

Elford Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 7pm Monday 11th March 2013 at Elford Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Wain (Chair), Batchelor, Cockayne, and Matthews.

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), 4 member of the public.

Notice and quorum: The Chairman reported that due notice of the meeting had been given and that a quorum of Councillors was present. Accordingly, the Chairman declared the meeting open.

Open forum (Public Participation)

Representatives of the Village Hall and Playground Action Group raised concerns about increased hall charges, including whether these were in line with other local halls' charges, whether local fund raising groups received a discounted rate, the cost of licensing, how the hall was funded and the expected effect of the closing of the preschool on the finances of the Village Hall. It was agreed after a long and amicable discussion that the Chairman would arrange a further meeting of those involved to discuss this further so that these matters could be clarified to residents.

1. **To receive Apologies.**
 - 1.1 Councillor Billingham
 - 1.2 Councillor Harcombe

Resolved Accepted

2. **To receive Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation (s33 Localism Act 2011)**

None received.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2013.**

Resolved Approved

Matters arising

3.1 Pre-school Councillor Wain had offered to talk to those involved but this had not been possible and this would close on 28th March. It was hoped that this facility could be re-established in the future as this was important for the village.

3.2 Sportsfield Councillor Wain had arranged for legal advice on the Leases.

3.3 Youth Meeting Councillor Matthews confirmed that this would be held on 15th March in the Village Hall; local young people would give their views on village facilities so that a range of residents had the opportunity to contribute to the Parish Plan.

4. **Clerk's Report.**

4.1 Resignations – Councillor Billingham and Councillor Harcombe had both tendered their resignations to the Chairman. A notice had been displayed stating that electors had 14 days in which to request an election. After this the co-option procedure would be followed.

4.2 Highways – The Speed Indicator Device would be installed shortly. The Clerk had reported roads which needed cleaning to the District Council and the cracked pavements to the County Council.

4.3 Website – Aled Hughes had been thanked for his hard work to date; he would be asked to add Mr Wain's photos and update the links to landmarks.

4.4 Plaque for Jubilee Tree – This was now ready for placing by the tree.

4.5 Best Kept Village – Councillors would all assist to promote this as Cllr Harcombe had left the Council. Councillor Matthews agreed to contact the school regarding posters. The Clerk would send off the forms shortly with slight additions to the map. Details of recycling schemes would be promoted as this had lost points last year. The initiative would be promoted on the website and in local information.

4.6 Twinning letter – A suggestion had been received regarding twinning with a French village. This would be placed on the next agenda.

5. **Planning issues.**

Application for consideration: 13/00046/FUL Elford Lodge, Burton Road, Elford – single story extension to form family room.

Resolved: No objection.

Application granted: 12/01317/FUL The Bungalow, Church Road, detached garage.

6. **To approve changes to the format of meetings.**

A report had been received from Councillors Wain and Batchelor. Proposed Councillor Wain, seconded Councillor Cockayne. All voted to approve

Resolved: Approved

7. **To approve updated Standing Orders.**

A report had been received from the Clerk recommending updating the Standing Orders in line with recent changes in legislation.

Resolved: Approved

8. **To consider appointment of village handyman.**

Two people had expressed an interest in the role and a meeting with them would be arranged by the Clerk.

Resolved: Approved

9. **To approve date of Annual Parish Meeting.**

The most suitable date was May 16th at 7.30. The Clerk would contact representatives from local groups to invite them to attend.

Resolved: Approved.

10. **To consider preparing a plan of village paths.**

A plan of footpaths had been received from the County Council; a version would be prepared by Councillor Wain for sending to residents. A contribution to costs could be available from the Community Paths Initiative.

Resolved: Approved

11. **To approve payment of legal fees for Sports Field Leases**

An estimate of legal costs had been received, all voted in favour.

Resolved: Approved

12. **To receive questions from Councillors.**

Councillor Batchelor asked whether a response had been received from the Planning Department at Lichfield District Council to the Parish Plan; various comments had been received earlier that day and would be forwarded. Further promotion of the Emblem for Elford competition was required.

13. **To receive a financial report.**

13.1 Bank Reconciliation: Approved

13.2 Budget: Deferred decision to put this on the website to the next meeting

13.3 HMRC: Noted that reply had been sent to the Tribunal

13.4 CiLCA fee: Approved payment of part share of the Clerk's fee

14. **To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.**

Payments were listed to
M. Jones, salary and expenses;
HMRC, PAYE;
Elford Village Hall, room rental;
Barry Wright, web hosting fee;
Community Council, Best Kept Village Fee;
D.Hill, flood plan costs; Daytona, flood plan costs;
J Batchelor, reimburse cost of fencing Jubilee tree;
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association, membership fee;
R W Harcombe, grounds maintenance.

15. To receive correspondence.

HMRC RTI information received
SCC Footpaths Plan received
Community Council, parish recycling scheme
SPCA Broadband information, hedges regulations, powers of local councils, new
Chief Executive
Kiosk spares information
Online playgrounds Brochure
Clerks and Councils Direct
Clerk magazine

16. Date of next meeting. (April 8th: 7 p.m.)

Meeting closed at 8.55

DRAFT