

Elford Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 7pm Monday 14th October 2013 at Elford Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Batchelor (Chair), Gilbert, Matthews, Standerwick and Taylor; Cllr Wain from 8.40 p.m.

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. Accordingly, the Vice - Chairman declared the meeting open.

1. **Open forum** (Public Participation)

Mr Watton queried whether the 30 m.p.h. sign in Church Road could be moved to the edge of the village so that all properties were covered by the speed limit. The Clerk would contact Highways and the County Councillor to request this. The Walled Garden group intended to put up 20 m.p.h signs on their private road.

He also asked about the former allotment in Church Road which needed tidying and would speak to the landowners. It was agreed that it needed tidying.

Mr Evans enquired about Home Farm; Cllr Batchelor said that the application for the building had been withdrawn and it was not known if a further application would be made; the track application had been refused. Over 100 objection letters had been handed in to planning, which showed the strength of local feeling.

Mr Norris said that the lorries were already a problem and had caused cracking to his house wall; that cars were travelling far too fast up to the Walled Gardens and there was a danger to children. Cllr Batchelor said that the Parish Council was trying to address this with Highways and would comment on speeding in the next newsletter.

2. **To receive Apologies.**

Cllr Cockayne had apologised.

Resolved: Approved

3. **To receive Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation**

Cllr Batchelor had declared an interest in item 6(a).

4. **To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 9/9/13**

Resolved: Approved

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 9/9/13:

4.1 Sports field The Leases had been sent to the cricket and football clubs but not yet returned, Cllr Gilbert offered to remind chase these up; the Parish Council would sign their copy of the Leases under item 9.

4.2 Shop closure and refunds The shop committee had sent out cheques to shareholders but some had not been

cashied so there was currently a delay in finalising the accounts. Cllr Standerwick would contact them in this respect. The former shop premises now operated as a pub games room which was a good facility for the village.

- 4.3 **Flood works** Thank you letters had been sent to the organisers of the culvert works and residents had been kept informed with leaflets and on the website. The works seemed to be progressing well with minimal disruption.
- 4.4 **Playground swing** Mr Burgess had confirmed that discussions were continuing with the manufacturer over the design fault and that the swing would not be in place until this was resolved. There had meanwhile been changes in the membership of the playground group, and the Clerk would contact them to clarify this.
- 4.5 **Footpaths** Cllr Batchelor had prepared a draft leaflet, Cllr Matthews would walk the route to check it, and the map would be enlarged. Staffordshire County Council had sent a contribution towards the leaflet and would be asked to undertake some improvements to the rights of way.

5 Clerk's report

Parish Councillor surgeries – This would be put on next agenda, to consider whether residents would be interested in attending these, whether an occasional drop in session at Councillors' homes or the Village Hall would be helpful, or whether a 'drop in for a cuppa' session before some Council meetings would be appreciated by those who did not want to attend open forum.

Potholes – These had been reported again to Highways who advised they had been inspected and would be repaired 'when resources allow'.

Birmingham City Council – It had been reported to them that land in the Shrubbery needed tidying; some work had taken place. They had advised of a site visit to the Church Road gates.

Best Kept Village – Judges' comments had been received and would be taken into consideration for next year's entry. The winning certificate had been displayed in the Village Hall. Enquiries would be made whether a large village sign would be provided.

6 Clerk's report on Planning issues.

- (a) Applications for consideration - 13/01021/FUL Elford Mill – retention and extension of existing flood bank.

Resolved: No objection

- (b) For information –
13/00715/FUL The Bungalow, Church Road, amendment to previous application – approved
13/00606/FUL Stonesetts, Burton Road, two storey side extension – approved

- (c) Whittington Wind Turbine Action Group had met to discuss the appeal and ask for support regarding the application at Hademore Bridge, Fisherwick; if allowed

this could set a precedent for large wind turbines in the area. The Parish Council had previously objected and these comments would be taken into consideration.

7 To consider any progress on the application at Home Farm

Lichfield District Council planning department had confirmed that the application for the agricultural building had been withdrawn. Subsequently the application for a track had been refused under visual amenity grounds. There had been an excellent response from villagers with over 100 copies of the objection letter prepared by the planning consultant being signed, these had been collected and taken to planning by Cllr Batchelor. It was proposed that District Cllr Arnold be thanked for all her assistance and support and the District Council be asked to inform the Parish Council as soon as possible if a further application was made. Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

8 To consider speeding in Elford

A response suggesting measures to calm traffic was still awaited from Highways. As many of those speeding were residents a campaign to raise awareness among drivers and their families was proposed, to include posters, the next newsletter and working with the school and local police on the issue. Cllr Batchelor offered to prepare a draft newsletter. Action: Cllr Batchelor

Resolved: Approved

9 To sign the Sportsfield Leases

The Leases were signed by the Vice Chair and witnessed by the Clerk.

Resolved: Approved

10 To consider village maintenance and tasks for Neighbourhood Highways Team

A list of tasks for Derek was agreed. The NHT would be asked to clear the fingerposts showing the rights of way. The District Council would be asked to sweep the pavements of leaves. Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved.

11 To consider any matters for the website

Updates on the shop and Home Farm were agreed for the Village Information section. It was suggested and agreed that the Village Voice reports sent to the local press be made available on the website. Details were required for Cllr Standerwick. Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved.

12 To consider HS2 Bill Deposit Correspondence

The Clerk had received correspondence advising that pylons in the parish would be moved at some point before the building of the HS2 rail line. A large amount of paperwork regarding the HS2 Bill would be made available for the public to view in due course, this would be sent electronically and arrangements were expected to be made for residents to be able to view the documents at the Village Hall.

Resolved: Noted.

13 To consider planting of Woodland Trust tree pack

30 hedging saplings would be delivered in November. These would be used to show the correct right of way route in the Sportsfield, so residents would be advised of this in the newsletter. Some saplings would be used to refill the hedge by the picnic area in The Shrubbery, and by the Cricket Ground. Derek would be asked to do this work. A replacement Jubilee tree and sign would also be arranged.

Action: Cllr Batchelor, Clerk

Resolved: Approved

14 To consider any progress with a village logo

Cllr Standerwyk had produced a new logo and would finalise this and make it available electronically. He also suggested arranging new email addresses for all Councillors.

Action: Cllr Standerwyk

Resolved: Approved

15 To receive questions from Councillors.

Cllr Wain asked about the potholes, Highways had been contacted again.

16 To receive the financial report.

Cllrs had received copies of bank statements and the bank reconciliation. Figures for expenditure against budget were acceptable. Cllrs were asked to bring suggestions for spending in the next financial year to the next meeting as the budget would be prepared after that for discussion at a meeting of the Finance Committee.

Resolved – Approved

17 To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments were listed to:

M. Jones, salary and expenses; Elford Village Hall, room rental & post office;
R.W. Harcombe, grounds maintenance; D. Beaumont, handyman work;
Wild Ideas, graphic design; Staffordshire Playing Fields Association, subs;
HMRC, PAYE; Simon Lawson, planning fee.

Resolved: Approved

18 To receive correspondence.

Public Sector Mapping Agreement information
Community Council – Best Kept Village report
Staffordshire County Council – response to Letter of thanks regarding culvert scheme
Revd Denise Burgess – no chancel liability in Elford
Staffordshire County Council – consultation on draft revised statement of community involvement
Letter to Parish Councils from Communities Minister

19 Date of next meeting.

November 11th, 7.00 p.m, Elford Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.00