mainly Lime trees these need to be pollarded and so as to spread the cost we have agreed to have work done over two years. Work has already started.

The lack of decent Broadband in Duddenhoe End and Wenden Lofts is still very disappointing especially as the proposed solution by Gigaclear is yet to this show any progress and BT are not prepared to solve the situation either, however we are appreciative of the efforts put in by a group of residents in Duddenhoe End and we await an update from Gigaclear.

We have had an issue with two abandoned cars in Elmdon. One was removed however the other one is on the owners land and therefore beyond the power of UDC to remove it. The only course of action open to us is to try to persuade the owner to remove it once he has finished with it.

Pot holes and road signs. The state of the roads and signposts through the whole

parish are very disappointing and we have had little success in communicating directly with the Essex Highway Authority. We are awaiting a further responses, meanwhile it is clear that they will only respond to new problems if entered directly into their new online system.

We were invited to attend a presentation made by Smithson Hill for the Agripark Hinxton.

We would like to thank our Clerk for tirelessly trying to understand the complicated bus service.

We are looking at a proposal to having some roads designated as Quiet Lanes.

Finally I would like to thank the Elmdon Community Group (ECG) for their continued support and efforts to maintain the quality and character of our villages.

The Councillors unanimously thanked the Chairman for all his hard work during the year.

16.31 Election of Vice Chairman

Proposal that Councillor Donaldson be elected Vice Chairman of Elmdon & Wenden Lofts Parish Council
Proposed: Councillor Hall
Seconded: Councillor Hodges
Carried unanimously.

16.32 Minutes of the meeting on 28 March 2017

Minutes were read, approved and signed.

16.33 Matters Arising not being discussed later

- a. Elmdon Dial – The pub has now been sold. The Chairman of the ECG recently had a positive meeting with the new owner. The new owner is currently deciding on the best way forward for running The Elmdon Dial.
- b. Defibrillators – Councillor Fagan is in touch with the Ambulance Service Trust. They recommend the installation of defibrillators in villages where they are more than 8 minutes away from a response unit. A leaflet/questionnaire has been prepared in conjunction with the ECG. This will be distributed to all householders in the parish.
- c. Village Design Statement – Next meeting will take place on the 22nd May and will hopefully include Essex Joint Council.
- d. Road signs and pot holes. A response to the Chairman's letter to the Highways Department, Uttlesford District Council has been received, but it did not refer to the specific problems that were outlined in the Chairman's letter. This is therefore ongoing.
- e. Joan Watson Memorial Bench – Council have agreed the new position and the installation of the bench is scheduled to take place in the near future.
- f. Abandoned Cars on Ickleton Road, Elmdon – the householder owns the land therefore the car in question is on private land.

16.34 Planning

The following planning application was received after the publication of the Agenda (see Appendix B)

UTT/17/1189/HHF 7 Lower Pond Street, Wenden Lofts. Garden Shed.

If no adverse objections are made before the 2nd June 2017, the Parish Council will inform Uttlesford District Council that there are no objections to this application.

16.35 **Clerks Report** – The Clerk attended a meeting on the 9th May regarding the local Bus service. Information on the service will be published in The Gazette from time to time. New Timetables will soon be available. These will be posted on the website and Notice Boards. They are also available from the Tourist Office in Saffron Walden.

16.36 Finance

The Responsible Financial Officer provided a report of the balances as at 9 May 2017 (Appendix A).

Current Account	£7,195.61
Grant from UDC (Cllr Redfern)	£400.00
Precept	£5,022.00
Sub-total (inc ring fenced £5,801.00)	£12,617.61
Less Cheques (See below)	-£1,716.32
Saver Account	£7,083.10
Total	<u>£17,984.39</u>

Proposal that (a) the Parish councils Accounting procedures be approved (b) the Annual Accounts and annual return were approved and (c) the Council's Financial Regulations confirmed and all documents (a-c) be signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Councillor Holford

Seconded: Councillor Fagan

Proposal that Maurice Howard FCPFA be appointed Internal Auditor for 2016/17

Proposed: Councillor Hall

Seconded: Councillor Hodges

Proposal that ClearTax Accounting Ltd continue to provide Payroll services

Proposed: Councillor Fagan

Seconded: Councillor Holford

Invoices and payments to the total value of £1,716.32 were approved

EALC Subscription

Duddenhoe End Village Hall hire charges

ClearTax & Accounting Ltd

Clerk and RFO PAYE salary and expenses for March and April

Grant to Duddenhoe End Village Hall 2016/17

16.37 Correspondence and Emails

- a. Letter received informing the Parish Council of the work which will be carried out at the Hamlet Church. This will involve extensive tidying up the grounds. The cost was estimated at £300, which is within the existing budget.

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

- a. Defibrillator
- b. Village Design Statement
- c. Potholes and road signs
- d. Drains
- e. Church Wall.

16.39 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

20 June 2017 Elmdon Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

FUTURE MEETINGS

25 July	Duddenhoe End Village Hall
5 September	Elmdon Village Hall
10 October	Duddenhoe End Village Hall
21 November	Elmdon Village Hall
2018	
9 January	Duddenhoe End Village Hall

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