



Minutes

Meeting of the Parish Council

Monday 12th October 2020 at 7 pm online

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

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), District Cllr Leytham (until 8pm)

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

Eleven members of the public had attended to express their concerns about the amount and frequency of farm traffic, with large trucks and tractors passing through the village from early morning until late at night. There had been several near misses for cars and pedestrians, incidences of damaged verges and garden edges, especially near the narrow bend in Church Road where it was difficult to pass, and the residents expressed their worries about safety and the disruption to the village.

The Chair said that Councillors had spoken to the farmers and been told that this level of traffic would last for around seven more days until the maize harvest had been brought in, and that they had asked all of the drivers to drive slowly and more carefully in the village.

The Chair said that the Parish Council would continue with this dialogue and that any evidence from villagers would be useful. They would also contact Staffordshire Highways urgently for advice on what could be done. The Parish Council understood these concerns and although there was no easy answer it would do whatever it could to find a solution.

Everyone was thanked for attending.

1. To receive apologies for absence

None received.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 14th September 2020

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

4. To receive the Clerk's Report

A traffic notice had been received detailing a three-month closure and road diversion from 19th October from the A513 for repairs to Chetwynd Bridge. Local information indicated a change of plan and the Clerk would contact Highways to check whether the closure would take place.

The Scarecrow Festival organisers had confirmed that the event would not take place in 2021 due to the uncertainty over Covid restrictions during the months required to organise the event.

Code of Conduct Training had been organised by Lichfield District Council. The Clerk had attended and information had been circulated to the Councillors.

Various actions from the last meeting had been completed.

Resolved: Approved

5. To consider planning applications

(a) New application

20/01179/FUL, 8 The Beck, detached garage – no objection.

(b) Update on applications

19/01707/FUL Elford Social Club, demolition and erection of housing. Cllr Gilbert had asked the developers to tidy the site but this had not yet been done. They were keen to have the application resolved but it was yet to be approved.

20/00989/OUT Land at The Shrubbery, outline application for 25 houses.

Consultations continued to take place, the Parish Council's comments had been submitted and the application would continue to be monitored.

Resolved: Approved

6. To consider playground maintenance

The surface would be cleaned shortly by the contractor. Alan had completed the painting, tidied the playground and also planted up the tubs around the village.

7. To receive an update on the Sportsfield Leases

The Clerk had discussed the Leases with the solicitor prior to him finalising these ready for signing by the sports clubs and Birmingham City Council.

8. To consider tree planting

The School was keen to be involved with the planting of the saplings. This would be arranged at the next meeting after they had been delivered.

9. To consider suggestion regarding Christmas in Elford

A suggestion had been received from a resident regarding a Christmas lights switch-on date with associated family activities run by the PTA. Cllr Payne suggested that December 12th/13th would be an appropriate date. Councillors would speak to those likely to be involved and this would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider complaints about HGV traffic within the village

Further to the discussion during Open Forum it was agreed that the Parish Council would contact Home Farm and Staffordshire Highways to discuss how to find a solution to the concerns of residents about the current traffic levels.

Resolved: Approved

11. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Wright asked about the school classroom appeal and Cllr Turley said that it would continue although the cost was now estimated at £300,000.

Cllr Turley described the discussion during the Transforming the Trent Valley Partnership meeting on opportunities for funding any river related projects in the area. He would inform the Walled Garden Trustees about this.

12. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins, training updates, thanks to Parish Councils from Cllr Alan White
Lichfield District Council news items

Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership, enforcement of speed limit on A513

Transforming the Trent Valley Partnership Scheme

Neighbourhood Watch updates

Fire Service Safety Plan 2020-24

Residents requesting tidy up of Club site and commenting on traffic matters.

13. To receive a financial report

The bank reconciliation was given: Current account £9,369, Playground account £9,390, Taxi account £1,750

Performance against budget met expectations for the half year point

The half year internal audit would be arranged.

Resolved: Approved

14. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

The Clerk had circulated the invoices to Cllrs.

Payments: M. Jones, salary, reimbursement of expenses £395.33; HMRC £80.20;

A. Robey, handyman work and materials £90; R.W. Harcombe, grounds maintenance £125; A. Cox, mowing, The Avenue, £70; Bennetts, taxi hire £115.20; Scottish Power, electricity £27.98; Eon, lighting maintenance £227.04.

Resolved: Approved

15. Date of next meeting:

9th November online at 7pm (Zoom)

The meeting closed at 20.25 pm.