

# **Minutes**

# **Meeting of the Parish Council**

# **Monday 8th March 2021 at 7 pm online**

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

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), District Cllr Warburton, Flood Warden Mr Hill, a member of the public

The meeting was held remotely as permitted under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

**Open Forum**

A resident of Eddies Lane had attended to update the Parish Council on the flooding problems. They were disappointed about the lack of information from Elan Homes. The Chair confirmed that a meeting had been arranged between himself, the Clerk, the Flood Warden and Elan Homes. The concerns regarding drainage from the site would be raised, and the Parish Council intended to build links to communicate with the developers to the benefit of the village. Information on the outcomes of the meeting would be made available.

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Hidderley had apologised for work reasons; his apology was accepted.

1. **To receive Declarations of Interest**

None received.

1. **To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 8th February 2021**

The Minutes were approved and would be signed at the next face to face meeting.

1. **To consider the Flood Plan evaluation**

The Flood Warden explained that the focus of support for residents had now changed since earlier flood events. The Pumping Station worked effectively, but Environment Agency staff still needed to attend events to deal with fluctuations due to its design. They would need support in terms of traffic control and welfare facilities. The Village Hall would be used but funding was required for food and drinks. He explained various other issues and was thanked for this comprehensive report.

1. **To receive the Clerk’s Report**

**Dog fouling**: a sign at The Avenue had been defaced, Environmental Health would install an alternative one and continue monitoring of the issue.

**Phone kiosk**: volunteers had kindly refurbished the kiosk as a book swap venue and were thanked for their hard work on this asset to the village.

**Tree saplings:** these had now been planted by Cllrs Turley and Payne.

**Plant tubs**: replacement plants would be obtained, Alan would plant these.

**Elford Boys**: Football matches would resume from April until the end of June, the Club would liaise with the Cricket Club regarding use of the pitches.

**Resolved:** Approved

1. **To consider any planning matters:**

**(a) Application 21/00291/FUH, 12 Croft Close, Two storey side extension, and single storey rear extension;** no objection from the Parish Council.

**(b) 19/01707/FUL Elford Social Club;** no decision had yet been made by the Planner.

**(c) Land at The Shrubbery;** the application made in 2020 had been withdrawn and work would proceed under the previously approved planning permission. Further information would be available after the site meeting referred to in Open Forum.

1. **To consider Brickhouse Lane road damage**

A resident had complained to the Parish Council about drainage by Highways’ contractors into his pond without permission. The deep pothole and verge damage had been reported again. No funding information on a permanent solution yet.

1. **To consider renewal of the Parish Council’s insurance**

The insurance would be renewed under the long-term agreement.

**Resolved:** Approved

1. **To consider correspondence regarding honours nominations**

The Vice Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire had suggested that local communities should nominate for honours awards those who had contributed to their area. Cllrs discussed various local people who could merit such recognition. The Clerk would look at the procedure involved and report back to the Council.

1. **To consider Right of Way 6**

The Parish Council had received another report of a resident being told not to use the stile and Bromford had been informed of the details.

1. **To consider Right of Way 8**

The Parish Council had been informed that the pathway at The Green had been blocked and diverted, which was illegal under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Cllrs Turley and Biden would discuss it with the householder concerned. If not cleared it would be reported to the Rights of Way team at Staffordshire County Council.

**Resolved:** Approved

1. **To consider meeting dates and resumption of face to face meetings**

Face to face meetings were likely to resume after May 7th unless the legislation was extended. A decision would be made in April on resumption of actual meetings.

1. **To consider playground maintenance**

Alan would be asked to clean the slippery surface with the power washer as soon as possible. The climbing unit roof had been mended. Several roof tiles on the barn should be replaced; Cllr Payne would contact a local roofer. The gate to the School had been kicked in, Cllr Payne would ascertain if the School still needed the access.

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

Cllr Gilbert had been asked whether the bus shelter would be moved to the Walled Garden. The developers would do this when planning approval for the club site was granted. The Walled Garden would shortly be opening for a few mornings a week.

Cllr Payne said that the School had now re-opened after the lockdown. The events to mark World Book Day had been well received in the village, with over 80 homes displaying a book in their windows for local children to spot. This had tied in with the opening of the kiosk as a Book Swap, which was a fantastic job.

1. **To receive correspondence**

SPCA bulletins

Lichfield District Council press releases on car parking consultation, funding, lottery

Staffordshire County Council; Everyone Health initiative

PCSO Karpi, nitrous oxide canisters information

1. **To receive a financial report**  A bank reconciliation had been circulated;the current account stood at £4342, playground deposit at £9263, taxi deposit at £1043.

The VAT reclaim had been submitted. End of year accounts and PAYE reporting would be done shortly. An increase to the maintenance rate for Rob Harcombe was agreed.

**Resolved**: Approved

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

The Clerk had circulated the invoices.

Payments: M. Jones, salary, reimbursement of expenses £383; HMRC £80.40; Alan Robey, handyman work £55; Village Hall, Post Office room rental £66; Wright People, web hosting £75; Beacon Street Garage, playground repair £30.00; Came & Co., insurance £439; SPCA , subs £194; Cllr Payne would authorise these.

Parish Online, mapping software £90, direct debit.

**Resolved**: Approved

**18. Date of next meeting:**

12th April 2021 online at 7pm The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.