



Minutes

Meeting of the Parish Council Wednesday 16th October 2019 7 pm, at Elford Village Hall

Present: Councillors Turley (Chair), Biden, Gilbert, Hilderley, Payne, Toon, Wright

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), one member of the public

Open Forum

A member of the public had attended to ask if there was any further information on plans for marking the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in May 2020. A service would be held at St Peter's. It was important to mark the contribution of the two casualties who were commemorated on the war memorial. Information had been circulated to the Councillors on national activities for the bank holiday weekend organised by the Armed Forces Charity SSAFA, these included parties and bell ringing and similar events could take place in Elford.

1. To receive apologies for absence

District Cllrs Leytham and Warburton had apologised due to ill health.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hilderley declared an interest in the planning application at his property.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 9/9/19

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. To receive the Clerk's Report

Post Office – it seemed likely that the service would be able to resume at the Village Hall, although it was likely to be on a Thursday rather than Tuesday as previously, this would probably commence in the New Year.

Scarecrow Festival - £24,000 had been raised which was a phenomenal achievement due to the hard work of the organisers. Beneficiaries included the Church, Village Hall, Howard School, Police Cadets, Cricket Club and other charities. The Festival would next take place in 2021.

Taxi service – the firm providing this had now changed to Bennetts, this was working well for the regular users.

Sportsfield Leases – Adcocks Solicitors had been contacted regarding the renewal of the Leases, a quote and information had been received and the Clerk would work with them to make progress on this.

Flood event – The Flood Warden had done an excellent job of working with the Environment Agency during the recent failure of the pumping station during heavy rainfall, he had thanked them on behalf of the Parish Council and the Clerk had expressed the gratitude of the Council for his assistance with this.

Information from Clerk's meeting - GDPR, website accessibility regulations; it was agreed that the Parish Council's compliance with these regulations was satisfactory.

Armistice Service – Cllr Wright would attend to lay a wreath on behalf of the Council.

Resolved: Approved

5. To consider Planning applications

Tree notifications, 8 The Beck – the Tree Officer would decide on the matter but the Parish Council had no objection to the works.

18/00462/COU Elford Lowe, amended plans had been received. The Parish Council had no objection to the proposed development.

Resolved: Approved

6. To consider Right of Way off The Beck

The Parish Council would write an official letter to Bromford regarding the unacceptable behaviour of the tenant towards residents, particularly children, crossing the stile. PCSO Costas Karpi would also be informed about the verbal abuse.

Action:Clerk

Cllr Biden offered to collate information required for a Public Path Diversion Order; a future application to the County Council could be made if necessary when the ownership of the Social Club land was known, as landowner permission would be required for the Order. The Ramblers Association could assist with an application.

Resolved: Approved

7. To consider playground vandalism and maintenance.

There had been two recent incidents of vandalism and the handyman had repaired the damage. Such incidents would be reported to PCSO Costas Karpi.

The Playground working party had been postponed due to wet weather and Cllr Payne would suggest a date in the Spring when the conditions should be drier.

Herbicide would be applied soon to resolve the slippery surface.

The Annual Playground Inspection had been carried out and minor repairs suggested.

The damaged barrier in the Alleyway near to The Square had been reported to the fencing contractors, they would also install a new gate at the entrance to the field.

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider Facebook communications

Some residents had complained that they were unable to promote events and information on the village Facebook page and had been told that this was not within the Parish Council's control, this page but was run by a local administrator who had set it up as a closed group. Cllrs agreed that the Parish Council page, Elford News, was a useful medium for local events and news to be passed on to villagers; anyone wishing to put information on the page should contact the Parish Clerk, who could also add it to the website.

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider 75th Anniversary of the end of World War Two.

This had been discussed during Open Forum and would be on a future agenda.

Resolved: Approved

10. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Gilbert mentioned maintenance of the privately owned gates at The Square, this would be attended to. A temporary closure of a footpath in The Shrubbery had been reported in the Mercury, the Clerk would obtain information about this. It was hoped that the new occupier of the property next to the Church Road/Beck/Shrubbery junction would trim the hedge to improve visibility.

Cllr Wright said there were still legal issues ongoing regarding the sale of the Social Club.

Cllr Payne said that Miss Mills, the Headteacher at the Howard School, would update residents shortly about the school building plans and fund.

Cllr Turley said that a memorial tree at The Avenue needed to be replaced and re-sited and he would discuss this with the family. He also reported that the Village Hall AGM would take place on 23rd October.

11. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins

Lichfield District Council; Friary Grange, Parish Forum, business grants, Empty Homes week, Polling stations review, Sports Field survey

Staffordshire County Council, winter gritting

Came & Co insurers, change of name to Gallaghers

12. To receive a financial report

The bank reconciliation was given.

The taxi accounts had been circulated to Cllrs.

Toplis & Co were approved as auditors for the following year and the internal audit had been completed with no issues of concern.

Cllrs were asked to consider for the next meeting items to add to the next budget.

Resolved: Approved

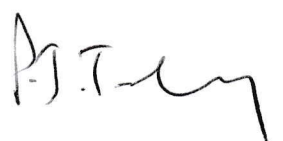
13. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

Payments to: M. Jones, salary and reimbursement of expenses; £491.26;
A. Robey, handyman work and materials £92.50
RW Harcombe, grounds maintenance £125.00;
A Cox, Avenue mowing £70;
Acorn Taxis, weekly taxi, September £228.48;
Elford Village Hall, rent and notice board locks £39.49;
Tippers, paint and sundries for playground £136.49;
Scottish Power, playground electricity £24.72.

Resolved: Approved

14. Date of next meeting: Monday 11th November 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J. T. ...', located in the bottom right corner of the page.