



## **Minutes**

### **Meeting of the Parish Council Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 7 pm at Elford Village Hall**

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

**In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), District Cllr Leytham, 5 members of the public**

#### **Open Forum**

A resident asked for the trees on the corner of The Beck and Burton Road with low branches at the base over the pathway to be cut back. As Highways were slow to act on such matters, Alan the Parish Council's handyman would be asked to do this.

The pavement along the hill on the A513 was overgrown in places along the verge, this would be reported to Highways due to safety considerations.

A resident asked about the planning application at the former Sports and Social Club. Issues such as the rights of way, housing mix, open frontages not appropriate for Elford's street scene and CIL payments were discussed. The Parish Council would discuss its response later but householders were advised to comment directly to the Planning Department at Lichfield.

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

District Cllr Warburton had apologised.

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

None received. Cllrs Gilbert and Wright had updated their Registers of Interests.

#### **3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 13/1/19**

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

#### **4. To receive the Clerk's Report**

Sportsfield Underleases - The draft underlease had been received from the solicitor. The Chair and Clerk would meet the solicitor to discuss queries such as whether the field could be used for parking. A Sportsfield Committee meeting would be arranged to discuss the leases with the Football and Cricket Clubs.

Security advice – PCSO Costas Karpi would attend the Coffee Shop on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

Saplings – The application for 30 trees from the Woodland Trust had been successful.

Street Sign - The Shrubbery, the District Council would attend to the damaged sign.

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Green Lane – The poor condition of route Elford 11 had been reported to the Rights of Way team following information received from Cllr Hilderley; no response yet.

**Resolved:** Approved

**5. To consider Planning applications**

- (a) 19/01707/FUL Elford Sports and Social Club, erection of 8 dwellings following demolition of club building; the Parish Council would send comments on the application - broadly supportive of the improvement to the site, although the application contained out of date information and errors; unlikely that the Social Club would ever re-open, the development could help fund an alternative facility in the village; more two-bedroom dwellings; designs more appropriate for Elford required; confirm paths through the site; various policies of the Neighbourhood Plan should be taken into account by the Planning Officer.
- (b) 19/01764/COU Burton Road, change of use former commercial garage; comments had been sent, Highways had asked Planning for further information.
- (c) Tree notification; tree works had been applied for at Elford Lodge, Burton Road and The Smithy.

**Resolved:** Approved

**6. To consider removal of the bus shelter**

The shelter could not be left in its present position when the land was sold, planning permission would require its removal. Councillors expressed concerns about the safety of the school children on dark mornings and wished to retain the shelter. An alternative site was available next to the picnic area on the Shrubbery with parking for parents, although near to Croft Close would be more central. The Clerk would contact the County Council for advice; this would be considered at a future meeting.

**Resolved:** Approved

**7. To consider replacement of notice board**

Quotes for new notice boards had been received from a specialist firm and a local carpenter. It was agreed to accept the more competitive local quote. Cllr Turley would confirm the required specifications and order the notice board.

**Resolved:** Approved

**8. To consider Cllr's suggestions for future projects**

Following the previous meeting the Chair had asked the Cllrs to bring proactive ideas to this meeting for improving the village or communications with residents. The following suggestions were made for future consideration:

- Cllr Wright suggested an identified area for dog walking as the public may be nervous of dogs off their leads.
- Cllr Biden suggested a new Guide to Elford for all residents, and a regular newsletter, which could be paid for by local advertising.

PST



- He also suggested having a joint Sports Club rather than separate Cricket and Football Clubs, with a new joint club house at the Sportsfield to replace the Social Club.
- Cllr Payne said that more use could be made of Mease Valley News to promote what Elford Parish Council did to those who did not access the updates on Facebook.
- He also suggested that the Parish Council should organise a Christmas Tree lights switch on event.
- Cllr Gilbert proposed installing village gateways on the A513 to contribute to traffic calming.
- Cllr Turley said that groups such as the Church and School should be involved more in activities such as the Best Kept Village Community competition.

**9. To consider canoe access at the picnic area**

The Chair and Clerk had met a representative of British Canoeing who had explained a lottery funded plan to install a wooden platform for canoeists to access the River Tame from the picnic area as part of a wider project along the Trent Valley; appropriate safety measures would be required. The Parish Council agreed to support this facility for the village.

**Resolved:** Approved

**10. To consider proposal regarding Mayor of Awoingt**

A member of the Awoingt group had suggested that as the Mayor was stepping down after some years of developing the twinning, he could be made a Freeman of Elford, or a similar title, at a ceremony during the June visit; this was agreed in principle.

**Resolved:** Approved

**11. To consider Best Kept Village Competition**

Cllr Turley had attended a launch presentation for the competition which had been modernised this year to involve the community, and would include photo and video evidence of community activities over the last year in each village. A new website would be available soon on [www.bkvc.org.uk](http://www.bkvc.org.uk).

It was agreed to form a group of local people to assist with Elford's entry to BKVC, including Cllrs Turley and Payne, and the Clerk would promote this locally and online. Cllr Turley offered to walk around the village to identify areas needing attention.

*Action: Cllr Turley*

**Resolved:** Approved

**12. To consider any maintenance required**

It was agreed to renew the maintenance contracts for 2020 for Rob Harcombe and Andy Cox. Plants for the village tubs would be obtained in April this year.

*Action: Clerk*

**Resolved:** Approved

PJT

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

None received

**14. To receive correspondence**

SPCA bulletins and details of Local Cllr training course.

Lichfield District Council news releases; works to Lichfield Bus Station and Half Term activities.

Resident, copy of letter sent to Birmingham City Council regarding state of Brickhouse Lane caused by Home Farm vehicles.

**15. To receive a financial report**

The bank reconciliation had been given. There was currently £4831 in the current account and £8668 in the deposit account; of these £1914 had been earmarked for the taxi service and £8,642 earmarked for the playground. It was likely that a further donation would be received from the Coffee Shop for the taxis but ideally users should be donating more to this.

The Coop Bank was now offering a 95 day notice account at 1%; the Clerk would open an account and move the playground funds to it to earn some interest.

**Resolved:** Approved

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

Payments to: M. Jones, salary, reimbursement of expenses £394.71; HMRC £77.80

A. Robey, handyman work £55;

Elford Village Hall, room hire £17.50;

Bennetts Taxis, taxi hire, January £278.40;

Society of Local Council Clerks, membership £63.00

**Resolved:** Approved

**17. Date of next meeting:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The meeting closed at 20.45 pm.

RCI