

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
ELMSTED PARISH COUNCIL ON 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020**

Present: Cllr Argar (Chair) Cllr Bevan  
Cllr Francesconi Cllr Phipps

In attendance: Cllr Carey and Hollingsbee and The Clerk

		To be actioned by
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Burge and Stanley.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>	
	There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</b>	
	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
	<p>The Pot holes are still not fixed.</p> <p>The rough patch at the top of Elchin Hill has been reported again by Cllr Argar and yet repair has not been undertaken. Cllr Carey explained that she had put forward Elmsted as one of her top 3 areas for pot holes to be addressed. Pot holes have to be prioritised and we need to be persistent and keep reporting the issues as they arise. There is now more money available for pot-holes/roads so it is hoped that we might soon turn the corner. Elchin Hill surface is not yet at Intervention level but Cllr Argar is to be contacted by the Highways Engineer. Cllr Carey also questioned whether a Highways Improvement Plan might be of use. Cllr Carey was asked and said that a new directional sign to Elmsted at the Thorn Lane junction would be forthcoming.</p> <p>Cllr Francesconi requested a street name for Thorn Lane.</p> <p>Cllr Francesconi asked whether it would be possible to have a sign to Dean Farm. It was suggested that if deliveries and collections from the farm are very difficult that Cllr Francesconi should contact the Council by email stating the problems and, there may be a fee but the signs may be possible.</p> <p>Cllr Phipps stated that Stowting Primary School is very well signed at present and questioned as to why there were so many signs. Cllr Carey was sure that they are not permitted signs and, therefore, suggested that Cllr Phipps sends a photograph to Cllr Carey.</p> <p>The road around the “dog leg” at Thorn Leigh will need some repairs now that road closures at The Thorn have been completed. The Clerk will report this,</p> <p>Cllr Carey explained that there had been 193 flood alerts in February 2020, this was in comparison to 25 in February 2019. Highways responded rapidly and £2,000,000 has been spent on flooding in Kent.</p> <p>The reported salt bin appears to be back.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
	The Clerk had received a letter invited the Council to put forward a School Governor. There was some initial interest but ultimately none of the Councillors present felt they wished to undertake this role.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Website</b>	
	It was noted that HugoFox have said that their sites will be fully compliant by September 2020. There was no further update on this.	
<b>7</b>	<b>VE75</b>	
	The plans for the VE75 Celebrations were discussed. Invitations will be delivered to all households.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Finances</b>	
	<p>a. To note/authorise the following:</p> <p>i. To note the Parish Council’s Financial position</p>	

The Parish Council bank balance as at 29/02/2020 was £1319.86.

ii. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
------------	-------	--------

No cheques to be written

**9 Planning Matters**

There were 2 discharges of conditions notices and one application that had been circulated for Dundas Cottages.

The change of planning permission at Stonegate was discussed and it is believed that permission was granted for the offices to be made into flats.

**10 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. There is a lot of good work that has already considerably reduced our carbon emissions such as our £40m investment in LED streetlights and many projects in the pipeline such as nature restoration, there is to be a Nature Restoration audit carried out so districts can work on bio-diversity, tree planting and sea grasses and kelp in order to assist with carbon emissions.

KCC are helping with flood prevention and works is being undertaken on the Water Gardens Project which will encourage a connection with nature. The AONBs in the area are under pressure as they are over-used and this project should assist with alleviating some of this.

Coronavirus – the advice is to wash your hands more regularly and use tissues to catch coughs and sneezes. If you have a fever call 111 – do not go to a health Service Provider. Anti-bacterial hand gel is ineffective against viruses.

The County Council had updated its continuity plans for Brexit and now they are being reviewed for Coronavirus, but the plans are in place for those in care.

**Cllr Hollingsbee sent the following report:**

Folkestone and Hythe District Council have bought the Debenhams building.

Folkestone regeneration is looking at bringing life back to the centre of Folkestone, the Clinical Commission Group (CCG) are likely to be in Debenhams as it will be the Health Centre. There is a surgery about to close in Folkestone but more Doctors are coming into the area. The CCG is happy with the medical school as new students are learning about the area.

There has been a decision to introduce more Area Officers who fix fly tipping and fly positing – the number of roles is to be increased and the Area Officers are now putting up Planning notices and taking them down again. It is important to continue to report fly-tipping and a recent prosecution of a repeat fly-tipping offender was successful.

The Cabinet make up has changed, the leader offered positions in the cabinet to opposition parties. The majority were taken up but Labour does not allow this so they were not allowed to be involved.

On 26<sup>th</sup> March there is to be a local area meeting at Hawkinge with the Police and Safety Community Officers onsite. They will be available to discuss Anti-social behaviours, fly-tipping and speeding.

Cllr Phipps asked what other plans there are for the Debenhams site. Cllr Hollingsbee explained there will be a range of schemes some residential, some leisure, some office and some retail units. It is hoped to make this a social centre. Council is currently dressing the Debenhams windows so that the area does not look too drab.

It is the Folkestone Triennial this year.

	<p>Cllr Phipps felt that Debenhams should be used as a Cultural/Theatre site. It was suggested that Cllr Phipps could send his suggestions to the leader. Cllr Phipps sited the Gulbenkian as a good case study.</p> <p>The Leas Pavilion will be preserved and flats are to be built which will renovate the Leas Club, Cllr Phipps was interested in the indoor skate park near the old College site and was keen to see that this was introducing new businesses in order to support the demographic and could improve the situation along Tontine Street. The Harbour Arm is very interesting and a huge success.</p> <p>Cllr Carey reported that she went to the Stonegate Open Day. Stelling Minnis now want a bus service to stop at the new build and are concerned as to how children might get to school from this site. There are affordable homes available for £175,000, so that promise has been delivered. The site has been nicely finished.</p> <p>Cllr Phipps enquired whether there was any possibility of obtaining a speed camera for the Stone Street just past The George. The only way this would be considered is if there was crash data to support such a thing and as most issues are driver behaviour related rather than the road design it is unlikely to be possible. All traffic research states that signs are ineffective and distracting and the less signage there is the more appropriately drivers drive. 3 people have to be killed or seriously injured before a camera can be installed. The solutions are to change behaviours rather than look for engineering solutions. There was then a discussion regarding speed.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Public session</b>	
	There were no members of the public in attendance.	
<b>12</b>	<b>To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment</b>	
	There were no changes to be made to the Risk Assessment	
<b>13</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	There was no other business to discuss.	
<b>15</b>	<b>Date of the next meeting:</b>	
	The next meeting will be held on Thursday March 12 <sup>th</sup> 2020.	
<b>16</b>	The meeting closed at 8.45pm	

Signed: .....

Date: .....