

**Minutes of the Meeting of Elmsted Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 7th September 2011**

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

Cllr David Monk attended the meeting and there was one member of the public in attendance.

Cllr Carey had sent her apologies for absence

Cllr Burge declared an interest as a neighbour to Mill Farm.

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

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr Argar reported that he had visited Westford and the owners of the property stated that they had no further plans to change the area outside their property. It was agreed that this matter was closed as long as no further alterations were made.

Correspondence

The Clerk handed Cllr Argar the Countryside Consultation paper for his perusal.

Financial Statement was approved.

Cheques were signed for Shepway District Council for the costs of the election and for District Audit.

The Clerk reported that the audit had been undertaken and there was no comment from the auditor.

Planning

The Council discussed the application for Little Gains, a detached garage with accommodation above. No objections were raised.

The Parish Council discussed the application for Beech Tree, this application is likely to come before the Planning Control committee in October. David Monks will be speaking at this as will Kent Downs AONB, a member of public and Cllr Burge will represent the Parish Council. A discussion followed about wind turbines in an AONB and the need for a policy by Shepway on this matter.

The Council discussed the mobile home that is planned at Mill farm. Cllr Burge is to advise the owner to ensure he has permission as required.

Cllr Monk

Cllr Monk reported that 6 and a half years ago Shepway had a deficit, now their reserves are back in the black. Shepway District Council is dedicated to improving the appearance of the District as this is what the residents want. There has been an application to increase fees and charges by 5%, this increase would generate £5,000,000. Dog fouling is an issue in towns which is to be addressed. Shepway have joined together with Canterbury, Thanet and Canterbury to share resources and created an ALMO (Arms Length Management Organisation) to oversee housing. Shepway also tried to join with Dover to create a Joint Management Committee but this did not work out. Shepway is looking to cut costs by £1,500,000 but still improve services and have joined with Canterbury, Dover and Thanet for refuse collections. Recycling is something Shepway are dedicated to and are achieving all of their targets.

Cllr Burge enquired as to the reason the new bins have purple lids. This is because the purple is one of Shepways corporate colours. Other bin types have different coloured lids to assist with

differentiating between landfill waste and green waste etc. All of the new bins have chips inside to assist with identification.

Public Participation

The public had no comment to make.

Any Other Business

The Clerk explained that she was having problems with pot holes not being located. She is to meet with the Highway Steward to discuss Dean Hill and Bodsham.

The bridle path from Misling Lane to Dean is full of flints and difficult to ride. The Clerk is to contact Ed Denne about this.

The Councillors have been asked to draw up a wish list prioritising the small problems with Highways in the area for Susan Carey. There is a problem with the sign at the bottom of Elchin Hill, the sign on the Stone Street is obscured, the edges of Spong Lane have not been cut and the road outside the stables is in need of attention. Councillors agreed to let the Clerk know if they come across any other problems.

Cllr Phipps asked about the broadband submission. The Clerk explained that this was unsuccessful first time round but it is thought it might be more successful to apply for the pilot project with Stelling Minnis.

The next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 6th December 2011.

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