

Elford Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 7pm Monday 8th September 2014 at Elford Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Wain (Chair), Gilbert, Newport, Taylor, Smith, Standerwick

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), District Cllr Mrs Arnold, Sgt Bailey and PC Allsopp of Lichfield Police, eleven members of the public.

Notice and quorum: Due notice of the meeting had been given and a quorum of Councillors was present. The Chair declared the meeting open.

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

The issue of deliveries of fertiliser supplies to Elford by heavy lorries was discussed by a large attendance of residents. Various residents raised the issue of the unpleasant odour which they believed came from vegetable matter being spread on the fields of Home Farm. A resident advised of the phone number of an incident hotline at the Environment Agency, who had given the permit for the deliveries, and offered to arrange for this number to be made available to residents. Residents queried whether the terms of the permit were being complied with. The possible effect on a water course was mentioned. It was suggested that the deliveries were being made from Measham, which had a similar problem with odour dating back several years. Environmental Health had been contacted by a resident regarding health concerns. A resident asked whether this was within the terms of the lease with the landlord, Birmingham City Council; enquiries had been made of them and a response awaited. Christopher Pincher M.P. had recently held a surgery in the village and had offered to investigate residents' concerns. District Councillor Arnold said that she would shortly meet the tenant to discuss the issue.

The police had attended to listen to residents' safety concerns regarding the heavy lorries travelling along the narrow roads; Sgt Bailey said that these vehicles were operating lawfully. She said that residents should not take direct action such as obstructing the highway, which could have unforeseen consequences. A resident suggested taking expert planning advice with regard to the deferred application.

On another matter, an enquiry was made about the forthcoming visit from France; the Chair explained that this would be discussed later under item 8.

2. **To receive apologies**

Cllr Batchelor had apologised. The apology was accepted.

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

Cllr Gilbert declared an interest in item 10.

4. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 14/7/14

Resolved: Approved

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 14/7/14:

1.1 Home Farm planning application

Cllr Wain reported that he had spoken at the Planning Committee to object to the application and this had been deferred pending further reports.

1.2 World War One Commemoration

The arrangements for the service at 5 o'clock on Sunday 5th October at St Peter's were now complete; another meeting was due to be held soon.

1.3 The Shrubbery

There had been concerns about the safety of some trees on the land by the river and these had been felled by contractors working for Birmingham City Council. The bramble bushes had been cut down to improve views of the river.

5. To receive the Clerk's report

Village Hall – The annual report of the accounts to the Charity Commission had been done in line with the Council's responsibility as Custodian Trustee.

Best Kept Village – Elford was highly commended this year, and also received a certificate marking 50 years of participation in the competition.

Hedgerow Removal Notice – The District Council had requested information relating to 2 sections of hedgerow at Raddle Farm, the Council had none.

Goals – These had been delivered and would be put together soon and taken to the Sportsfield for recreational use for the youth of the village.

Library Consultation – changes had been proposed by Staffordshire County Council and comments were invited from all library users.

New Councillors' course – Cllrs Newport and Smith would attend this.

Playground inspection – This would be ordered from a new company recommended by the insurers.

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

- (a) An objection had been sent to the application for a lagoon for storing fertiliser at Home Farm 14/00634/FUL
- (b) Planning permission had been granted for development and listed building consent at Avenue House.
- (c) Residents had raised concerns about a gate across a private road obstructing a right of way at The Square. Enforcement would be contacted.
- (d) The Conservation Officer would attend a future meeting.

Resolved: Approved

7. To consider heavy lorry traffic through the village

The concerns of residents regarding road safety raised during the Open Forum were noted. The Parish Council were also concerned about the proximity of the heavy lorries to listed buildings in the village. These issues would be investigated in conjunction with the matter of the planning application at Home Farm.

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider arrangements for visitors from Awoingt

A timetable for the visit on 3rd to 5th October and contributions by the Parish Council to certain costs of hosting the visit were agreed. It was important to support the school in developing the relationship. The French party would visit local places and join in with the World War One Commemoration Service at St Peter's.

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider expenditure on installation of the defibrillator and first aid training.

A local electrician had kindly offered to install the defibrillator at the Village Hall free of charge. First aid training would take place as soon as possible. Attempts would be made to borrow a resuscitation dummy for this, rather than purchase one.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider improvements at the Sportsfield

Three quotes for extending the car park had been received and it was agreed to accept the cheapest quote, £4152 inc VAT, from Tim Gilbert Services Ltd. The Parish Council would pay a third, the Football Club would pay a third, and the Cricket Club would be asked to also contribute a third of the cost.

Resolved: Approved

11. To consider the recommendations of the Playground Land Management Committee

The Playground Land Management Committee had met before the Parish Council meeting to approve expenditure on repairs to the playground equipment. They had recommended spending the sum of £2682 including VAT, and the Playground Action Group would donate funds raised at recent events towards the cost.

Resolved: Approved

12. To consider village maintenance

Derek and Cllr Gilbert would clear the rough ground on The Shrubbery shortly. Derek would be asked to replace the summer plants in the tubs when necessary. The Neighbourhood Highways Team would be asked to clear the vegetation growing on and around the bridge during their visit in November. Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

13. To consider any changes required to the website

Councillors agreed that no changes were required at present.

Resolved: Approved

14. To consider a draft Complaints Policy

The Clerk had prepared a draft policy.

Resolved: Approved

15. To amend the Standing Orders

The Standing Orders would be amended to reflect recent legislation on reporting and recording of meetings.

Resolved: Approved

16. To receive questions from Councillors

Cllr Newport asked whether the Parish Council had any information on the un-adopted roads off Burton Road, but nothing was known of any proposal.

Action: Clerk

17. To receive the financial report.

- (a) The bank statements and reconciliation were noted.
- (b) The budget for next year would be prepared over the next two months and Councillors would be sent this year's figures and spending to date in order to begin consideration of next year's requirements.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

18. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments listed to: M. Jones, salary and expenses; Elford Village Hall, room rental & post office £237; D. Beaumont, handyman work £50; R. Harcombe grounds maintenance £420; Grant Thornton UK Plc, audit fee £120; Turtle Engineering Ltd, defibrillator cabinet £576.
£3,000 would be transferred from the deposit to current account.

Resolved: Approved

19. To receive correspondence.

SPCA updates and gazette
Mr Hurley, regarding the Shrubbery
Measham CAT group, meeting
Community Council, village photo competition
Various residents regarding Home Farm planning application
Staffordshire County Council, new highways partnership with Amey.
Lichfield District Council, information on waste collections, changes to voter registration, hedgerow removal notice, information on Local Plan hearings
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association, annual report

Resolved: Noted

20. Date of next meeting.

Monday 13th October 2014, 7.00 p.m, Elford Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.