

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ELMSTED PARISH COUNCIL ON 8th March 2018**

Present: Cllr Argar (Chair) Cllr Bevan
Cllr Burge Cllr Francesconi

2 members of the public attended the meeting.
Cllr Carey and Cllr Hollingsbee attended the meeting.

		To be actioned by
1	Apologies	
	Apologies had been received from Cllrs Castle, Phipps and Rountree.	
2	Declaration of Interest	
	There were no declarations of interest.	
3	Minutes of the last meeting	
	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.	
4	Matters Arising	
	War memorial – there are limitations to how this should be cleaned but it was agreed that the Parish Council would take on the clearing of the war memorial area in November every other year. The salt bin in Bodsham has now been relocated.	
5	Correspondence	
	The Clerk had circulated all correspondence.	
6	Finance	
	A copy of the financial report and a budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors. I. To note the Parish Council's financial position There is £1753.07 in the bank. II. To authorise any payments. There were no cheques to be written.	
7	Planning Applications	
	The Parish Council discussed 2 Planning applications: There were no new planning applications to discuss. A letter had been received from Mr Robus regarding the original driveway being kept. It was understood by the Parish Council that the original drive was to be closed off and laid to grass.	
8.	District/City Councillors	
	Cllr Carey reported on the following: KCC are having to make savings again this year, together adult and child care costs are in the region of circa 50% of the County Council budget. 144,000 homes now have access to superfast broadband, the remain 4% are in difficult to reach places and BT did not consider these areas viable. Of those with access to superfast broadband there has been a take up rate of 60%. The rest of the county will need to apply for a subsidy voucher which will be made available to residents who currently do not have access to superfast broadband. The Parish Council can always apply for a salt/grit mix tonne bag for the parish. KCC has money to fill pot holes and any that are not fixed once reported need to be passed over to Cllr Carey. It should be noted that 3% of Council Tax goes towards Highways. Jenny Hollingsbee reported that there will be a 2.98% increase in the Shepway District Council part of the Council Tax. The District Council Revenue and Benefits department won a Gold Award as they do everything possible through on-line access.	

	<p>The Local Plan is out for consultation and this ends in March, this then goes to final consultation and the Core Strategy will be produced which will finalise the District Council Plan up until 2037. It is suggested that the policies be looked at, particularly in relation to farm buildings.</p> <p>Shepway is looking to add an additional 600 homes in Sellindge, this is over a long period of time and at this stage, there is not planned development in Elmsted. There are plans for an additional 12 homes in Stelling Minnis.</p> <p>Shepway is re-branding to become Folkestone and Hythe District Council from 1st April 2018 as long as the Secretary of State give approval. European Funding has been secured for 3 deprived areas in Shepway – Folkestone East, Folkestone Central and Folkestone Harbour.</p> <p>The masterplan for Otterpool goes to Cabinet on 28th March for approval, approval is expected in September 2018.</p> <p>The Chief Executive of Shepway is standing down and will not be replaced, this is part of a 2 year plan.</p> <p>The lorry park is currently off the agenda and Highways England are looking at smaller parks, considering the A2/M2. It would appear that Manston is being avoided but something will have to happen following border issues with Brexit.</p> <p>The cost of the re-branding was questioned. The re-branding cost £10,000 and will take place as things need replacing.</p>	
9	Public Participation	
	<p>A member of the public asked why the Parish Council are concerned that the Robus' kept the second drive? The Council are interested in this as they agreed to close the drive as justification to new drive was a danger issue and yet they are now keeping it.</p> <p>A member of the public asked how County Council had made £600 million saving so far? The County Councillor explained that this was mainly through the use of technology. This saving had been made over 8 years and is mainly due to a streamlined investment in search engines which has meant that calls a re down by ½ million per year.</p> <p>A member of the public asked why the need to increase Council Tax? The County Councillor explained that this is because of the additional needs of the elderly with an aging population living longer and requiring more care.</p> <p>A discussion on costs and savings ensued. A member of the public questioned why the local Council Tax could not be used for local roads. The County Council suggested that people who live in Elmsted ight use roads to travel further afield than just Elmsted and so all roads needed paying for across the county, all 5,000 miles of road.</p>	
10	Any Other Business	
	The County Councillor asked if the Village Hall might still like some lights – the Village Hall Chairman had spoken to an electrician to obtain a quotation.	
11	Date of the Next Meeting	
	The next meeting will be held on Thursday May 10 th 2018.	
	The meeting closed at 8.35pm	

Signed:

Date: