



**Draft Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 12th September 2016
7 pm at Elford Village Hall.**

Present: Councillors Wain(Chair), Standerwick, Gilbert, Jones, Smith and Turley

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk)

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

One member of the public had attended. He suggested the clearance of an area of open ground on the corner of Church Road which used to be an allotment and was no longer required, this could be incorporated with the land around the Church to improve the view. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea and Cllr Wain would speak to Birmingham's managing agents about it.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs Collins had apologised as he was on holiday. Cllr Jones apologised and left the meeting at 7.30 due to family commitments.

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 meeting of 11/7/16

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

Resolved: Approved

4. To receive the Clerk's report

Best Kept Village – Elford had again achieved a very good result, coming second to Kings Bromley, thanks were due to Cllr Collins for attending the presentation evening. The judges' comments had not yet been received, but would be publicised in due course.

Notice boards – new backing fabric had ordered. The locks were still a problem.

Drain at Elford Mill – this had been reported to Highways again, they were waiting for an inspector to authorise the work, a further enquiry would be made.

Trees in The Beck – a resident had reported problems with these and asked for them to be pollarded. As it was on Highways land they would be contacted.

Request for memorial bench at the Beck – Birmingham City Council would be asked whether they agreed to the positioning of a bench for people to sit at the area.

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

(a) Application: 16/00921/COU Elford Lowe, extension of area for caravan storage, RESOLVED no objection but Staffordshire Highways' objection noted.

Elford Lodge, 16/00941/FUL Single storey extension to rear to form boot room, RESOLVED no objection.

The Clerk would contact the Planning Department.

(b) Local Plan Allocations consultation; It was agreed to inform those responsible that Elford was preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and would keep them updated regarding progress. *Actions:Clerk*

6. To consider the Neighbourhood Plan

Both the qualitative and quantitative groups had now produced initial policies, these would be discussed at the next meeting on the 21st September.

7. To consider playground maintenance

Quotes had been obtained for matting repairs which would amount to 2 or 3 thousand pounds. Discussion took place on whether to install alternative types of surfacing, the best options for good value over the next few years, and whether to repair or replace. It was agreed to take advice from playground firms on whether to install bark or other materials, and the Clerk would arrange for representatives to meet Cllr Standerwick. Cllr Gilbert would also speak to Andrew White who had installed the fencing.

It was agreed it would be helpful to ask a local person to maintain the equipment.

The annual inspection had been booked through Lichfield District Council.

Actions:Clerk, Cllr Standerwick, Cllr Gilbert

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider village maintenance

RESOLVED to appoint a local person to clean and maintain the playground, phone kiosk and other areas around the village, for 8 hours per month. Cllr Standerwick would contact Gavin Cox who had indicated he would take on this role. Derek would be informed of this decision and thanked for his work. *Action:Clerk*

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider crocus planting

Crocus corms had been ordered. The school had agreed the children would plant some in the grounds. Gavin would be asked to plant others on the verges and in The Avenue.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider kiosk maintenance

Paint would be ordered, Gavin would be asked to clean and paint the kiosk. Cllr Gilbert would find out who had maintained the hedges next to the kiosk and would arrange for their removal, the verge would then be seeded. *Action: Cllr Gilbert*

The kiosk would be used as a village information point, racking would be required.

Resolved: Approved

11. To consider village boundary signage

Quotes had been obtained for village boundary signs following the suggestion at the last meeting that these would prompt vehicles to slow down. Two signs would be ordered from Plantscape, with the wording Welcome to Elford, please drive carefully. County Highways' permission and advice on siting would be requested.

Resolved: Approved

12. To consider request regarding metal detecting

A request had been received to use a metal detector in the Sportsfield. Councillors agreed to refuse the request in case it caused any damage to the cricket pitch or field.

Resolved: Not approved

13. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Turley reported that there was a large pothole near the entrance to the village in The Shrubbery which should be reported to Highways.
Cllr Wain reported that he had observed 3 cars driving into the village at school drop off time along the Shrubbery at excessive speeds, not even slowing down when passing the Speed Indicator Device. Cllr Standerwick would speak to the school and ask that they request parents entering the village at school time to observe speed limits and signs. The Police would also be asked to provide a presence during the mornings and on Saturday mornings when visitors were driving towards the sports field.

14. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins ; Community Council, AGM information
Metal detector request from a resident
Memorial bench request for picnic area
Staffordshire Highways consultation on asset management

15. To receive a financial report.

Bank reconciliation – this was noted.
A cheque would be signed to transfer funds from the playground account for fencing.
A payment for VAT reclaim of £1383.40 had been received.
The Annual Return had been received from the Auditors, all was satisfactory.

Resolved: Approved

16. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments to: M. Jones, total salary and expenses July and August £577.69;
D. Beaumont, handyman work August £60.00;
Elford Village Hall, room hire and post office £251.50;
Scottish Power, playground electricity £25.20;
Grant Thornton, audit fee £240.00; HMRC PAYE, 152.40
RW Harcombe, maintenance £250.00;

Resolved: Approved

17. Date of next meeting: Monday 10th October, 7 pm

The meeting closed at 8.50.