



Draft Minutes

**Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 12th June 2017
7 pm at Elford Village Hall.**

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

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), 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

A member of the public had requested that a mirror was installed at the junction of The Shrubbery and the A513 to improve visibility. The Clerk would contact Highways to ask if this could be done.

Maintenance issues were discussed with Gavin. He had finished clearing, laying topsoil, and seeding the land at the corner of Church Road, and a gate would be installed. Councillors said that an excellent job had been done. He reported that the canvas cover had been left on the circle in the playground after the recent working party, and this had been ripped by bad weather so was now unusable. Gavin had planted the flower tubs, and tidied the edge of the club and around the bus shelter and kiosk to keep these areas tidy for Best Kept Village. The next tasks included painting the kiosk and clearing weeds overgrowing paths.

1. To receive apologies for absence

None.

2. To co-opt members on to the Parish Council and to receive signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office

Two prospective members explained why they wished to join the Parish Council. It was agreed to defer co-option until the third candidate could attend the next meeting.

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 16/5/17

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

Resolved: Approved

5. To appoint members to committees and local organisations

This item would be deferred until new members had joined the Council.

6. To review Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Asset Register and Risk Assessment.

The updated policies were considered and approved.

Resolved: Approved

7. To receive the Clerk's report

Leases - No response had yet been received from Birmingham on the amended drafts.

Best Kept Village – Judges were expected to visit in July.

Playground – inspections had continued to be done, the surfacing would be monitored.

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

Application for consideration 17/006199/FUL The Spinney, The Shrubbery – single storey extension to front to form new garage, boot room and various alterations. No objection.

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider maintenance and tasks for Neighbourhood Highways Team

Maintenance tasks for Gavin had been agreed during Open Forum.

The Neighbourhood Highways Team would be asked to clear foliage from road signs to make them more visible, and to clear the overgrown path along the A513.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider the storage of a lawnmower for use in The Avenue

After discussion of a proposal to erect a shed at the Walled Garden to store the donated mower, it was agreed that this would be expensive and instead space could be created in one of the Parish Council sheds. Cllrs Gilbert and Smith would meet Gavin in early July to identify what needed to be retained or disposed of.

Resolved: Approved

11. To consider the Sportsfield Licence

Cllrs Gilbert and Smith had attended a meeting with representatives of the Football and Cricket Clubs. Amendments to the Licence had been agreed by all parties. The Clerk would prepare the final version for signing on behalf of the Football and Cricket Clubs.

Resolved: Approved

12. To consider attending a meeting regarding Home Farm

Cllr Collins said that the Action Group had been approached by Mr Bridgen regarding a meeting. It was agreed that if a meeting took place also involving Birmingham City Council and Bruton Knowles it would be helpful for a Parish Council Member to be present to protect the interests of residents regarding traffic and odour issues.

Resolved: Approved

13. To consider the provision of outdoor fitness equipment

A resident had offered to contribute a sum towards the provision of equipment. It was agreed to ask residents via the Elford News Facebook page for feedback on whether they were in favour of this idea or had any alternative suggestions. Cllr Turley would also discuss this further with the resident.

Resolved: Approved

14. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Smith suggested that road signs needed foliage cutting back, to make them more visible, and that the overgrown path along the A513 should be cleared up to the verge for pedestrians' safety. This would be passed to the Community Highways team. Cllr Turley hoped that pothole repairs would be done now more funding had been made available. The pothole in the Shrubbery would be chased up.

15. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins
Police and Crime Commissioner, Cyber crime leaflets
Seafarers UK, Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day, agreed no action
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Central Rivers AGM invitation, agreed no action
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association, reminder of subs, agreed not to renew
Staffordshire police, information on keeping communities safe during terrorist alert
LDC Parish Forum, information on next meeting, to be forwarded to Cllrs.

16. To receive a financial report.

- (a) Bank reconciliation. Bank total was £31,842, including playground funds of £10,212. £8,000 would be transferred to the deposit account to earn some interest. Payments against the budget were in line with expectations.
- (b) Bank mandates. It was agreed to remove former Councillors Wain and Standerwick as signatories from the Cooperative bank accounts and Cllr Wain as signatory from the Lloyds playground fund accounts. New Cllrs would be added when co-opted.

Resolved: Approved

17. To consider authorising the schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments to: M. Jones, salary and expenses £296.20
Elford Village Hall, room hire and post office £113.50
G. Cox, maintenance £120
RW Harcombe, maintenance £125
Birmingham City Council, rent £5
Urban Imprint, Neighbourhood Plan consultancy fee, £1080
Tim Gilbert Services, top soil £240
Planters Garden Centre, plants £77.38

Resolved: Approved

18. Date of next meeting: Monday 10th July, 7 pm

The meeting closed at 20.45