



## **Minutes**

### **Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**7 pm, at Elford Village Hall**

**Present: Councillors Jones (Chair), Gilbert, Hidderley, Payne, Turley and Wright**

**In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk) District Cllr Leytham, 4 members of the public**

**Cllr Payne chaired the meeting as Cllr Jones was delayed.**

#### **Open Forum**

Several members of the public who were regular bus users had attended to put the case for the Parish Council's organised hire service to continue. They explained the problems of isolation and lack of access to facilities for residents who had relied upon public transport from the village for many years until the County Council had withdrawn the subsidy. Councillors explained that many councils across the country were attempting to balance their budgets, that the present coach service represented a substantial proportion of the precept, although they recognised its importance to those using it and the Parish Council would consider later in the meeting how best to proceed and would keep the passengers informed. The residents reiterated how important a service to Tamworth was to them.

#### **1. To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Jones had apologised for lateness and arrived at 7.30.

Cllr Oakley had resigned as a Councillor due to family commitments.

#### **2. To co-opt a member to fill the casual vacancy**

It was agreed to defer this item due to the imminent election. A resident had expressed an interest in the role and stayed to observe the meeting.

#### **3. To receive Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Wright declared an interest in planning application 19/00186/FULH and in item 17, payment for web hosting fee.

#### **4. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 14/1/19**

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**5. To receive the Clerk's Report**

Side letters – The Cricket Club's letter had been received, and the Football Club would be chased up again.

Chetwynd Bridge A513– Road narrowing and traffic lights would be a feature of this local road, possibly for years to come.

Police engagement initiative – The local PCSO or officer intended to attend the Parish Council meeting at least every 6 months to improve information sharing about local crime.

Tree in the alleyway near Howard Primary School – this would be checked again in the Spring, the Tree surgeon did not feel it posed a hazard.

Clerk's Training course – the Clerk would attend a course on 27th February.

Election, 2nd May 2019 – anyone wishing to be a member of the Parish Council should submit nomination papers to the District Council by 4<sup>th</sup> April. Further details would be given at the next meeting.

**Resolved: Approved**

**6. To consider Planning Issues**

**(a) applications**

19/00092/FULH 21 Croft Close, side and rear extension, no objection.

19/00127/FULM Microlight airfield, retrospective permission for a flying school.

It did not appear to have any adverse effect on Elford, no objection. Cllr Wright advised that anyone with concerns about flying over their property should contact the airfield directly.

19/00186/FULH 27 Croft Close, 3 bedroom dormer bungalow, no objection.

(b) Elford Neighbourhood Plan was now 'made' and would be used when considering planning applications.

(c) Local Plan Review consultation was ongoing and Cllrs were reminded of a drop in session at St Mary's Lichfield on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 3 - 6pm.

(d) Cllr Jones gave an update on the Land at the Shrubbery. It was thought that the sale of the land was on-going.

**Resolved: Approved**

**7. To consider bus hire**

Cllrs considered whether to continue the bus hire and whether this was a good use of public money but felt that it was too expensive for the number of users. It was agreed to provide an 8 seater taxi from Elford to Tamworth and return on Friday mornings. This would be cheaper than the bus, especially if Edingale ended the arrangement as they had organised their own taxi. The £3 donations would be welcome. This would be reviewed after 3 months. The Clerk would obtain quotes and confirm the new arrangements to everyone concerned.

**Resolved: Approved**





**8. To consider Home Farm lagoon**

Cllr Jones reported that the lagoon which had previously been granted planning permission was now being filled. Various residents had been concerned that this would lead to traffic and odour issues again and had contacted Birmingham City Council and Mr Bridgen for information. There had been no problems so far and it was thought that fertiliser was being stored rather than waste products such as centrate which had caused the previous problems. This would be monitored.

**Resolved:** Approved

**9. To consider playground equipment**

Quotes had been obtained for new equipment and associated surfacing; however this would have used the entire budget and it was agreed not to proceed as it was preferable to build up the funds for eventual replacement of equipment when required. The area would continue to have maintenance work done to keep the equipment in good condition; various repair work and jet washing would take place shortly.

**Resolved:** Approved

**10. To consider fitness equipment**

The residents who had been expected to attend had been unable to come to Open Forum. It was agreed to obtain quotes from specialist firms for consideration.

**Resolved:** Approved

**11. To consider use of CIL payments**

Cllr Jones explained the use of CIL payments which would be forthcoming when the land at The Shrubbery was developed. This would be a considerable sum due to the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan and the Parish Council would be able to decide on how to spend this to benefit the village. An option would be to contribute to the new classroom at the Howard School for nursery provision for the area, as it was important to the village that the school remained sustainable.

**12. To renew maintenance contract**

It was agreed to renew the contract for Rob Harcombe for village maintenance. A contract would also be arranged for grass cutting in the Avenue by Andrew Cox.

**Resolved:** Approved

**13. To consider insurance renewal**

The insurance would be renewed for the following year as in the long term agreement.

**Resolved:** Approved



**14. To receive questions and reports from Councillors**

Cllr Turley commented that the barrier fence in the alley off The Square had now been replaced

Cllr Payne indicated an interest in Councillor training but would attend this later in the year.

**15. To receive correspondence**

SPCA bulletins

Lichfield District Council, news releases, electoral department

Police information

Staffordshire Community Foundation, Best Kept Village

**16. To receive a financial report**

The bank reconciliation was given.

The precept request for £14,000 had been sent to Lichfield District Council.

**Resolved:** Approved

**17. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment**

Payments to: M. Jones, salary and expenses; £366.59;

Elford Village Hall, room hire £17.50; A. Robey, handyman work, £50.00;

Solus Coaches, January hire, £400; B. Wright, web hosting, £90.00;

Society of Local Council Clerks, membership, £57.47;

Andrew White Fencing Ltd, barriers, 414.00; Came & Co, insurance, £409.41

**Resolved:** Approved

**18. Date of next meeting: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

The meeting closed at 9 pm



ANDREW PAYNE.