



Minutes

Meeting of the Parish Council

Monday 8th July 2019

7 pm, at Elford Village Hall

**Present: Councillors Gilbert, Payne, Toon and Turley (Chair)
Cllr Wright from 8.55**

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), District Cllr Leytham, Bromford Homes Area Manager, one resident

Open Forum

A resident asked for an update on the Planning Application for Land at the Shrubbery. The Parish Council's response had been submitted, raising concerns about the layout in terms of flooding, affordable housing and heritage assets. The resident explained her concerns about the risks to properties from surface water from the development which would flow down Eddies Lane and risk flooding to these and other nearby homes. She also said that Lichfield Council's planner had failed to return her calls to discuss these concerns. Cllr Leytham said that he expected the application to go to Committee and that Cllr Warburton would advise residents further if required. The Bromford Manager explained the concerns of their tenant about the pathway which passed from the Social Club car park through Bromford's land to the rear of the Village Hall. People using the path through their garden had passed through at night, affecting their privacy and had sometimes been abusive. Cllrs said that Elford people had always used the pathway and that even if it was not exactly as shown on the Definitive Map, its use on the current route for over 20 years meant that it was a right of way and it should not have been blocked in a way to endanger the public. The Parish Council would contact Staffordshire County Council's legal department to follow a process to resolve the matter. Bromford's representative was thanked for her help in attempting to resolve this issue.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs Hilderley and Biden had apologised, Cllr Wright would be late due to work commitments. The apologies were accepted.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

None

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 10/6/19

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. To receive the Clerk's Report

The notice board was awaiting new locks, these had been ordered and the Village Hall's handyman would fit them shortly.

The Village Hall accounts had been received and the required information would be forwarded to the Charity Commission by the Parish Council as the Custodian Trustee. The Manager of the Coffee Shop had kindly donated the proceeds from 2018 towards the taxi service so that additional taxis could be booked by the passengers. Any residents were welcome to use this service and it would be promoted locally.

Resolved: Approved

5. To consider Planning applications

19/00662/REMM Land at The Shrubbery, approval of Reserved Matters for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the erection of 25 dwellings. The response of the Parish Council had been sent.

6. To consider Right of Way off The Beck

The Parish Council would contact the County Council's legal department and until the matter had been resolved had asked Bromford to ensure that their tenant did not block safe passage over the stile. Cllr Turley had offered to meet the tenants to reassure them that the Parish Council acted for all villagers and to explain the need to keep the stile open. Users of the stile should act in a considerate and polite manner and not disturb the residents when passing through their garden.

Resolved: Approved

7. To consider village communication

It was agreed to promote the Facebook page Elford News as a facility for informing residents about local news and events.

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider post office service update

The Post Office had confirmed that it had not been possible to reinstate the service which had previously run at the Village Hall.

9. To consider purchase of cones for village events

The Scarecrow Committee had requested the Parish Council to fund road cones to manage parking at village events, but it was agreed not to purchase these at present as this had not been budgeted for, other events had access to cones and there was nowhere to store them. If the Committee wished to purchase these a donation would be considered.

Traffic management at the forthcoming event was referred to and it was considered that the Committee were taking the necessary steps to ensure public safety.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider anti - social behaviour at the playground

Following recent anti - social behaviour in the evenings at the playground and the Sportsfield and a further break in involving damage and theft at the Cricket Club it was agreed to discuss the matter with the local PCSO and ask him to visit local youths who may have been involved.

Cllr Payne would liaise with a local roofer who had kindly offered to replace damaged tiles on the playground barn roof which had been broken in one of the incidents.

Resolved: Approved

11. To consider future Best Kept Village entry

Entry for the Best Kept Village Competition had been raised at the Annual Parish Assembly and in correspondence and it was agreed to invite residents who wished to be involved with running this to a meeting in the New Year.

Resolved: Approved

12. To consider arrangements for the renewal of Sportsfield Leases.

The Sportsfield Committee would meet at the start of September to discuss the present Leases and decide on any changes required. These would be circulated to those involved and to the former Chair. Legal advice would then be taken.

Resolved: Approved

13. To consider maintenance

Trees on the Beck were overhanging the pavement and would be reported to Highways in the first instance as these were on their land.

Councillors had kindly offered to water the flowering plants in the tubs.

A strimmer had been purchased for Alan to use around the fitness equipment and areas near the playground.

Cllr Biden had reported a damaged fence on the path between Croft Close and The Square and Cllr Gilbert would consult Andrew White Fencing about this.

The pedestrian gate to the playground needed repairs to the closing mechanism and quotes would be obtained.

Resolved: Approved

14. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Toon reported on the concerns of a resident of The Beck regarding rainwater which could flow from the new development. A ditch ran behind the houses and was already full of water, so he was concerned about flooding if houses were built above the properties. There was still time for him to contact the planner about this.

Residents had also spoken to Cllr Toon about the junction of The Shrubbery and The Beck, where there had been several near misses when cars turned onto Church Road.

Highways would be asked whether an officer could meet the Parish Council to suggest what could be done.

Cllr Payne said that he would arrange a Playground Working Party for a date in September, he would purchase materials from Tippers on the Council's account.

Cllr Wright raised matters relating to the administration of the website. He also said that there was no news yet on the sale of the Social Club from the Trustees, although various bids had been made.

15. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins

Lichfield District Council, news items, Information from Parish Forum

Staffordshire Warmer Homes

The Circuit, defibrillator registration

Staffordshire Police, staffing information, Independent Advisory Group

Resident letter raising various issues

16. To receive a financial report

The bank reconciliation was given.

It was agreed to add Cllr Payne as an internet user, Cllr Wright would complete the registration process

Resolved: Approved

17. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

Payments to: M. Jones, salary and expenses; £373.54; HMRC £78.20;

Elford Village Hall, room hire £17.50;

A. Robey, handyman work and materials £117.50

RW Harcombe, grounds maintenance £125.00;

A Cox, Avenue mowing £70;

Acorn Taxis, weekly taxi, June £114.24;

Elford Lowe Farm, strimmer £262.80

SPCA, Cllr Training £20

Broxap, fitness equipment supply and installation, £6143.20

Resolved: Approved

18. Date of next meeting: Monday 9th September 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.