

Elford Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 7pm Monday 9th June 2014 at Elford Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Wain (Chair), Batchelor, Gilbert, Taylor.

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), two members of the public.

Notice and quorum: Due notice of the meeting had been given and a quorum of Councillors was present. The Chair declared the meeting open.

1. Open forum (Public Participation)

This was held at 7.30 after item 6. The playground repairs were discussed. These were needed to extend the life of the playground, and would not require the replacement of the surfacing. It would not be possible to claim on the insurance as the vandalism had damaged parts already in poor condition. The Playground Action Group held a successful fundraising event the previous weekend and would be able to donate funds for the repairs. The repairs would be ordered and the Parish Council would consider the matter on the next agenda.

2. To receive apologies

Cllrs Newport and Standerwick had apologised. The apologies were accepted.

3. To receive Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation

None received.

4. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 7/5/14

Resolved: Approved

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 7/5/14:

1.1 World War One Commemoration

The date had been set for a service with readings at St Peter's on 5th October. Cllr Wain would send an invitation to the Mayor of Awoingt.

1.2 Defibrillator

The British Heart Foundation had confirmed receipt of the application and would confirm whether this had been accepted in 8-10 weeks.

1.3 Stubby Leas Home

They had confirmed that they would arrange for the hedge overhanging the highway to be cut back and had asked for details of a local person who could do this in future.

1.4 Highways Cllr Batchelor reported that hedges were growing over road signs and could the Council request that these were trimmed.

A polite letter would be sent asking a resident to tidy their property frontage.

5. To receive the Clerk's report

Vacancy – The resignation of Cllr Cockayne had been received and he was thanked for his service on the Parish Council. The legal notice giving electors 14 days to request an election had been displayed; if no election was called co-option would take place at the July meeting. One application had been received so far.

Rights of way – the path through the field near Eddies Lane had now been sprayed by the farmer. The County Council had asked for details of landowners along public footpath 15 as they had not been able to clear the route.

Replacement plant tub – a tub on the Shrubbery had been replaced.

Howard Primary – The Head teacher had requested that the school name should be recorded correctly on the website and this had been done.

6. To receive the Clerk's report on planning issues.

(a) 14/00402/FUL, 14/00403/LBC, Avenue House, Church Road; demolition of outbuildings and building of garage/gym building – amended plans

Resolved no objection

(b) Staffordshire County Council consultation on Minerals Plan

Resolved no comments would be sent

7. To consider improvements at the Sportsfield

The Football Club would be contacted regarding the goal posts.

2 further quotes would be obtained for the car park refurbishment.

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider repairs to playground equipment

The repairs were needed so that the playground could be used over the summer. This would not be claimed for on the insurance.

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider electoral review proposals for Lichfield District.

The draft proposals would move Elford to the Whittington and Streethay ward. As it had always been part of the Mease Valley comments would be sent objecting to this.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider noise disturbance at Elford Quarry.

Motorbike noise from the quarry until late at night was causing a nuisance on summer weekends. Residents would be asked to keep a log to be sent to Environmental Health in order that they could take action.

Resolved: Approved

11. To consider village maintenance

The pathway from Church Road to the school needed surfacing. Cllr Gilbert would obtain materials and Councillors would assist with the task. Derek would be asked to clear weeds in front of the Social Club and to tidy the rough ground along The Shrubbery.

Resolved: Approved

12. To consider any matters for the website

Those who maintained tubs would be thanked. Residents would be asked to report noise at the quarry. The date of 5th October for the World War One commemoration would be added. Action: Clerk

13. To receive questions from Councillors

Clr Batchelor requested that the winner of the email competition be drawn at the next meeting. Those who had entered would be sent a welcome letter.

14. To approve the end of year accounts and submission of the Annual Return

Resolved: Approved.

15. To approve amended financial regulations

Clr Wain suggested various amendments and these were agreed. It was also agreed that alternate members would sign the bank statements at each meeting, and at each quarter the meeting would set aside time to compare spending against the budget.

Resolved: Approved

16. To receive the financial report.

- (a) The bank statements and reconciliation were noted.
- (b) Mr Matthews and Mr Cockayne would be removed as Co-op Bank signatories.
- (c) A letter was received from Lichfield District Council regarding the precept indicating that they would not pay for the shortfall in government grant from 2015.

Resolved: Approved

17. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments listed to: M. Jones, salary and expenses; Elford Village Hall, room rental & post office £138; D. Beaumont, handyman work £50; Birmingham City Council £5.

Resolved: Approved

18. To receive correspondence.

Chair of Lichfield District Council, invitation to Civic Service
Chief Executive of Lichfield District Council, regarding Council Tax Support Scheme
Western Power Distribution information regarding power cuts.

Resolved: Noted

19. Date of next meeting.

Monday 14th July 2014, 7.00 p.m, Elford Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.