

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of full Council held on
Monday 16th January 2017 at 7.30pm
at The Blackbourne.

Present: Cllrs Barker, Burch, Edmonds, Friend, Hawes, Ms Indurain, Pallett (Chairman), Pratt, Schofield, Mrs Taber, Wiley

Attending: District Council Ward Member Mrs Sarah Mansell
District Council Ward Member Mr John Levantis
Parish Clerk Mr Peter Dow
16 members of the public

17.01.01 **Noted:**
That there were no apologies for absence.

17.01.02 **Resolved:**
That the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 21st November 2016, as tabled, be agreed as a true record.

17.01.03 **Noted:**
The following when any Members' Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in subsequent agenda items were invited and to note any additions, deletions or alterations to the Council's Register of Interests:

- 3.1 Cllr Ms Indurain declared a Local Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 14, which mentions land at Wetherden Road to which she was a near neighbour.
- 3.2 Cllr Ms Indurain declared a of Local Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 15, grant aid to ElmsWild, as she was a member of ElmsWild.
- 3.3 Cllrs Burch & Ms Indurain each declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 16 regarding allotment fees as they were allotment tenants.
- 3.4 Cllr Friend declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 16 regarding allotment fees as his spouse was an allotment tenant.

17.01.04 **Noted:**
The meeting received the following reports:

- 4.1 A written report from County Council Ward Member Cllr Mrs Jane Storey;
- 4.2 A written report from District Council Ward Member Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansel;
- 4.3 A written report from District Council Ward Member Cllr John Levantis;
- 4.4 A written report from the BMA;
- 4.5 A written report from Cllr Friend re the recent SALC Area meeting.

17.01.05 **Noted:**
That when public questions on matters raised at Agenda item 4 were invited, none were forthcoming.

17.01.06 **Noted:**
The following when comment or questions from Members was invited on matters raised at Agenda item 4:

- 6.1 Cllr Burch asked District Council Ward Members whether they were aware of the Planning Enforcement issue related to a mobile home sited in the front garden of a house in Wetherden Road. They confirmed that they are copied in on the Council's communications with Officers via the Clerk and that due process is being followed.
- 6.2 Cllr Burch asked District Council Ward Members whether they were aware of 6 Council bungalows at Manns Court being empty for several months as the result of a long standing heating oil leak which has impregnated the concrete sub base and made the dwellings uninhabitable to the extent that they may be demolished. It was confirmed that the situation is as outlined and Cllr Mrs Mansel undertook to pursue the matter with a view to speeding up the decision making process. A new in-house maintenance arrangement should, in the meantime, speed up housing repairs generally and help avoid leaving dwellings void of occupation for extended periods.

- 17.01.07 **Noted:**
The following when public comment or questions was invited on any item on this Agenda:
7.1 The Chairman assured a member of the public that concerns regarding the Planning applications at Wetherden Road and Warren Lane, with specific reference to the narrowness of the latter where a new junction is proposed and the loss of good farm land to housing, would be noted and assimilated into the debate at the proposed Extraordinary meeting on 23rd January, as at Agenda item 14, when public input will be invited.
- 17.01.08 **Noted:**
The following correspondence:
8.1 Various with Jo Churchill MP, Wetherden PC, SCC Highways re A14 concrete surface
(circulated to Councillors)
8.2 With Suffolk Constabulary re concerns related to local policing reductions in service provision.
(circulated)
8.3 From Children With Cancer UK, Marie Curie, SARS, each, MAGPAS, Age UK Suffolk, British Red Cross, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal; thanks for grant aid.
- 17.01.09 **Noted:**
That there was no further correspondence.
- 17.01.10 **Noted:**
That the meeting received the Clerk's report as per Appendix A;
10.1 The Clerk confirmed notification of the notice of appointment of new External Auditors by the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments body, being Messrs PKF Littlejohn LLP and taking effect from 01.04.17.
10.2 The Clerk confirmed receipt of an email earlier in the day from the Council's Solicitor acting in the matter of the Wesley purchase to the effect that the vendors were expected to respond within a very few days regarding a very few outstanding matters related to the Contract.
- 17.01.11 **Noted:**
That when any Complaints Committee business for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda was invited none was forthcoming and that the date of the next complaints Committee meeting was not known.
- 17.01.12 **Noted:**
The following Planning results as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council.
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|------|---------|---|---|---------|---------------------|
| 12.1 | 4645/16 | ...change of use of former dairy building to 2 dwellings
(revised re Building Regs.) | Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road | GRANTED | EPC made no comment |
| 12.2 | 0846/13 | Agreement of Reserved Matters | under 0846/13 at Former
Grampian Harris site, St Edmunds Drive | | |
| 12.3 | 3918/15 | Agreement of Reserved Matters | under 0846/13 at Former
Grampian Harris site, St Edmunds Drive | | |
| 12.4 | 4009/16 | Erection of detached dwelling... | South View, Spong Lane | REFUSED | EPC objected |
| 12.5 | 3888/16 | Partial garage conversion...first floor side extension. | 23 Oxer Close | GRANTED | EPC Supported |
| 12.6 | 3250/16 | Erection of extension...removal of outbuildings... | Norwood, Church Road | GRANTED | EPC Supported |
| 12.7 | 3473/16 | ...replace cedar shingle roof tiles...remove chimney internally... | Tudor Cottages, School Road | REFUSED | EPC Objected |
| 12.8 | 3933/16 | Extensions & Alterations at Street Farm Nursery
Station Road | | GRANTED | EPC supported |
- [Cllr Pratt made known his declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this Application on which there was no discussion]*
- 17.01.13 **Noted:**
The following other Planning business:
13.1 The Meeting agreed that the Clerk should produce and arrange for the distribution / posting of leaflets and posters advertising the Public Meeting scheduled for 23.01.17 in relation to the Planning applications detailed at Agenda item 14.

- 17.01.14 **Noted:**
The calling of an Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 23.01.17 to discuss specifically and make comment on 2 Outline Planning Applications, being:
Ref. 4911/16 *for the development of up to 240 dwellings with associated work including vehicular and pedestrian accesses, pedestrian links, infrastructure, open space, landscaping, community parkland and green infrastructure.*
Land adjacent to Wetherden Road.
Ref. 4909/16 *for the erection of 38 dwellings with associated vehicular and pedestrian access.*
Land east of Warren Lane and west of Cresmedow Way.
- 17.01.15 **Resolved:**
That the volunteers of ElmsWild be thanked for their excellent stewardship of the Station Road recycling centre for the 3 months to 26.11.16 and that a grant of £150.00 be made to the group's funds.
- 17.01.16 **Resolved:**
That the tenancy fees for the allotments at Church Hill and Lukeswood be uplifted by 5%, rounded, from 01.01.17 and that this uplift be applied every 2 years from that date.
Cllrs Burch, Friend & Indurain, having each declared a Disclosable pecuniary Interest in this matter, left the meeting prior to any discussion and returned when the matter was determined.
- 17.01.17 There was lengthy and informed discussion drawing on budget papers, as previously circulated to Councillors and as published on the website and at this meeting, together with outcomes based on various levels of Precept for 2017 / 2018, again previously circulated and published.

Proposed: Cllr Friend;
That Elmswell Parish Council precepts the sum of £116,837.00 for the 2017 / 2018 financial year and that the Clerk should direct Mid Suffolk District Council to pay accordingly.
Seconded: Cllr Edmonds
Proposal carried
- 17.01.18 **Noted:**
The pro-forma check list, as tabled, for the forthcoming Internal Audit by the Chairman, Vice chairman and Cllr Barker of the Council's governance and if its control of finance and resource stewardship and the agreement of the Meeting that this forms a sound basis for audit.
- 17.01.19 **Noted:**
Authorised payments made and income received as per Appendices B and C, and indicative financial overview to 31.08.16.
19.1 Cllr Barker declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest in Appendix B5 relating to Solicitors Burnett Barker as he was a Partner in the practice, although it was noted that the payment was a deposit against the Wesley purchase and is simply held by the Council's solicitor pending Completion.
- 17.01.20 **Resolved:**
That proposed payments, scheduled as Appendix D, be authorised.
- 17.01.21 **Noted:**
The Balance as per Appendix E and the Chairman's confirmation that the relevant bank statements and computer report verify the published figure of £389,721.45.
- 17.01.22 **Noted:**
The following when public comment or questions was invited on matters relevant to Council business:
22.1 In response to questions regarding the Extraordinary Meeting as per Agenda item 14, the Chairman and Clerk confirmed:
22.1.1 The session will begin with a presentation from the Developer's Agent on which questions will be taken through the Chair. It is intended that this will be brought to an end by 8.00pm when the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will open. The Public will be invited to speak to this second meeting. Council does not have a view on the applications, which are separate items, until it meets. Comments made to Mid Suffolk are best copied to the Clerk so that they are included in Council's deliberations.

- 22.2 The Chairman explained that the gist of recent correspondence (ref 8.1 above) regarding the noise reduction initiative on A14 was that this is unlikely to be scheduled until 2020 at the earliest.
- 22.3 The Chairman confirmed that the proposed Village Warden will not be empowered to fine offenders in matters such as poor parking, dog fouling etc.
- 22.4 It was generally agreed that, in light of the reduction in Police presence, parking on the pavement can only be successfully addressed with dated photographic evidence which the Clerk would pass on by way of a formal complaint.

17.01.23

Noted:

The following when any other Council business for information, to be noted, or for inclusion on a future agenda was invited:

- 23.1 There was discussion regarding the often misleading traffic statistics furnished by Developers in support of applications. The Clerk was asked to approach Cllr Mrs Jane Storey for grant aid of £10k from her Local Highways Budget, which is currently underspent by some £40k, towards the stats-gathering exercise which is central to the case for the proposed relief road.

17.01.24

Noted:

That the next ordinary meeting of Council was scheduled for Monday 20th February beginning at 7.30 p.m. at the Blackbourne.

17.01.25

Noted:

That the meeting closed at 8.45pm.