



## MINUTES

### ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.30PM ELHAM VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Geoff Clements, Brian Swan, Ken Percival, Jon Worrall and Stuart Peall  
Cathy Skinner (Clerk), KCC Cllr Susan Carey, KCC Community Warden Gary Harrison,  
16 Members of the public

#### 088/17 GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

**i. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Jon Worrall and Cllr Stuart Peall

**ii. Declarations Of Interest And Dispensations**

None

**iii. Previous Minutes**

It was agreed that the previous minutes represented a true and accurate account of the previous meeting.

**Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 be accepted as a true and complete record, signed by the Chairman.**

**iv. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

Cllr Clements explained that the precept setting decision would be deferred to January so that all councillors could participate – the deadline to submit a request to SDC is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018. **Resolved: to include precept setting at a meeting in January 2018.**

**v. Approval of Payments**

Payments were presented totalling £4028.02 as shown in Appendix 1.

**Resolved: to approve payments as shown.**

**vi. 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 was adjourned to allow the public to speak.*

16 parishioners have called a parish meeting which is to be held on 16th January 2018, an agenda was handed to the Parish Council.

The 30mph speed limit at North Elham is still a concern for some parishioners. Cllr Susan Carey commented that in the view of KCC Highways, the signs are in the correct places.

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A parishioner thanked Cllr Jon Worrall for the work he has done so far and requested a breakdown of the costs.

*Public session ended*

### **089/17 MOBILE PHONE SIGNAL**

Andrew Joynes spoke to the meeting about the community campaign which seeks to improve the mobile signal in the village.

Earlier this year a group of Elham residents who are dissatisfied with the quality of the mobile phone signal in Elham asked the local MP Damian Collins for help in arranging a meeting with Arqiva, the mast infrastructure company, and representatives of the mobile phone companies to discuss how the signal might be improved. Damian Collins is Chair of the parliamentary Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, which oversees telecommunications matters.

After protracted correspondence, the group are now in touch with senior officials at Arqiva, EE, and O2 (with Vodafone still being chased for a response). It is hoped that a meeting can be set up soon under Damian Collins's aegis following the publication in the next fortnight of an Ofcom report on the quality of the mobile signal in every part of the UK. The report is likely to highlight areas (such as Elham perhaps) where the signal is not as good as the operating companies claim it is. As a consequence the companies will be under increasing pressure to respond to local concerns. At the meeting the residents' group will be suggesting various options to be explored by the companies and their engineers. These include the possibility of modifying an existing Arqiva television relay mast situated to the north of the village (with line of sight to most parts of Elham) so that it can carry the frequencies of the main mobile companies; and, subject to the approval of the PCC, perhaps looking again at the feasibility of some kind of unobtrusive relay/booster being situated within St Mary's church spire. This idea was discussed over a decade ago, but not taken up at that time.

Mobile phones have become an essential part of modern life. For reasons of social and employment necessity - and indeed for reasons of public safety and the welfare of elderly residents – a good-quality general signal is required in the streets, playgrounds and residential areas of Elham village. It is hoped that this community initiative, undertaken with the support of the local MP and KCC councillor, and with the involvement of Parish Council and PCC representatives, will eventually persuade the telecommunications establishment to take Elham's concerns seriously.

Cllr Clements thanked Mr Joynes for leading this project, a good example of community collaboration.

### **090/19 REPORTS**

KCC Cllr Susan Carey reported on changes to bus service subsidies. In Kent the provision of bus services is a commercial operation receiving around £55m from KCC to support the service in the form of OAP and young people's bus passes. There are challenges to the budget which will be consulted on in the New Year to see if there is a better way to deliver a bus service. This will be subject to a lot of media coverage – look out for the consultation. It seems unlikely that services in Elham will be affected, most heavily subsidised are often the late evening buses.

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Community Warden – Gary Harrison reported that the pharmacy in Lyminge had recently been broken into, other than that all quiet in Elham.

Geoff Clements reported on Royal British Legion commemorations which will take place next year for WW1. More details will be circulated in the near future in respect of events planned.

Information has been received from Barham Downs Action Group who are monitoring a proposed development at Highland Court Farm. Cllr Brian Swan will investigate this and report at the next meeting.

Sanctuary Housing have asked the parish council to remove the ivy which has grown on the wall – quotes will be obtained for this work.

Jon Worrall submitted a report:

The traffic mirror has been installed at the junction of Valley Road and Park Lane, just by the entrance to the Village Hall.

The broken post holding the dog litter bin next to the bench near Browns has been replaced.

KCC Highways have undertaken to paint a “virtual footpath” round the corner from Valley Road into Park Lane and to repaint the 30 mph sign on the road. This will not happen until new budgets kick in after April 2018.

KCC Highways have provided estimated costs for other desired improvements to 30 mph zones amounting to £15,500 even if the various permissions and consultations approve the schemes. My recommendation, at this stage, is to hold fire as it seems more rational to look at these issues on a scheme by scheme basis at some time in the future, rather than commit to this vast expenditure at the moment.

Southern Water have explained that the problems at The Orchards pumping station at the beginning of November were due to blockages resulting from a build-up of fat, oil and grease. The telemetry connecting the pumping station to the Ottinge one failed, but this has now been rectified by BT. Subsequently, Southern Water have carried out investigations with CCTV and have cleared the blockages. They also confirmed that scheduled maintenance is being done twice per annum and the next one is due before the end of January.

Please would everyone be diligent about what they put down the drains and to particularly avoid disposing of fat, oil, grease and wipes in this way.

I reported a parishioner’s concerns about unpleasant odours in the car park behind the public toilets. Southern Water said they investigated this on 21st November but couldn’t find any problems. If this does re-occur, please contact them on 0330 303 0368.

Cllr Brian Swan and Cllr Ken Percival had no further comments to add.

Meeting closed 2030

*Cathy Skinner*

Clerk

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## NOVEMBER PAYMENTS

To be ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 4th December

PAYEE	CHQ	AMOUNT Inc VAT	COMMENTS
Clive Stanyon	1352	£60.30	Mileage to Eynsford
Geoff Clements	1353	£16.20	Materials to repair phone box door
KALC	1354	£72.00	Training Course
S Martin	1355	£336.00	Labour - painting kiosk and gates Re issued cheque to replace 1348 lost from
Elham Village Hall Association	1356	£105.00	Village Hall post box
C Skinner	1357	£832.56	Salary & Expenses October 2017
X2Connect Ltd	1358	£233.88	Paint for Kiosk
The Vineyard Garden Centre	1359	£107.98	Planters for Fairfield
Viking Stationery	1360	£39.11	Paper and black ink
Affinity Water	1361	£69.29	Standpipe in Burial Ground
		<b><u>£1,872.32</u></b>	

## DECEMBER PAYMENTS

For approval - 4th December 2017

Mr Jon Worrall	1362	£64.29	Reimbursement for purchase of traffic mirror
HMRC PAYE	1363	£244.11	PAYE
C Skinner Salary & Exps	1364	£773.32	
Mr K Waters	1365	£95.00	Installation of traffic mirror
PKF Littlejohn LLP	1366	£120.00	External Audit
Cartridge Save	1367	£36.98	Ink for printer
Craig & Parsons Ltd	1368	£210.00	30mph bin stickers
E J Clough	1369	£612.00	Christmas Trees
		<b>£2,155.70</b>	

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