



**Draft Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Tuesday 7th February 2017
7 pm at Elford Village Hall.**

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

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), District Cllr Leytham, 9 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

A member of the public raised local people's concerns about the Sportsfield. When matches were taking place cars were parked along Church Road as the car park was full, the pitches were in poor condition and there were too many teams playing. Player's parents were not cooperating, many were from outside the village and did not respect it, there was speeding and littering. Cllr Wain explained that Leases had been previously drawn up to formalise the legal position and obligations for the clubs, and a Licence agreement was currently being discussed with the Cricket Club who had allowed the Football Club to use the pitches. This would then be agreed with the Football Club to address the issues which were currently causing concern. Once this was in writing the Parish Council could arbitrate and solve any problems. The resident was thanked for bringing this to the Council's attention, and told that matters at the Sportsfield were being dealt with.

Dave Hill and Brian Green had attended to present information on the suggested phase 3 flooding works for Elford. Dave explained how flooding had previously occurred and about measures which the Environment Agency, with input from Severn Trent and Staffordshire Highways, had put in place to protect Elford properties and residents from flooding. A great deal of investment had taken place in Elford. He had suggested a phase 3 proposal to reduce costs, and explained that the EA stance was that this would be a project to bear in mind for the future. Dave and Brian were thanked for their contribution.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Smith had apologised as he was abroad, his apology was accepted.
Cllr Jones did not attend the meeting.

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 10/1/17

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising - The Avenue, the Chair and Clerk would attend a meeting with the agents Bruton Knowles and an officer of Birmingham City Council on 15th February to discuss this proposal.

Resolved: Approved

4. To receive the Clerk's report

Chancel liability – the Clerk had corresponded with the PCC to confirm that information had been previously received stating that there was no liability in Elford.

Best Kept Village – entry would be confirmed for 2017.

SLCC Regional Training Seminar, 1st February – the Clerk had attended this event and received useful information on Councils' use of social media, and an update on legal and audit changes.

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

(a) The Parish Council's application for advertising consent for Welcome to Elford road signs had been registered, and should be decided by the Planning department within 8 weeks.

(b) The Council had been informed of the consultation on the Whittington and Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plan.

6. To consider maintenance tasks and playground repairs

Rob Harcombe had quoted for mowing for the year, it was agreed to issue a contract for the year's maintenance at the same rate as last year.

An account had been opened with Tippers for sundries and Gavin had been informed of the details. Gavin had undertaken work in the Avenue and the playground and various other tasks around the village.

Cllr Standerwick had received assurances on the surfacing repairs which were to be undertaken by RSS, a reputable firm with experience in this work. Written instructions would be sent. The existing fences would be removed. Cllr White's office had provided a grant for £1000 from the County Councillor Local Member's fund for this which should be spent by March. A large proportion of the remainder of the cost would be met by the sum of £1219 which had been raised from the profit from Mrs Standerwick's coffee shop at the Village Hall. The Clerk would contact Mrs Standerwick regarding the donation.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

7. To consider response to Environment Agency consultation

Cllr Wain explained to those present that a public consultation had been held in Measham by the Environment Agency to explain about the Anaerobic Digester plant built by AB Produce, how permits work, and how waste was distributed. Local people who attended had found it extremely useful and the EA had been asked whether a similar event could be held in Elford, although this had not yet been confirmed.

Mr Bridgen, who was present, said that he had supported the consultation so that everyone understood what was involved, and offered to show people round when the plant was working. He answered questions from Cllrs and clarified that waste permits were for deployment to certain tracts of land. He said that the plant would pasteurise the waste so it could be put back on potato ground, until it was operational waste would be put on cereal crops. He indicated that the product would have less odour than the

Biffa waste which residents had previously complained about, although he would continue to spread Biffa waste on cereal crops. He was asked about the numbers of tankers driving through Elford, and said this would reduce if Birmingham City Council allowed the construction of the lagoon. Not all of the product of the Anaerobic Digester would be brought to Elford, possibly two tankers a day all year round, in addition to those bringing Biffa waste at permitted times of year.

Cllr Wain thanked Mr Bridgen for his helpful contribution to the meeting.

8. To consider the Flooding Report

Following Dave Hill's report during Open Forum, the two recommendations in the report were approved by the Council; the Parish Council would accept the current Environment Agency position, and the Flood Wardens would keep the EA aware of the phase 3 proposal and continue to monitor the long term position. A letter of thanks would be sent to the EA for all that had been done to prevent flooding in Elford.

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider the Sportsfield

Cllrs Wain and Gilbert had met representatives of the Cricket Club earlier, they had been supportive of the principle of a written Licence agreement and would suggest amendments, this would then be discussed with the Football Club. The agreement would be used by the Parish Council to arbitrate between the two clubs. The poor state of the pitch meant that the Football Club would be asked to vacate it after April 1st, so that work could be done to prepare it for the cricket season. The Parish Council supported this decision; Cllr Wain would share village concerns with the Football Club. Cllr Collins said that the Football Club should liaise with the Church over parking, and asked that the issue of litter clearance be added to the Licence.

Resolved: Approved

10. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Collins asked for the pothole in the Shrubbery to be reported again. He said that the Village Hall Committee wished to install CCTV cameras to overlook Church Road. They would install and maintain this, but had asked if the Parish Council would buy a camera. This would be put on the next agenda. He would also ask the Social Club if they would pay for a camera on their premises.

11. To receive correspondence

Lichfield District Council – Parish Forum information; invitation to Chair's Annual Dinner
SPCA bulletins, Staffordshire County Council workshop on joint working, 23rd February
Community Council, Diary of Village events.
Awoingt group, regarding links between the villages.

12. To receive a financial report.

- (a) The bank reconciliation was noted.
- (b) Lichfield District Council had sent details of an electoral recharge for 2015.
- (c) The Precept request had been sent to Lichfield District Council.
- (d) Bank mandate – forms had been completed to change the signatories on the Lloyds Playground account.

Resolved: Approved

13. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments to: M. Jones, salary and expenses £404.81
Elford Village Hall, room hire and post office £137.50
G. Cox, maintenance and sundries £138.92
Society of Local Council Clerks, membership fee £45
Scottish Power, electricity £29.59

Resolved: Approved

14. Date of next meeting: Monday 13th March, 7 pm

The meeting closed at 20.30

DRAFT