



Draft Minutes

**Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 11th June 2018
7 pm, at Elford Village Hall**

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

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

Open Forum

Users of the bus hire service attended to give an update on usage. There were around 10 regular users who had donated sums towards the service. The passengers were very grateful for this and there was a good community spirit among those who used it. Others were welcome to use the twice weekly bus.

It had become clear since the last meeting that Staffordshire County Council had not received any financially viable tenders and would not recommence the 82 service. The other local villages had been contacted to ask whether they would consider contributing to an extended service now that Elford and Edingale's interim service had shown its value to local people, but a response was not yet available.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Gilbert had apologised and the apology was accepted.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 14/5/18

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 14th May

None

4. To receive the Clerk's report

A proposal had been made by British Canoeing to apply for lottery funding to build a platform for canoe access to the River Tame near to the picnic area. This would be supported as it would be a beneficial addition to the village.

The Audit paperwork and notification of date of elector's rights had been published according to regulations.

The recent Cricket Charity Fun Day had been very successful, the organisers hoped to make it an annual event; details of numbers attending and amount of cars would be requested before consenting to this.

The Clerk would attend the Aethelflaed commemoration service in Tamworth on behalf of the Parish Council.

Resolved: Approved

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

- (a) 18/00708/FUL, 45 The Beck, two storey side extension. This took account of the historic nature of the property and seemed an acceptable development in the conservation area. RESOLVED no objection.
- (b) 18/00435/FUL The Woodlands, The Shrubbery, amended plans to reduce ridge height. No details were available of this.
- (c) 18/00462/COU Elford Lowe, permission had been previously given for 3 timber cabins but this application sought to increase this to 12, plus another for a rural worker. The Environment Agency had objected as there was no up to date Flood Risk Assessment, so it was agreed that a response would be made when more information was available.
- (d) 18/00822/LBC The Arches, works to listed building to include replacement of windows and porch. This should improve the property. RESOLVED no objection.
- (e) Neighbourhood Plan – Lichfield District Council would arrange the examination.

Resolved: Approved

6. To receive an update on the Sportsfield

A short meeting had been held with the Football Club who had been asked to send information on numbers of matches and usage of pitches, the Cricket Club would be asked for the same information. The Parish Council would mediate between the clubs and keep control of the field to the benefit of the village and residents.

Resolved: Approved

7. To receive an update on the bus service

As discussed during Open Forum Staffordshire County Council had received tenders but none were viable. The current arrangement was working well and donations had been banked. The Parish Council would continue to monitor this.

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider Data Protection Officer.

Cllr Wright would take on this role as he had the necessary expertise.

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider replacement dog bin at the Walled Garden

The Parish Council would pay for a replacement bin.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider commemoration of 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day

Cllr Collins would inform Mr Watkins that they would support plans by the Local History Group to commemorate this anniversary.

Resolved: Approved

11. To consider matters relating to twinning with Awoingt

The visit to sign the Twinning Agreement would take place on the weekend of 22nd June, and the Parish Council would reimburse Cllr Turley's costs. Gifts had been arranged for the hosts. It was agreed to request a quote for signs marking the twinning to be attached to the road signs.

A request had been made to use the playground for an event for local families on 14th July to share information about the twinning visit and this was agreed.

Resolved: Approved

12. To consider maintenance

Expenditure on weedkiller was agreed. Alan would be asked to trim the bushes by the phone box; this also needed painting and a decision should be made about how it could be used.

Various pavements including along The Beck were in a poor state and needed reporting to Highways. This would be done when specific locations were confirmed.

Resolved: Approved

13. To consider Leases for the picnic area and The Avenue

Birmingham City Council had confirmed that the Trusts and Charities Committee still wished to further this. Cllrs were concerned about possible future liability and potential costs of tree surgery and repairs. The Clerk would send round copies of the proposed Leases so that this could be discussed at a future meeting.

Resolved: Approved

14. To consider replacement of street lights

The Parish Council had been notified that the four street lights it was responsible for needed the lanterns replacing with LED lights. As this was an EU requirement and the lights were still needed it was agreed to order these.

Resolved: Approved

15. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

None

16. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins

National Forest Timber Festival publicity

Fly the Red Ensign request

17. To receive a financial report

The bank reconciliation was given; total funds were £28,739, which included £10,216 earmarked for the playground. £1445.65 had been received in reclaimed VAT. It would seem sensible to consolidate the accounts by moving the playground funds from Lloyds to the Cooperative account, although they would still be earmarked for spending when required on the playground.

Details of bus donations would be circulated.

Resolved: Approved

18. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

Payments to: M. Jones, salary, overtime and expenses; £413.06; HMRC £100.20;

Elford Village Hall, room hire and post office £137.50;

RW Harcombe, maintenance £125; A. Cox, The Avenue maintenance £140;

Tonks Brothers Tree Services, tree work at the playground £420.00;

Solus Coaches, hire May, £810; A. Robey, handyman work, £80

Resolved: Approved

19. Date of next meeting: *Tuesday* 10th July 2018

The meeting closed at 20.25