



## Minutes

### Meeting of the Parish Council

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7 pm online**

Present: Councillors Turley (Chair), Biden, Gilbert, Hilderley, Payne, Toon and Wright (from 7.10)

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk) one 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**

The Cricket Club Secretary attended to explain about advertising by potential sponsors.

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

District Councillor Leytham had apologised as he had another meeting.

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

None received.

#### **3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

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

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

**Illuminated Elford event;** the organisers were to be congratulated for a very enjoyable event for villagers, which had included sponsored decorated trees in the Avenue, fireworks, socially distanced refreshment stalls, and competitions for the best house, best street and children's favourite. A risk assessment had been prepared to ensure that COVID safe procedures were in place. More people had attended than expected but it was felt that it was managed effectively. Funds had been raised for the Church and PTA. Everyone involved was thanked for making this a success.

**Taxi service;** this had been suspended during the national lockdown but had resumed on Fridays since early December, using funding from the Coffee Shop.

**Canoe platform;** permissions were to be obtained from the Environment Agency, Lichfield Planning and Birmingham City Council, and more information should be available next year.

**Village Hall accounts;** the accounts had been submitted to the Charity Commission by the Clerk, as the Parish Council was Custodian Trustee of the Village Hall.

**Clerk's Training;** the Clerk would attend Planning training and a virtual Conference in the New Year.

**Resolved:** Approved

**5. To consider planning applications**

New applications:

20/01578/FUH Beechcroft, Brickhouse Lane, various extensions; no objection.

Update on applications:

19/01707/FUL Elford Social Club, demolition and erection of 8 dwellings. The planner had confirmed that various issues were still outstanding.

20/00989/OUT Land at The Shrubbery, outline application for 25 houses. Although there was no further information on the application, Cllrs reported that the land had now been sold to the developers, which may assist progress.

**Resolved:** Approved

**6. To receive an update on Brickhouse Lane traffic issues**

Cllrs Turley and Payne had recently attended a constructive meeting at the farm where recent concerns about traffic levels had been discussed; it had been agreed that the Parish Council and farmers would work together to keep residents informed of traffic movements next year.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to be pro-active and keep up the pressure on Highways to repair the potholes, improve the drainage and provide a permanent solution to the inadequate road surface in Brickhouse Lane.

**Resolved:** Approved

**7. To approve Councillors to sign the Sportsfield Leases**

It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Turley and Payne would sign the Leases on behalf of Elford Parish Council.

It was also RESOLVED under the terms of the Lease that the Parish Council had no objection in principle to the Cricket Club putting advertising banners on the pavilion.

**Resolved:** Approved

**8. To consider sapling planting arrangements**

Cllr Payne had corresponded with the school, he was awaiting confirmation of their involvement. The saplings would be heeled-in into damp soil until required. Spare saplings not required at the Sportsfield could be used at the school or around Elford.

**Resolved:** Approved

**9. To approve donations towards Christmas activities**

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would donate £200 towards Christmas gifts for elderly and vulnerable residents organised by the Coronavirus volunteers.  
It was also RESOLVED to fund printing and prizes for the Illuminated Elford event.  
These payments were under the powers of S137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Resolved:** Approved

**10. To approve replacement of electric socket for Christmas lights**

It was RESOLVED to pay for a replacement socket to ensure safety for the lights on the tree supplied by the Parish Council at the Village Hall. Cllr Toon advised that an electrical certificate was required and the Clerk would check this with the electrician.

**Resolved:** Approved

**11. To consider dog fouling measures**

An officer from Lichfield's Environmental Health department had visited Elford to put up signs about dog fouling and educate some dog owners. Cllr Toon said that the problem was worsening; they would be asked to make more visits.

**Resolved:** Approved

**12. To consider playground maintenance**

The biocide application had been successful, and a quote would be obtained from the contractor for a follow up jet wash.

**Resolved:** Approved

**13. To consider purchase of laptop**

It was agreed to purchase a laptop computer for the Parish Council at £408 plus VAT.

**Resolved:** Approved

**14. To consider the draft budget for financial year 2021-22**

The Clerk explained the predicted spending figures for the remainder of the year and the following financial year. The Auditor had recommended that an increase in reserves to cover contingencies was required. It was therefore agreed it would be necessary to increase the precept requested for 2021 to £16,000.

**Resolved:** Approved

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

Cllr Turley reported that a replacement battery was required for the defibrillator, the Clerk had ordered this.

Cllr Hilderley had been asked to raise the state of the potholes in Brickhouse Lane, this had been mentioned earlier and Highways would be contacted again to request an early solution.

Cllr Toon referred to the field behind The Beck now sold.

Cllr Gilbert thanked all who had organised the Illuminated Elford event, which had been a credit to everyone involved.

Cllr Payne asked about work taking place at the Green Brook culvert.

**16. To receive correspondence**

SPCA bulletins and AGM information, Cllr training, Community suicide prevention training course

Lichfield District Council news items, Lichfield Community Lottery launch

Tamworth District Civic Society regarding Armistice Day service

Neighbourhood alerts from the police

County Councillor Victoria Wilson, asking for Parish Councils to help combat social isolation, Cllr White regarding Covid cases.

Transforming the Trent Valley talks

Support Staffordshire, Surviving Winter campaign

**17. To receive a financial report**

The current account stood at £7152, deposit at £9400, taxi at £1,750. The figures for performance against budget were given, these were in line with expectations.

**Resolved:** Approved

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

The Clerk had circulated the invoices.

Payments: M. Jones, salary, reimbursement of expenses including laptop £904.28; HMRC £80.20; A. Robey, handyman work £85; Elford Village Hall, Post Office rental £48; Lichfield District Council, election charge £36.53; Lichfield District Council, playground inspection £78; Louise Payne, leaflet printing £42; KFL Electrical, replacement socket for Christmas lights £144; Tim Gilbert, Christmas tree £70; Phil Turley, prizes £18.00; Sally Turley, prizes £21.

Christmas Direct, set of lights £117.98.

**Resolved:** Approved

**19. Date of next meeting:**

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 online at 7pm (Zoom)

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.