



Draft Minutes

**Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 19th March 2018
7 pm, at Elford Village Hall**

Present: Councillors Jones (Chair), Collins, Gilbert, Payne, Turley and Wright

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), 10 members of the public

Open Forum

Residents asked for some of the hedges near the bend in Church Road to be cut back which were encroaching on the footpath and making it difficult to walk along there.

A long discussion took place about the withdrawal of the 82 bus service by the County Council from the end of March. Cllr Payne summarised the discussions which had been held with representatives of local Parish Councils. The County Council had implied that a service could be reintroduced following a tendering process over the next two months, if an economic tender was received. Meanwhile the Parish Council would consider alternatives later in the meeting.

The recent planning application for houses on land off the Shrubbery was also discussed. The application had been passed by the District Council after the Planning Officer had recommended approval. A detailed application would need to be submitted before any building took place.

A resident gave an update on the Twinning Agreement with Awoingt; an official invitation for a Parish Councillor to visit on the weekend of 23rd/24th June would be sent shortly.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Oakley had apologised due to work commitments; the apology was accepted.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

None

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 12/2/18

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 12th February

Cllr Wright explained that the Social Club had paid for and organised a CCTV system which covered the exterior of the building and Church Road. PCSO Costas Karpi had attended to discuss the use and operation with him, and how to ensure privacy.

It had already revealed some anti-social behaviour on the premises.

Highways had been asked to improve safety at the Church Road/The Shrubbery/The Beck junction, and the damaged sign had been reported to the District Council.

4. To receive the Clerk's report

Potholes in the Shrubbery had been repaired. Those in Brickhouse Lane would also be reported, Cllr Turley had provided details of the locations.

The Parish Assembly would take place in May, and local groups would be invited. The Annual Meeting of the Council would choose the Chair for the following year and review policies and responsibilities.

The Clerk's Annual Appraisal was undertaken, payment on the appropriate salary point would take effect from April.

Resolved: Approved

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

(a) Outline application for up to 25 houses on Land at The Shrubbery. Discussion took place on the decision. Cllr Jones undertook to take further advice on the legal aspects of the Conservation Area process.

(b) Applications to consider;

18/00216/FUL 22A The Beck, construction of log cabins, RESOLVED no objection.

18/00332/FUL Ashgate Cottage, Eddies Lane, two storey extension to rear, RESOLVED no objection.

17/00894/FUL Mill House, amended plans, RESOLVED no objection.

(c) Neighbourhood Plan. This may need to be amended to reflect the decision to build on Protected Open Space. A Freedom of Information request for information from the questionnaire had been received; a response was sent within the statutory time limit.

Resolved: Approved

6. To consider the Sportsfield Leases

Cllr Jones had suggested amendments which would ensure that the Underleases reflected the current use of the Sportsfield. These were agreed and would be discussed with representatives of the Football and Cricket Clubs at a meeting of the Sportsfield Committee to be held as soon as possible. Cllr Jones would then arrange for a solicitor to advise on these.

A petition outlining residents' concerns about use of the Sportsfield was discussed; Councillors felt that many of the concerns had already been acted on by the clubs. Councillors would continue to monitor traffic levels and noise. These matters would also be considered at the Sportsfield Committee Meeting.

Discussions on siting of trim trail equipment would take place after the Leases had been amended.

Resolved: Approved

7. To receive an update on the bus service

The County Council had confirmed that the tendering process had been delayed; there would be no service for at least 2 months from the end of March. Councillors would discuss with another operator whether an interim solution could be arranged, if not the Parish Council would investigate taxi provision, so that some transport was available after Easter for those who relied on the bus to reach essential services.

Resolved: Approved

At 8.15 Cllr Jones left the meeting and Cllr Collins took the Chair.

8. To consider maintenance

The playground equipment had been fenced off and notices put up advising of the slippery surface. A contractor had been asked to jet wash the surface and repair the plywood floors when the snow had cleared. The fencing around the barbecue had been removed by Alan, and a future meeting would consider the use of that area.

9. To consider quotes for hedging in Church Road and grass cutting in the Avenue

It was agreed to defer the hedging at present.

A quote for cutting the grass at The Avenue for £70 per cut was agreed; to be cut when required. The Clerk would confirm this and ask for a first cut to be done before Easter if possible.

The oak tree at the Playground needed dead wood removed. The Clerk would obtain a third quote from an approved firm and inform the neighbour about the work that was proposed.

Resolved: Approved

10. To approve renewal of the Council's insurance

The insurance would be renewed under the long term agreement.

Resolved: Approved

11. To consider commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day

Cllr Collins would discuss this matter with the Chair of the Village Hall and report back to the next meeting.

12. To consider Data Protection Service

This was deferred to the next meeting when more information should be available.

13. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Gilbert asked about the hedge at the Church Road/The Shrubbery junction and was informed about discussions which had taken place with the householder.

Cllr Payne asked about the vegetation overhanging the alleyway near the Square from a neighbouring property. Alan would be asked to cut this back.

14. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletin and information for member councils
Community Council, press release regarding unification with Support Staffordshire
Notes on A38 Corridor Community Conversations

15. To receive a financial report

The bank reconciliation was given, there was £10,540 in the Parish Council accounts prior to this month's payments, and £10,213 in the playground accounts.
The end of financial year tax reporting would be done shortly, and preparation for Annual Reporting and the internal audit on 16th April.

Resolved: Approved

16. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

Payments to: M. Jones, salary and expenses; £329.63; HMRC 129.40;
Elford Village Hall, room hire and post office £89.50;
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association, subs £193;
Came & Company, insurance premium, £393.11;
B.Wright, annual web hosting, £60
Tippers, maintenance supplies, £33.32
A.Robey, handyman work, £75

Resolved: Approved

17. Date of next meeting: Monday 16th April 2018, 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.05