

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ELMSTED PARISH COUNCIL ON 16th DECEMBER 2019**

Present: Cllr Argar (Chair) Cllr Burge
Cllr Castle Cllr Francesconi
Cllr Stanley

In attendance: 1 member of the public and The Clerk

| | | To be actioned by | | | | | | |
|------------|---|-------------------|-------|--------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Apologies | | | | | | | |
| | Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Phipps, Carey and Hollingsbee. | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Declaration of Interest | | | | | | | |
| | There were no declarations of interest. | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising | | | | | | | |
| | The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed. | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Matters Arising | | | | | | | |
| | The rough patch at the top of Elchin Hill has been reported again by Cllr Argar and yet repair has not been undertaken. The road around the "dog leg" at Thorn Leigh will need some repairs now that road closures at The Thorn have been completed. | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Correspondence | | | | | | | |
| | The Clerk had circulated the information regarding the change in the way that the website will now be run and had requested that the Councillors read about this so that they can make an informed decision with regard to what the Parish Council should do next for their website provision. It was agreed that Cllr Castle would contact a company he knows and Cllr Burge would look at alternatives. | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Finances | | | | | | | |
| | <p>a. To note/authorise the following:</p> <p>i. To note the Parish Council's Financial position <i>The Parish Council bank balance as at 30/11/2019 was £1319.86.</i></p> <p>ii. To authorise any payments</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Cheque No:</th> <th style="width: 65%;">Payee</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>No cheques to be written</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>iii. A copy of the budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors.</p> <p>iv. The draft budget was circulated and approved.</p> <p>v. It was agreed that the Parish Council would precept for £2750.</p> | Cheque No: | Payee | Amount | | No cheques to be written | | |
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| 7 | Planning Matters | | | | | | | |
| | All applications had been circulated. There was some discussion regarding affordable homes being potentially available. Cllr Argar had been given a letter and would ensure this is circulated widely and put in the Parish Magazine. | | | | | | | |
| 8 | District/County Councillors | | | | | | | |
| | Councillor Carey reported that: KCC's Leader of 14 years, Paul Carter, stood down at our meeting of 17 October and his successor is Roger Gough. I continue to serve in the cabinet at KCC but Roger has given me a new portfolio and I am now Cabinet Member for Environment. This includes Waste Management, the Natural Environment, Flooding, Heritage and the Waste and Minerals Plan for Kent. I'm also leading our plans to get Kent and Medway to a zero carbon economy by 2050. 2050 sounds a long time away but this is not when we start but when we finish. There is a lot of good work that has already considerably reduced our carbon emissions such as our | | | | | | | |

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| | <p>£40m investment in LED streetlights and many projects in the pipeline such as district heating projects and using old landfill sites for solar power farms. I will keep you updated.</p> <p>KCC has recently held consultations on our 2020/21 budget, our Low Emissions Strategy and on Biodiversity. Thank you to those of you who responded. Work continues on the budget for 2020/21 which will be set at our meeting on 13 February.</p> <p>Do please continue to report potholes and other highway problems to KCC. I know it can be frustrating if Kent Highways respond that the potholes aren't yet bad enough for intervention but it's worth being persistent as impact on residents is one of the measures used when responding to reports of problems.</p> <p>Cllr Hollingsbee sent the following report:</p> <p>Housing was not a big issue at the General Election but if you looked at the manifestos of the parties standing in our area there were commitments to build more. Labour 250,000 a year, Liberal Democrats 300,000 a year, Greens 100,000 a year and the Conservatives who won 60% of the vote in this constituency are also committed to new homes. It's against this background that your District Council is continuing its work on our Local Plan to say where these new homes should go. The Places and Policies Local Plan for our area has now had several rounds of public consultation and been examined in public by an Independent Planning Inspector. The Inspector required that the District Council identify a site/s for gypsy and traveller pitches. A suitable site for 4 pitches was identified in Old Romney and this has been consulted on and agreed by the Inspector. This means the final draft of the Plan with the Inspector's changes can be issued for one last chance for comment by those (and only those) who submitted comments last time. The whole process should be complete by May 2020.</p> <p>A fully approved Local Plan gives our district protection from speculative development and gives certainty to communities and good developers. We are also fortunate to have a very large share of the new housing and employment sites met by the new Garden Town at Otterpool Park where we can provide the schools, medical and community facilities to support them. Earlier this year the District Council acquired Westenhanger Castle which borders the new town. The castle, its sixteenth century barn and 14 acres of parkland will form an integral part of the Garden Town. An Open Day was held on 30 November for residents of our district to visit the castle. As the castle has been in private ownership for many years, this was the first time many local people had had the opportunity to see inside. Around 350 people took part the Open Day and we hope to have more such events in 2020.</p> <p>We are also pleased to report that at our council meeting on 20 November the funding for future development of Otterpool Park was agreed.</p> <p>Jenny attended the AGM of Age UK Hythe & Lyminge which offers services to residents of The North Downs. The new Dementia areas in Lyminge have been very well received and have attracted many clients. However, there is capacity to take more people and residents over 50 years of age are encouraged to visit to see the services on offer, which also include delivery of meals. The shops at both the centres are open Monday to Friday 9am - 3.30pm AND on Saturday mornings from 9.30am - 12.30pm. Volunteers are always welcome and details can be found on the website.</p> | |
| 9 | <p>Public session</p> | |
| | <p>The member of the public asked about the website and why the costs were so large. <i>Because the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018, states that by 23rd September 2020, websites for all public sector bodies must be inclusive and accessible for all.</i> Was it necessary to have a website and could it be conjoined with another Parish? <i>Under the Transparency Code and the above regulations, it is imperative that the Parish Council has a website that is just for this one public sector body.</i></p> <p>The member of the public will discuss the issue with the MP.</p> <p>The member of the public asked how much the affordable homes were. <i>It was thought in the region of £250,000.</i></p> | |
| 10 | <p>To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment</p> | |
| | <p>There were no changes to be made to the Risk Assessment</p> | |

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| 11 | Any Other Business | |
| | The salt bin in Hill Street has gone missing. The Clerk will report. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Carey/Hollingsbee regarding the flooding issues at the Thorn as this is not cured yet and would be in breach of the planning permission. | |
| 12 | Dates of the Forthcoming Meeting: | |
| | Thursday 12 th March 2020 Thursday 14 th May 2020 | |
| 13 | Date of the next meeting: | |
| | The next meeting will be held on Thursday March 12 th 2020. | |
| 14 | The meeting closed at 8.15pm | |

Signed:

Date: