



MINUTES

ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL Monday 6th November 2017 at 7.30PM ELHAM VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Geoff Clements, Brian Swan, Ken Percival, Jon Worrall and Stuart Peall
50 Members of the public (estimated)

083/17 GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

i. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

KCC Cllr Susan Carey, Gary Harrison (Community Warden), Cathy Skinner (Clerk)

ii. Declarations Of Interest And Dispensations

None

iii. Appointment of Chairman

Geoff Clements read a brief statement explaining the reasons behind the appointments of Chair and Vice Chair. (Appendix 1)

It was proposed and agreed that Geoff Clements be appointed Chairman for the rest of the council year.

Resolved: that Cllr Geoff Clements is appointed Chairman

iv. Appointment of Vice Chairman

It was proposed and agreed that Brian Swan be appointed Vice Chairman for the rest of the council year.

Resolved: that Cllr Brian Swan is appointed Vice Chairman

v. Approval of Budget for 2018/2019

The submitted draft budget was approved and will now form the base of the precept request which will be discussed at the December meeting in time for the request to be made to Shepway District Council. (Appendix 2)

Resolved: that the budget be accepted.

vi. Previous Minutes

Cllr Worrall requested that the minutes be amended to state that the issue of parking in The Square has not yet been resolved. The Clerk will contact Gary Harrison to arranged appropriate notices which can be placed on vehicles which are parked outside of designated spaces.

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October be accepted as a true and complete record.

vii Grant Application received from Age UK

An application has been received from Age UK requesting support for the event held on 23rd October – Older People’s Information Day.

Resolved: that the Parish Council will grant £68 in respect of hall hire.

viii Approval of Payments

Carried forward to be ratified at the next meeting.

ix. Vacancies for Councillors

Vacancies currently exist which can be filled by co-option, please contact the clerk or any councillor for further information.

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TIME – *the meeting will be adjourned to allow the public to speak.*

A good number of parishioners attended the meeting asking for further information about the resignation of Mr Clive Stanyon from the council. Cllr Clements referred to the statement he read at the beginning of this meeting. A parishioner stated that a parish meeting will be called to discuss this further. Cllr Peall offered his support for a meeting.

In respect of the budget, a question was raised regarding funding for Play for Elham, Cllr Clements confirmed that this has been considered and invited further discussion at a future meeting.

084/17 PLANNING

- i. Y17/1371, The Sycamores, High Street, Elham** – Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising: Felling of one willow and three ash and pollard one apple back to previous pollarding points. **Resolved: no objection**
- ii. Y17/1250, 5 Hunters Bank, Old Road, Elham** – Crown reduction. **Resolved: no objection**

085/17 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

- i.** Burial Ground Maintenance – a digital plan of the burial ground will be created.
- ii.** Trees in Churchyard – Geoff Clements reported that pending tree work has been completed and the topiary yew bushes have been shaped ready for winter.
- iii.** Defibrillator – The phone kiosk has been refurbished and painted however the appointed electrician has not been able to install the defibrillator due to a technical query. This needs to be followed up with the suppliers.
- iv.** Refurbishment of the well – the fencing needs re-painting and some rotten wood needs replacing.

Resolved: that a maximum of £150 should be allocated for this work.

086/17 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

- i.** Placement of traffic safety mirrors. In consideration of correspondence received from local resident who objects to the siting of the mirror at Cherry Gardens, it was agreed to defer installing this and to proceed with the mirror at Park Lane only. Cllr Worrall has considered other sites where a mirror might improve road safety, these include opposite the shop (Browns side) and the exit from Old Road at the end of the triangle.
Resolved: that the mirror be installed at Park Lane.

087/17 REPORTS

- i. Chairman's Report – Geoff Clements commented that the gates to the Burial Ground have been refurbished and painted now. He and a couple of parishioners have cleared away leaves from the War Memorial in readiness for the School's service and also the parade on 12th November for which planning is well underway. Special thanks also to Mr Kevin Lamb who generously sponsored the repair and rehang of the phone kiosk door.
- ii. Stuart Peall reported that he is arrange an additional bin for the burial ground and has passed the matter of bins to the relevant team within Shepway. Replacement of street signs in in process but this may take a little longer to conclude. Outside of the Parish, consultations are currently underway in respect of Otterpool Park and Princes Parade. Cllr Worrall commented of the growth of numerous large red poppies through the Elham Valley villages. He would also like to thank KCC Highways for painting the white lines at Ottinge and requested that a letter be sent to Pauline Rockett at KCC. Flooding – current Environment Agency plans do not cover Elham due to funding restrictions, this needs to be followed up though the river group. Duck Street has experienced blocked drains recently which required Southern Water attending to clear them. Jon asked that all parishioners consider the detrimental effects of putting fats and wipes into the drainage system as they are the main cause of blockages. It was suggested that if parishioners report issues to Southern Water that the PC might also be notified so that any emerging pattern can be identified.
Cllr Peall added that weed spraying has been undertaken twice this year, according to plan, however due to chemical restrictions the spray is not as efficacious as that previously used

Meeting closed 2035

Cathy Skinner
Clerk

ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 6th NOVEMBER 2017

APPENDIX ONE

Why we need to appoint a new chairman and vice chairman – Geoff Clements

I have been acting as chairman since the resignation of Clive Stanyon who agreed to be chairman when he joined the council in May this year. Clive brought many new ideas to the council, for which we are grateful.

Subsequently, Clive made decisions and authorised expenditure without discussion or reference to other members of the council.

Jenny Gurney joined the council for just two months to find that she could not cope with the chairman's many requests.

Continued bullying of the clerk, of which councillors have evidence, led to the clerk saying that she had had enough. Cathy has worked hard for the parish council and has worked many more hours than those she is paid for.

Unfortunately, Clive lost the support of the other council members and he resigned.

Geoff Clements.

ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 6th NOVEMBER 2017

APPENDIX ONE

ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

2018/2019 Budget

Projected Carried Forward Figure	35,200.00
Ring-fenced for Churchyard and Wall	10,000.00
Ring-fenced for Environmental	1,000.00
Available Funds	24,200.00
INCOME	
Available Funds Carried Forward	24,200.00
Burial Ground	1,000.00
Interest	100.00
Precept	16,428.00
	41,728.00
EXPENDITURE	
Audit Fees (external)	250.00
Audit Fees (internal)	100.00
Burial Ground	1,000.00
Clerk's Office	1,200.00
Clerk's Salary and PAYE	9,500.00
Defibrillator + Phone Kiosk	650.00
Elections	1,700.00
Grants	1,000.00
Grounds Maintenance	6,500.00
Highways	7,500.00
Insurance	1,000.00
Recreation	1,000.00
Room Hire	400.00
Street Furniture	1,000.00
Subscriptions	900.00
War Memorial	500.00
Contingency Fund	2,000.00
	36,200.00
Funds c/fwd (Excl ring fenced)	5,528.00