



MINUTES

Annual Parish Assembly

Wednesday 17th May 2023 in Elford Village Hall at 8pm.

Attended by Councillors Turley (Chair), Delderfield, Herrman, Oakley, and Payne, Mrs Jones (Clerk) and 13 residents and representatives of local organisations.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly.

1. To receive Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Robertson, Steph Tavinor (Cricket Club), Mark Simmonds (Elford Boys Football Club), Greg Watkins, (Village Hall), Richard Oakley (Walled Garden), Revd John Grice (St Peter's Church), Ursula Middlemore.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 12th May 2022.

The Minutes were approved.

3. To receive the Chair's Annual Report for 2022-23.

Cllr Turley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Cllrs who were present. He thanked those who had left the Parish Council during the last year; Cllrs Wright, Hilderley, Biden and Gilbert, the latter after many years' service. There were several new Councillors; Helen Robertson, James Oakley and Hannah Herrmann. There was one vacancy to fill, hopefully a representative of the wider village would come forward. Anyone interested should contact the Council.

Cllr Turley said there had been several successful events in the village this year, including The Jubilee, Electric Avenue and Coronation, and he thanked all those who had organised and helped with these much enjoyed celebrations.

The playground had not received the grant funding applied for and refurbishment was much needed. Some CIL money had been set aside for this. A volunteer working party had begun sprucing up and repairing the equipment and a second session would be advertised soon.

CIL funds had been granted to the Parish Council from the new developments to pay for infrastructure, and awards had been made to Howard School for security gates and to the Village Hall for heating improvements, sums had been agreed for the Sportsfield clubs. It had so far been difficult to get quotes for CCTV.

There had been challenges over the new Seven Acres development during the year; Cllr Turley thanked Dave Hill and James Oakley for all that they had done to help resolve these issues by lobbying various statutory bodies. The first houses were now occupied and there would be a significant increase in the population of Elford over the next year or two.

The Coffee Shop run by volunteers was a real community success and had raised enough money to fund coach trips for the users. A Post Office service operated from the Village Hall between 10 and 12 on Tuesdays, a fish van was there on alternate Tuesdays, and the Police Community Support Officer often came along.

The Clerk, Margaret Jones, had recently resigned from her post and would be much missed and a hard act to follow. The Councillors would be sad to see her leave. She was thanked for all her hard work over the years.

Cllr Turley had now stood down as Chair and been replaced by Cllr Payne. Cllr Payne said that Cllr Turley had been an outstanding Chair and had done a fantastic job over many years.

4. To receive reports from village organisations.

Friends of Awoingt – Chris Billingham gave the attached report.

Howard School – Mr Wynn had recently become head teacher at the school and spoke about the wonderful involvement of the community, especially at the Coronation event, and he praised the May Queen celebration. The children were working hard and enjoying school. He asked about publicising the location of the school and whether improved signage could help to show people where it was, which could help attract new families.

Cricket Club – Paul Jones read the attached report.

Village Hall – Greg Watkins gave the attached report on the Village Hall.

Elford Boys – The attached report had been sent by Mark Simmonds.

Walled Garden – The attached Report had been sent by Richard Oakley

5. To receive questions from residents.

A resident asked whether anything could be done about the state of the re-opened public footpath from The Beck to the Seven Acres houses. It needed clearing and the stile was wobbly. Cllrs would do what they could to help.

Another resident asked whether litter picking could be done around the grassed area in The Shrubbery. Mr Wynn said that the school children would enjoy helping with this and they had equipment to use.

A new resident praised everyone in Elford for being so welcoming and friendly.

Everyone was thanked for attending the meeting, which closed at 8.45.