

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ELMSTED PARISH COUNCIL ON 11th MARCH 2021 HELD VIA SKYPE**

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

In attendance: The Clerk and District Cllr J Hollingsbee

		To be actioned by
1	To receive and approve apologies for absence	
	Apologies for absence had been received from District/County Councillor Carey.	
2	To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared.	
	There were no declarations of interest.	
3	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2020.	
	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.	
4	To discuss matters arising from the above minutes not covered by the agenda.	
	<p>The sign at top of Stone Street is still not in situ. A better sign was requested. The Clerk followed this up and will discuss again with Cllr Carey. It was suggested that a sign saying Thorn Lane would be useful. It was laying on the ground and needed putting back up.</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Francesconi was to discuss with Ann Perez but she was not keen on road markings or on creating hard-standing. She was happy for the field to be used on open events.</p> <p>The area considered, could have grass-crete installed but we are reliant on the goodwill of Anne. Cllr Francesconi is to approach her again.</p> <p>The hill up to the Church from the pottery has been resurfaced.</p> <p>The potholes at the bottom of Bodsham hill, a link is to be added to the minutes and it was suggested that a link to this should be placed in the magazine. https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</p>	TB
5	Financial matters:	
	<p>a) To note/authorise the following:</p> <p>i. To note the Parish Council's financial position, Chair to initial bank statement. The Parish Council noted that the balance of account as at 28th February 2021 is £2,410.67.</p> <p>ii. To authorise any payments: There is one cheque to be signed for £58.57.</p>	
6	Planning matters: to approve the responses to any recent planning applications.	
	<p>There were 4 planning applications that had been circulated.</p> <p>There were no comments raised.</p> <p>There was some talk of Community Levy funds is to be received from the Stonegate development.</p>	
7	Report from District/County Councillors	
	<p>Cllr Hollingsbee had sent the following report ahead of the meeting:</p> <p>Vaccination - The vaccination programme is making good headway and at a meeting Jenny was at today of the Kent & Medway Joint Health & Wellbeing Board, it was reported that over 90% of the first four cohorts had been vaccinated. It was also reported that Kent was not experiencing as much resistance as other areas. However, it was emphasised that we should continue to encourage residents to take up the offer of vaccination as and when offered. At this meeting, Kent & Medway both confirmed that they were closely</p>	

monitoring the Covid-19 cases relating to the return to School so that immediate action could be taken if necessary.

Budget - On 24 February, the full Council agreed the budget and council tax level for the year ahead. A 1.99% in Council Tax was agreed which equates to an increase of 10p per week for a Band D Property.

Princes Parade - Work has begun to improve the ecology of the northern bank of the Royal Military Canal for reptiles, bats and birds. The work, recommended by ecologists, is to carefully manage the wildlife of the Royal Military Canal long-term as part of the Princes Parade development. Council officers are removing dense vegetation - including dead trees and invasive weeds - to create a better environment for certain species of wildlife. The work has been carefully timed to minimise the effect on nesting birds later in the season. To enable this work to take place sections of footpath alongside the canal will have to be temporarily closed.

Carbon Action Plan - A 33-point plan to continue the District Council on its journey to reduce its carbon emissions to zero by 2030 has been given the go-ahead. The range of actions, some of which can be tackled quickly and others which will take longer to implement, focus on six key areas - energy; behaviour change; transport; water; contracts and biodiversity/green space

Triennial – Celebrated Artist Rana Begum has been revealed as the artist behind the impressive designs of the newly refurbished and repainted beach huts. The Triennial will include the beach huts in its programme and will run between 22 July and 2 November.

Medical Scholarship – We are pleased to report that the District Council has agreed to support a Medical Student to the tune of £5000 per year for the full five years of the [Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of Medicine](#) course at the [Kent and Medway Medical School \(KMMS\)](#).

Cllr Hollingsbee was pleased to attend the meeting and is pleased to report that the vaccination programme is bringing very positive news.

If people wish to vote without attending the election, please apply for a postal vote.

Susan Carey had sent the following report ahead of the meeting:

Your County Council has been continuing to offer as wide a range of its present services as it can in a Covid secure way. We have plans to return to 'normal' when we can but there are some changes from the lockdown that are worth keeping. For example, we now know there's far more scope for working from home and remote meetings which reduces travel, saves time and improves efficiency. The booking system for the Household Waste Recycling Centres has also proved popular and a recent survey of more than 8,500 visitors to the HWRCs found a satisfaction level of 97% with the process. The earlier restrictions on how many visits that can be made in a month have been completely lifted and you can book up to a month in advance. We expect shortly to be able to make bookings 'real time' (at present there's a 3-day cut off to allow the bookings to be passed to our contractors). The booking system means we can control the number of people on site to allow social distancing for both staff and visitors whilst not creating queues of traffic outside.

I'd also like to remind everyone that there is help available for anyone struggling because of the pandemic. We have a 24/7 service called Kent Together and you can ask for help for yourself or someone you know at kent.gov.uk/kenttogether or [03000 41 92 92](tel:03000419292). There's also advice and funding available for businesses.

The Government has provided considerable extra funding to local government but this has been to deliver extra services such as local 'test and trace', Covid testing centres and assistance to residents. We passed funding on to the district councils in Kent to set up the community hubs which have been so successful in helping those who've needed to shield. The last of our one-off Covid funding will be used to help recovery and at today's meeting of the County Council we agreed a one-off scheme for a grant scheme for small organisations such as local charities.

Generous though the Government was, your County Council has had extra costs that have not been met, lost income and sadly extra demand for services such as the coroners. We've also had to deal with the impact of the French Government's sudden closure of the border on 20 December. KCC is part of the Kent Resilience Forum that brings together all public sector partners in Kent such as Kent Police, Highways England, Kent Fire & Rescue etc. and they had been working for some time on preparations for possible disruption from 31 December and the end of the transition period for our exit from the EU. These

	<p>arrangements were adapted to cope with the stranded drivers but there's no doubt it was a difficult time especially for Dover.</p> <p>It was remarkable how quickly facilities were put in place for HGV drivers to have Covid tests as required by the French Government and most HGVs have had the correct export paperwork to make their crossing. Traffic is now back at normal volumes and the level of rejection of HGVs at Dover Port and Eurotunnel has been small.</p> <p>KCC has long been lobbying for powers to clamp HGVs that park illegally. The District Council has been issuing fines but whilst this has helped it has not stopped the problem. The Government finally agreed to a six-month trial of clamping powers and since 11 January KCC has employed specialist contractors to do this work. From 11 January – 21 February 1,098 HGVs were clamped. 83% of the vehicles were foreign registered. There's a £150 clamp release fee but it's expected this will not fully cover our costs. However, the aim of the scheme is to stop this nuisance parking not to make a profit.</p> <p>There will be more damage to our roads after the winter weather so please continue to report potholes online at www.kent.gov.uk on 03000 41 81 81 in office hours or, if it's an emergency outside office hours at 03000 41 91 91.</p> <p>There's more information on the KCC website about council services and I am always pleased to help if I can. I can be contacted at susan.carey@kent.gov.uk or 01303 670561.</p> <p>Stay safe.</p> <p>Susan Carey Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council District Councillor, North Downs West, Folkestone & Hythe District Council</p> <p>Cllr Burge is concerned about fly tipping as there is a huge amount occurring in the area. This MUST be reported as soon as seen to the District Council. Waste disposal is County responsibility and if the waste can be evidenced to have come from an address then fines can be brought against the perpetrator.</p>	
8	Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.	
	There were no members of the public present.	
9	Any Other Business (for information purposes only):	
	Cllr Argar reported that the bags of salt have been very useful this last winter.	
10	Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council. Thursday 13 May 2021	
	Date of next meeting – 13th May 2021	
	The meeting closed at 8.11pm	

Signed:

Date: