



Draft Minutes

**Meeting of the Parish Council
Tuesday 10th July 2018
7 pm, at Elford Village Hall**

Present: Councillors Jones (Chair) from 19.20, Collins, Gilbert, Oakley, Payne, Turley and Wright

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), 9 members of the public.

Open Forum

Cllr Payne took the Chair for this part of the meeting and welcomed everyone. A report was given by residents who had recently visited Awoingt, they had been welcomed as honoured guests and it had been an excellent weekend. The twinning document had been signed and a reciprocal signing would take place at the end of August in Elford. A plaque and signage had been unveiled in Awoingt and it was intended to do the same at the Village Hall. Cllr Turley had done a very good job of representing Elford. A group member had seen the grave of a local man at the War Cemetery, Joseph Pailing of Hademore, and he hoped to trace his descendants. Events were currently being planned for the visit on the August Bank Holiday weekend; it was important to publicise the visit and involve as many residents as possible, especially younger people. The playground would be used by the Elford Awoingt Association on July 14th for activities to raise awareness among families. Cllr Payne thanked the group for all that they had done, they had the full support of the Parish Council, and the group thanked the Council. Other matters were discussed. A hedge was encroaching onto the pavement in Church Road so it was difficult for children to pass; the owner would be contacted. A hedge was growing over the public footpath at the side of the Social Club; Cllr Wright said that the Club would deal with this. The lime trees were still causing a problem along The Beck; an inspector from Highways had visited the site to see that the roots were lifting the footway and confirmed this would be dealt with. Highways had not agreed to prune the trees; they would be notified that they were growing into the overhead wires. The Clerk would chase up these matters. It was difficult for drivers to pull out of the Square due to cars parked over the white lines and the hedge affecting visibility. The Parish Council would monitor this. A resident asked whether their concerns about the football traffic had been dealt with and asked to be kept up to date. Cllr Jones said that the Parish Council had been collecting information from the clubs before having the opportunity to present the facts to those who had contacted the Council.

1. To receive apologies for absence

All present.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 11/6/18

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 11th June

None

4. To receive the Clerk's report

Post Office; there would be a period of closure of the weekly service at the Village Hall until a new Postmaster was appointed, and the future of the service was unclear. Residents would be informed about this via Facebook as well as notices.

Information Kiosk; more Welcome Packs had been printed.

Village Hall; financial statements would be submitted to the Charity Commission.

Pavements at The Beck; these had been reported.

Resolved: Approved

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

(a) Applications : 18/00861/FUL Church Gate Cottage, windows; no objection.

18/00885/FUL Howard Primary School, new classroom; no objection.

18/00988/TRC I The Square, tree trimming; no objection.

18/00975/ABN Home Farm, the planner would be contacted for more information.

(b) Elford Lowe access; Highways had been contacted as the Parish Council was acutely concerned about the safety of users of the road. Councillors stated that they wished to seek the views of a planning consultant, as it was felt that the Council had been misled about previous applications at the site, granted for agricultural use only. The buildings appeared to have other uses yet the Planning Department had not acted to ensure compliance with the permissions.

(c) Neighbourhood Plan; an examiner had been recommended by Lichfield's Local Plans team and was approved. An End of Grant Report had been submitted.

Resolved: Approved

6. To receive an update on the Sportsfield

A second petition had been received from residents and Cllr Jones stated that Cllr Collins had an interest in this matter, Cllr Collins then left the room for the duration of the item. Discussion followed on this issue. RESOLVED that Cllr Jones would write a statement explaining how concerns of the residents were being addressed. He would also contact the clubs to confirm the amended wording of the under-Leases.

Resolved: Approved

Action: Chair

7. To receive an update on the bus service

No information had yet been received from Clifton or Harlaston Parish Councils. Cllr Payne suggested that Councils paying for the hire service should divide the cost equally after donations had been deducted. The service would continue while affordable and be reviewed when the budget calculations for 2018-19 were due.

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider applying for silhouettes for commemoration of 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day

The Clerk would apply for silhouettes to be used at commemoration events to indicate those who did not return after the cessation of hostilities in 1918.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider signs and events relating to twinning with Awoingt

Cllr Turley gave an update on the recent visit to Awoingt and described the signing of the informal twinning agreement, and other events including a visit to the war cemetery at which a moving ceremony had taken place, which demonstrated the French gratitude for the sacrifice of British soldiers in World War One. Cllr Turley stated that he was willing to promote the links with Awoingt within the Parish Council and throughout Elford, and stressed the importance of having younger people, families with children and the school involved. A quote had been received for road signs to mark the twinning; RESOLVED to order these.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider maintenance

Highways had confirmed that potholes in Brickhouse Lane and at the Croft Close junction had been repaired. It was agreed that Alan would undertake playground equipment checks. He had purchased a hedge trimmer and trimmed the hedge by the kiosk. He would be asked to tidy the Playground before Saturday's event.

Resolved: Approved

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

Discussion took place on the draft Leases prepared last year. On the positive side they would give the Parish Council more control of these areas, but the alternative view was that there was a risk of high expenditure in the future for maintenance. It was RESOLVED not to proceed with the Leases and to inform Birmingham City Council of the decision.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

12. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Payne referred to his forthcoming holiday absence.

Cllr Wright said that following previous mention of the local microlight airfield the chief flying instructor had offered for any Councillors to visit the facility.

Cllr Collins said that he agreed that the football traffic affected him and that he had a conflict of interest in the matter of the Sportsfield, but he wished to put on record that the residents who had objected to the issues raised in the petitions contribute a lot to the village; he felt that the Parish Council was not listening to their concerns.

13. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins

Chris Pincher MP regarding grant offer for silhouettes for remembrance events

Lichfield District Council request for public buildings to be used as emergency centres; changes to legislation on houses of Multiple Occupancy

PCC Mathew Ellis details of Space scheme

Community Council of Staffordshire changes

14. To receive a financial report

The bank reconciliation was given, along with the performance against budget.

Lloyds Bank would be contacted to close the playground accounts and transfer the funds to the Cooperative deposit account, earmarked for playground use.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

15. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

Payments to: M. Jones, salary and expenses; £369.73;

Elford Village Hall, room hire and post office £89.50;

RW Harcombe, maintenance £195; A. Cox, The Avenue maintenance £70;

Solus Coaches, hire June, £810; Tippers, weedkiller equipment £39.03;

Scottish Power, playground electricity £24.93;

P.Turley, twinning visit expenses £331.87;

A.Robey, handyman work and hedge trimmer, £136.30

Resolved: Approved

16. Date of next meeting: Monday 10th September

The meeting closed at 21.00