



**Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Monday 9th November 2015
7pm at Elford Village Hall.**

Present: Councillors Standerwick (Acting Chair), Collins, Gilbert, Turley and Wain (from 9pm)

In Attendance: District Cllr David Leytham, District and County Cllr Alan White, Mrs Jones (Clerk), and 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.

Open Forum

The Best Kept Village Judges' report was mentioned by a resident who asked whether a request could be made to the Social Club to trim the hedge as this was the second time it had been criticised. Cllr Gilbert said a working party had cleared around the club but he would discuss the hedge with the Committee in time for next year. The Clerk said that the map had also been criticised but it would be redone for next year.

The residents present had been informed that the Planning Inspector had made a site visit to Home Farm and had subsequently granted the appeal against the lagoon. Construction could now take place, subject to the landlord's permission. The Inspector had stated that the District Council were not liable for costs. The farmer would require a licence from the Environment Agency to move waste to the lagoon.

If there were any future problems residents could monitor any nuisance caused by the lagoon and report any odours to the Environment Agency with details of times and dates. Any traffic problems should be reported to the Police or Highways. The Parish Council would prepare information about the conditions imposed under the planning permission, to assist residents in reporting any breaches to the Planning Department at the District Council. The Parish Council would continue to communicate with the farmer.

Cllr White reported that the County Council faced a 30% cut in funding from the government which had been announced earlier, and services would be affected. Residents would notice a reduction in health and social services, and in Highways services.

Cllr White also asked local farmers to assist at this time by clearing mud from the roads deposited by their vehicles in the interest of safety for road users, and pointed out that they could be committing a road traffic offence. The Parish Council would pass on contact details so that he could write to them.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Smith had apologised. Cllr Wain had apologised as he would be late. The apologies were accepted.

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

None received

3. To approve the Minutes of the meetings of 13/10/15

Resolved: Approved

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 13th October

(i) Rights of Way – The bridleway known as Green Lane had now been cleared by the Rights of Way team.

ii) The Neighbourhood Highways team had cleared weeds and signs as requested.

4. To co-opt a member

Ed Jones had applied to be co-opted as a member of the Parish Council and his co-option was agreed by all present.

Resolved: Approved

5. To receive the Clerk's report

Life saving training – A further session on CPR and use of the defibrillator had been arranged for 3rd December at Elford Village Hall.

Speeding on the A513 – An acknowledgement had been received from Highways to the request for improved signage or monitoring.

Flood Plan – As this should be reviewed annually, Dave Hill the Flood Warden had been contacted. He had sent an update on progress; the Parish Council would be kept informed.

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

(a) The appeal had been granted for a lagoon at Home Farm.

(b) No planning applications had been received.

(c) Future consultations would be done electronically only.

7. To approve the appointment of Neighbourhood Plan consultants

Following previous meetings between Councillors and two firms it was agreed that BPUD would be appointed as consultants to lead Elford's Neighbourhood Plan.

A grant funding application would be made.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider youth leisure provision

It was agreed that a similar facility to the BMX track at Whittington could be appropriate for the area next to the football pitch, and the Clerk would contact Whittington for information. The young people who had previously contacted the Parish Council would be consulted. Cllr Gilbert offered to prepare costs for consideration at a future meeting.

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider playground maintenance

Cllrs Standerwick and Gilbert proposed a working party date of Saturday 5th December for volunteers to refurbish the playground. Cllr Standerwick would organise refreshments and would contact those who had asked to be involved.

Action: Cllr Standerwick

Volunteers on the playground inspection rota would be reminded of their inspection dates and how to return their check sheets.

Action: Clerk

10. To consider any items for the next budget

Spending was suggested on a BMX track, village sign, CCTV, an odour sensor and the Neighbourhood Plan. Estimated costs and details would be obtained for consideration at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk and Cllrs

The draft budget would be prepared by the Clerk and considered at the next meeting of the full Council.

11. To consider any items for Sportsfield Committee meeting

The meeting would consider the car park improvements plus any topics suggested by the sports clubs. The Clerk would contact them.

Action: Clerk

12. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Collins enquired about the conditions of the planning permission for the lagoon at Home Farm, and how they would be enforced. The Planning Department would be contacted for information.

Action: Clerk

13. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins and AGM information
Staffordshire County Council Country Park management consultation
Staffordshire County Council Ironman update

14. To receive a financial report.

- (a) Bank reconciliation – this was noted.
- (b) Banking – the change of signatories form was completed and would be sent to the Cooperative Bank.
- (c) Audit – the Clerk would meet the auditor on 10th November for the interim audit.

Resolved: Approved

15. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments to: M. Jones, total salary and expenses, £370.72;
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association, training, £20;
D. Beaumont, handyman work £120;
RW Harcombe, maintenance, £125;
Elford Village Hall, Room hire, £76;
Lichfield District Council, playground inspection, £64.20
Scottish Power, playground electricity, £24.93

Resolved: Approved

16. Date of next meeting. (Monday 14th December 2015)

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.