

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ELMSTED PARISH COUNCIL ON 12th MARCH 2026 HELD IN EVINGTON HALL**

Present: Cllr Burge (Chair) Cllr J Argar
Cllr P Argar Cllr Castle
Cllr Francesconi Cllr Stanley
Cllr Wright

In attendance: Cllr Martin and the Clerk.

Cllr Burge welcomed everyone to the meeting.

		To be actioned by
1.	To receive and approve apologies for absence.	
	District Councillor Hollingsbee had sent their apologies.	
2.	To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared.	
	There were no declarations of interest to be made.	
3.	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2025	
	The minutes were signed as a true record.	
4.	To discuss matters arising from the above minutes not covered by the agenda.	
	There were no matters arising from the above minutes.	
5.	To receive a Report from District/County Councillors	
	Cllr Martin had sent a report that had been circulated. Cllr Martin highlighted the Local Government Reorganisation consultation. The Council is awaiting decisions regarding Otterpool. Cllr Hollingsbee had sent a report that had been circulated. KCC Cllr Hespe had sent a report that had been circulated.	
6.	Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.	
	There were no members of the public present.	
7.	To receive an update on the sale of the old Timber Batts building.	
	Cllr Burge reported that the owner has accepted an offer on the pub. It is hoped that this will be run as a pub. The owner asked about the ACV, it is expected that there is no Community Interest Company keen to purchase this. Cllr Martin will follow up with Adrian Tofts at FHDC.	
8.	Financial matters:	
	a)To note/authorise the following: i. To note the Parish Council's financial position, Chair to initial bank statement. The financial position as at 28 th February 2026 was noted. ii. To authorise any payments There were no payments to authorise	
9.	To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment.	
	The Parish Council considered there is a concern regarding the tree in the Church car park.	

10.	Planning matters: to approve the responses to any recent planning applications and note any other planning issues, including The Cottage, Bodsham	
	<p>The Cottage, Bodsham – the neighbours have been in touch with planning at FHDC. An appeal against a refusal of the change of conditions has been applied for and the applicant wants to remove the screen. This is a Planning Appeal, Cllr Martin will follow this up.</p> <p>The owner of Martins Court has accepted that the structures must be removed and this has been undertaken. It is hoped that the owner will clear the field.</p> <p>There is a new driveway that has been installed at Little Pett Bottom Place, Cllr Wright will investigate.</p>	
11.	To discuss future tree maintenance of the tree at the Church Car park.	
	<p>Cllr Argar has circulated some photographs.</p> <p>There is no TPO, the tree is 30 years old and there is a risk to the boundary wall of the Grade I building. Cllr Argar offered an oak tree. Cllr Argar and the Clerk will both obtain quotations for the removal of the tree.</p>	
12.	To discuss the standard of the roads.	
	Cllr Burge suggested that the Councillors report the potholes.	
13.	Any Other Business (for information purposes only):	
	CIL money – the Powell family have been asked about installing regarding a Boule court. There was a discussion regarding the maintenance of this. Cllr Castle will discuss this.	
14.	Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.	
	Thursday 14 May 2026	

Signed:

Date: