

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Elmsted Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 7th May 2013**

Present	Cllr Argar in the Chair	Cllr Burge
	Cllr Castle	Cllr Francesconi
	Cllr Phipps	Cllr Mrs Rountree
	Cllr Fox	

Cllr David Monk attended the meeting and there were six members of the public in attendance.

There were no apologies for absence.

There were no declarations of interest

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The pot holes in Whatsole Street need work, as does the Misling Lane/Maxted Street area.
The dog waste situation in Bodsham has improved but will continue to be monitored.

Election of Officers

Cllr Argar vacated the Chair. Cllr Francesconi proposed and Cllr Mrs Rountree seconded that Cllr Argar be elected as the Chairman. There being no other nominations, Cllr Argar was duly elected and took the Chair again.

Cllr Argar proposed and Cllr Fox seconded that Cllr Francesconi be elected as Vice-Chairman, there being no other nominations, Cllr Francesconi was duly elected.

It was agreed that there should be a third signatory for cheques, Cllr Burge agreed that he would do this.

Correspondence

The Clerk circulates this by email.

Financial Statement was approved.

Cheques were signed for CPRE, KALC, Aon Ltd (Insurance), District Audit, Evington Hall and T Block for the Clerks Remuneration from 2012.

Approval and Acceptance of the Annual Accounts

The Annual Accounts and the Accounting Governance Statement were approved and signed by the Chair of the Parish Council and are ready for the Internal Audit inspection.

Planning

The Council had not received any new applications.

Cllr Monk

Cllr Monk reported that there will be a new leader in the financial year. There will be no increase in Council Tax this financial year as the Government have funded a zero increase. Should funding be withdrawn next year, there is likely to be a 2% increase. The Community Chest is now available for funding applications; it is available to precepted parishes in addition to others now.

The members of the public expressed their disappointment in the result of the wind turbine application at Beech Tree. David Monk explained that Shepway Councillors do not want to see the wind turbines in an AONB but the planning law states that they should be allowed. The Development Control Committee are getting better at finding reasons to refuse them, there was some discussion about the contentious turbine. The question of whether a referendum would have been useful was discussed. A referendum would have cost the Parish up to £3,000 and it is only advisory not mandatory, therefore, the Planning Inspectorate could have over-ruled the referendum. Cllr Monk continues to work towards a policy for no wind turbines to be allowed in an AONB. His only advice was to write to the MP as to urge Prime Legislation to apply to these cases. It was suggested that the Planning Officer at Shepway was aware that this wind turbine is non-compliant and is in clear breach of the Government Guidelines. Have lessons been learned from this process? The residents in the area are looking at High Court costs of £25–30,000 to over-turn this decision.

Cllr Monk was thanked for attending the meeting.

Public Participation

Road problems were mentioned and it was suggested that if repairs are not completed, the reference number needs to be forwarded to Susan Carey.

Any Other Business

There was no other business

The next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 3th September 2013.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.40 PM.