



**Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Monday 10th November 2014 at 7pm at Elford Village Hall.**

Present: Councillors Wain (Chair), Batchelor, Gilbert, Newport, Smith, Standerwick and Taylor

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), Sgt Bailey, 4 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)

Sgt Bailey described recent scams targeting vulnerable and elderly residents which had been highlighted in the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter. Cllrs asked about security at the Cricket Club, reports of a delivery lorry driving onto the footway near to children, and roads made slippery by mud. Sgt Bailey said that problems could be reported on the police non-emergency number 101.

Mr Bridgen later joined the meeting and explained the process to create a product which could be spread on the land to fertilise potato crops.

2. To receive apologies

None.

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 14/10/14

Cllr Batchelor asked that an amendment be made in item 6, to read Elford Mill not Mill House.

Resolved: Approved

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 14/10/14:

1.1 Meeting regarding Home Farm

Cllr Wain reported back on an informative and informal meeting between himself, Cllr Standerwick and Mr Bridgen. A further meeting would shortly be held with District Cllr Arnold and the agent for Birmingham City Council, the landowners. Dialogue between those concerned was very useful. A revised application would shortly be made addressing the four points raised at Planning Committee, and it was hoped that Mr Bridgen and his agent could explain the application at the next Parish Council meeting.

1.2 Footpaths

Cllr Batchelor would meet the Rights of Way Officer in early December to discuss improvements needed.

5. To receive the Clerk's report

Playground – The Inspection report had been received. It had been very detailed and had found that the equipment was low risk. This had been circulated to Cllrs and the Chair of the Playground Group. Weekly reports had still not been received from the group.

Post Office – The Clerk had discussed the service with the Post Office Clerk and had added the times of opening to the Council's website. The service was available in the Shakespeare Room of the Village Hall every Tuesday morning from 8.30 to 12.30. The Parish Council paid the rent and the Post Office paid their employee. It was suggested that the Post Office be approached by the Clerk to provide a sign for the notice board.

A frame sign – a metal sign would be purchased to promote Open Forum.

First Aid training – It was hoped to begin this in December if the trainer had recovered from surgery. The defibrillator was expected to be installed shortly.

Speed devices – Highways had been asked for the results but had not yet replied.

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

No applications had been received this month.

7. To consider progress on the Sportsfield

An informal meeting between Cllr Wain and representatives of the Football and Cricket Clubs had recently taken place. The Cricket Club had had a lot of expense caused by break-ins but it was expected that their Committee would agree to funding their share of the car park improvements. Siting of the extra spaces was discussed, and Cllr Wain would inform both clubs of the decision. The goals had now been put up and were available for residents to use. Thanks were given to Max who had helped with this.

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider village maintenance

Derek had planted the tubs with winter bedding and cleaned the phone box. The hedge near the waste ground in The Shrubbery had been cut and Cllr Gilbert would shortly meet Derek to tidy the area.

The Neighbourhood Highways Team had been at work along Burton Road and at the bridge.

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider any matters for the website

Councillors agreed that photographs of recent events around the village should be added to the site, although more were needed. Recent Neighbourhood Watch reports would be added. Residents would be informed that the goals at the sports field were available to use.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

10. To receive questions from Councillors

Cllr Smith asked about the Clothes Bank at the Village Hall; information had been forwarded to the school earlier.

Cllr Batchelor asked for the blocked drainage on the main road near Elford Mill to be reported to Highways. Action: Clerk

Cllr Gilbert asked about funding for youth activities in the village, and this would be discussed under item 12.

11. To consider appointment of Auditor for the following year.

Toplis Associates were again available to conduct the audit.

Resolved: Approved

12. To consider the draft budget for 2015-16.

Councillors discussed the draft budget prepared by the Clerk. It was agreed to keep the precept at the same level as last year. Monies for youth leisure would be ring-fenced and carried forward for spending on a project acceptable to younger residents, on part of the Sportsfield which had been set aside for the purpose. Amendments were made in various categories of spending and the revised version would be sent to Cllrs for approval at the next meeting.

Resolved: Approved

13. To receive the financial report.

Bank statements had been forwarded and the bank reconciliation was noted.

Resolved: Approved

14. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments listed to: M. Jones, salary and expenses; J. Standerwick reimbursement for Awoingt visit expenses £612.25; Elford Village Hall, room rental & post office £117; D. Beaumont, handyman work £50; R. Harcombe grounds maintenance £125; R. Jones & Son, bramble removal £96; Eon, lighting maintenance £260.29.

Resolved: Approved

15. To receive correspondence.

SPCA bulletins – and Gazette.

Mrs Billingham - thanks for support of Parish Council for Awoingt visit
Staffordshire County Council – websites for bus timetables.

Birmingham City Council regarding work on a wall at Old Hall Drive

Mr Hurley – bulb planting in the Shrubbery

Resolved: Noted

16. Date of next meeting.

Monday 8th December 2014, 7.00 p.m, Elford Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.