



Minutes of the Meeting of Elford Parish Council

Held on Monday 11th November 2024 at 7pm at Elford Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Payne (Chair), Oakley, Herrmann, Delderfield, Robertson

Guests In attendance: 2

Public in attendance: 14

Minute Taker & Clerk: Mrs K. Pritchard

Open Forum

Resident raised the following: -

Parking for Elford Boys Football Club – in response to issues raised last weekend, the football club shared details of the measures it takes to ensure the parking provisions are adequate on Saturday mornings. This includes staggering kick offs and requesting parents arrive no more than 30 minutes before kick-off. In addition, additional overflow parking options are being explored, with FA funding available to support the same.

Brickhouse Lane Update – Staffordshire County Council Highways met with Severn Trent Water in September. **ACTION:** Clerk to follow up with Community Highways Officer for an update.

Sports Field Committee Meetings – A return to committee meetings was requested. **ACTION:** Cllr A. Payne to arrange a meeting.

Tame View/ Elan Homes - Cllr R. Holland has been in contact with the Planning Enforcement Officer at Lichfield District Council and confirmed that the developer is in the process of submitting a revised planning application, albeit this is taking longer than anticipated. This is due to address the various planning breaches already identified. Once formally submitted, there will be an opportunity for residents and the Parish Council to submit feedback. **ACTION:** Cllr R. Holland to clarify the timescale for submission of the revised planning application. **ACTION:** improvements to footpath to be discussed at future Parish Council Meeting. Possibility to replace style with a kissing gate or a staggered gate.

Footpaths – A resident raised the issue of the condition of the footpaths in the village. Cllr A. Payne explained the online reporting portal for Staffordshire County Council and their obligation to respond. **ACTION:** Clerk to follow up with Community Highways Officer for an update on the road markers repainting. **ACTION:** Cllr A. Payne to speak with resident regarding overgrown hedge obscuring a give way sign at the junction of Church Road, The Beck and The Shrubbery.

Churchyard – A resident raised the issue of leaves and debris at the back of the Church grounds. **ACTION:** Cllr H. Robertson & Cllr B. Delderfield to organise a working party to clear the leaves.

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Staffordshire Speed Watch – A resident raised a query regarding Elford being part of the Staffordshire Speed Watch. **ACTION:** Resident to add Elford to the speed watch.

145/24 To receive Apologies for Absence. Cllr P. Turley sent his apologies to the Chairman.

146/24 To receive Declarations of Interests. Cllr H. Robertson raised a personal interest for item 150/24.

147/24 To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of 14th October 2024.

The Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th October 2024, having been circulated, be confirmed, and signed as a correct record.

148/24 To approve the end of the Clerk’s probationary period. It was RESOLVED to approve the end of the Clerk’s probationary period.

149/24 To receive an update from the Clerk.

The Clerk report was NOTED.

150/24 To consider any Planning matters.

Reference	Address	Details	Elford PC	LDC Decision
24/01157/FUH	Drey House, The Square, Elford, Tamworth	Erection of a single storey rear and side extension to link to existing garage, Erection of a first-floor extension with associated remodelling works	The Council RESOLVED to not object.	Pending Consideration
24/00007/ENF	Elford Lowe Farm, Elford Road, Elford, Tamworth	Appeal against enforcement notice 22/00028/ENFBC for the unauthorised change of use of the land for storage		Appeal Consideration Hearing on 12.11.24 cancelled

151/24 Street Lighting. The Council RESOLVED to move this item to the December Parish Council meeting as Cllr P. Turley is absent and had raised this agenda item.

152/24 Mease Valley Pipeline. Cllr A. Payne and Cllr J. Oakley, along with resident D. Hill (Elford Flood Warden) attended the meeting organised by P. Bennion, hosted at Haunton Church Hall on Monday 11th November 2024. The meeting was attended by Severn Trent Water, Natural England, National Farmers Union, Environment Agency, and Miss S. Edwards MP. The 2-hour meeting saw various stakeholders present an overview of the scheme which according to the current timetable is due to

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start in March 2025, and complete in March 2027. The 25-kilometre pipeline, to cost circa £100,000,000 will run from Measham and Packington Sewage Works, through Mease Valley, to outflow into the Tame River at Elford. A full information pack is to be circulated by Severn Trent Water to Parish Councils and the landowners.

ACTION: Parish Council to circulate information pack to residents once received.

153/24 Payroll Service. The Council RESOLVED to use Bradleys Accountants for payroll services for the Council.

154/24 Finance Management Software. The Council RESOLVED to use Scribe Accounts for the financial management software.

155/24 Application for Community Infrastructure Levy funding. The Council RESOLVED to check eligibility for the village playground repair funding and a staggered fence at Tame View.

ACTION: Clerk to check the eligibility.

156/24 To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr R. Holland – reported that the Shared Prosperity Fund has begun stage 1 of the Lichfield City centre clean up. A new taxi rank area has been developed. Hospitality meetings are taking place once a month, footfall in Lichfield is up by 7%. During the Christmas period, under used car parks in Lichfield will be free. An update was also provided in relations to the Lichfield Local Plan. New leisure centre opened, and the new cinema is due to open end of 2025. The Ferrier is due to be converted into to a pub and apartments. Funding is available for compulsory purchase of shops that have stood empty for over 12 months.

Cllr B. Delderfield – A resident raised the issue of the broken style on ROW 8. **ACTION:** Cllr B. Delderfield to send a photo to the Clerk, and the Clerk to report to Staffordshire County Council. Resident raised a suggestion of Elford entering the best kept village or village in bloom competition. **ACTION:** Clerk to investigate when application process opens.

Cllr J. Oakley – A resident raised a suggestion of a kissing gate or a staggered fence on Croft Close for road safety. **ACTION:** Clerk to investigate the process and feedback to the council.

Cllr H. Herrmann – Discussed the possibility of a sign on the Avenue church gate “parking for church only”. **ACTION:** Clerk to send a letter to church with the suggestion.

Electric Avenue – raised the issue of requiring more volunteers. Due to take place Saturday 14th December 15:30-18:00. **ACTION:** Cllr H.Herrmann to send request for volunteers.

157/24 To receive Correspondence. The Correspondence list was NOTED.

158/24 Policies: To review the Safeguarding Policy. The Council RESOLVED to approve the Safeguarding policy.

159/24 To receive a Financial Report. The Council RESOLVED to approve the Financial Report.

160/24 To receive the Draft Budget 2025/ 2026. The Council RESOLVED to approve the draft budget with the amendment of staffing costs to £7500 to take account for the National Insurance increase.

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161/24 To ratify the earmarked reserves. The Council RESOLVED to earmark remaining CIL funds of £30,076.62 for infrastructure to the benefit of Elford inhabitants and to earmark £8224.73 for spending on repairs and refurbishment of the playground.

162/24 To note the pay award. The pay award for 2024/2025 was NOTED.

163/24 To consider authorising Schedule of Accounts for Payment

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments. Cllr A. Payne to authorise.

Staff costs; Salary, expenses, £505.83; A. Robey, Handyman, £111.50; Village Hall, Post Office, £65.00; Village Hall, room hire, £18.75; RW Harcombe, Grounds maintenance, £180.00; Barry Wright, SSL certificate, £50.00; Lichfield District Council, Playground Inspection, £78.00; Scottish Power, playground electricity, £29.68; Staff costs; Back Pay for previous Clerk, £52.52; Nest, Pension (October 2024, paid by DD 08.11.24), £43.02.; HMRC, £390.82 (Paid by DD 24.10.24)

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 9th December 2024 at 7pm.

The date of next meeting was NOTED.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:53pm

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