



Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 14th October 2014 at 7pm at Elford Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Batchelor (Chair), Gilbert, Taylor, and Standerwick

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), three members of the public.

Notice and quorum: Due notice of the meeting had been given and a quorum of Councillors was present. The Chair declared the meeting open.

1. Open forum (Public Participation)

Mr Paul Bridgen of Home Farm had attended. He expressed his concern about members of the public abusing his drivers verbally and with gestures. The Chair said that although the Parish Council had no control over this, she thanked him for bringing the matter to its attention and wished its concerns about this to be minuted. Mr Bridgen asked for residents to contact him directly on 07852 258364 rather than complaining to the drivers, who were just doing their job. He also said that he was prepared to meet Cllrs Arnold (District), White (County) and Wain (Parish) as soon as the meeting could be arranged to discuss matters. He felt that matters had got out of hand; Cllr Taylor said that may have been due to the deliveries taking place during the Scarecrow Weekend over the August Bank Holiday. Mr Bridgen said that he hadn't known about that when it was organised, and it couldn't be changed as rain was due. The Chair said it would be a positive step to have a meeting to discuss the way forward.

Mrs Billingham thanked all involved with the visit from Awoingt. She was very pleased with the support and enthusiasm from the people of Elford. Thank you letters had been received from the Mayor and Mme Leriche; the French party had very much enjoyed their visit to Elford and had enjoyed visiting local attractions. Gifts had been exchanged and photographs from the visit were shown. Contact would continue between the French conversation group and the school and people in Awoingt.

All agreed that the service of commemoration of the start of World War One at St Peter's Church had been excellent and very moving. Residents and visitors alike had enjoyed the reception and get together which had followed it. Congratulations were due to the organisers and to all who had taken part.

2. To receive apologies

Cllrs Newport, Smith and Wain had apologised. The apologies were accepted.

3. To receive Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation

Cllr Batchelor declared an interest in item 6.

4. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 8/9/14

Resolved: Approved

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 8/9/14:

1.1 Awoingt Visit

The Parish Council was very pleased with the success of the visit.

1.2 First Aid Training

The trainer was currently unwell and training would be arranged when he was able to begin. There had been a delay in delivery of the defibrillator cabinet but arrangements would shortly be made for the installation of the defibrillator at the Village Hall by the electrician.

5. To receive the Clerk's report

Freedom of Information request – the Clerk had assembled all the documents requested and sent these within the legal time limit.

Community Paths Initiative – the Parish Council had been asked to meet the Rights of Way Officer to discuss the bid for stiles and tools. Councillor Batchelor had offered to meet him.

Filming request – a TV crew had asked for permission to use the Sportsfield to film a brief item for a documentary.

Playground inspection – this had been ordered.

Broadband – faster connection was now expected to be installed in January.

Police – the local police hoped to attend a meeting shortly. PCSO Carpi had called with an update on local issues; there had been minor anti-social behaviour but no local break ins reported.

Speeding complaint – a resident had expressed concerns about this.

It was noted that the Speed Indicator Device was operating again and a request for the results would be sent to Highways.

Reader for Carol Service – Cllr Wain had offered to do the reading for the Parish Council.

6. To receive the Clerk's report on planning issues.

(a) Applications received – 14/00868/COU, Mill House; Change of Use of Existing First Floor Ancillary Living Accommodation to Tourist Accommodation above Garage / Storeroom / Stable Building

No objection

(b) Other planning matters –

Gate at the Square; Planning Enforcement had visited the site and reported that no action was required.

Conservation officer; to attend the December 8th meeting regarding an appraisal of the conservation area.

Resolved: Approved

7. To consider dog fouling, grass cutting and car park at the Sportsfield

A problem with dog fouling in the long grass by the school fence had been reported. Signs would be displayed in the area to encourage owners to pick up after their dogs to prevent children being contaminated.

The grass had not been cut as well as previously, and there was still rubbish to be disposed of near the Cricket Club. An agreement on funding of the car park had not yet been reached with them. It was agreed to contact both clubs and to arrange an informal meeting between members of the Sportsfield Committee and club representatives to discuss maintenance and the funding of planned improvements.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider Best Kept Village Judges' comments

The comments had shown an improvement was required around the Social Club; Cllr Gilbert would raise this at their next Committee meeting. Concerns had been raised about the playground, although this had been at a time when repairs had been awaited. This would be monitored for next year and meanwhile the Playground Action Group would be asked to ensure that safety reports were forwarded promptly to the Parish Council. It had also been commented that the phone box needed cleaning and the hedge around it cut; enquiries would be made about who was responsible for the hedge.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider village maintenance

Cllr Gilbert would arrange for the hedge near the waste ground opposite the picnic area in The Shrubbery to be cut back and would then clear rubbish away with Derek. It was agreed to pay for the costs of the hedge cutting.

The Neighbourhood Highways Team had been requested to clear the path back along the A513, to clear the weeds around the bridge at Fisherwick Road, and would also be asked to clear leaves along The Shrubbery pavements.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider any matters for the website

Councillors agreed that photographs of recent events around the village should be added to the site. The Clerk would contact the administrator to arrange this.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

11. To receive questions from Councillors

Cllr Batchelor asked about bulb planting in The Shrubbery. Arrangements had been made with a resident for this to be done. She also suggested purchasing an A-frame board to put outside the Village Hall when the Open Forum was taking place.

Cllr Taylor had heard that the Post Office had not always been open as advertised. Enquiries would be made about this.

Action: Clerk

12. To approve a donation to St Peter's for the Commemoration service and reception

Councillors agreed that it had been important to support the events of the weekend of October 3rd/5th which had generated a lot of enthusiasm and goodwill in the village as well as benefit to the school. In addition to the entertainment costs for Friday evening and Sunday lunchtime as previously agreed, it was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Batchelor that the Parish Council would fund the cost of the service booklets and the refreshments at the reception held at St Peters after the Commemoration Service.

Resolved: Approved

13. To receive the financial report.

- (a) The bank statements and reconciliation were noted.
- (b) £3,000 had been transferred from the deposit to current account in September, and a further £4000 in October to cover forthcoming expenditure.
£1565 had been received as a donation for playground repairs from the Playground Action Group.
- (c) The draft budget for next year would be prepared shortly and discussed with the Finance Committee before the December meeting.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

14. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments listed to: M. Jones, salary and expenses; HMRC PAYE; Elford Village Hall, room rental & post office £141; D. Beaumont, handyman work £50; R. Harcombe grounds maintenance £125; SPCA, Councillor training £35; Peak Playgrounds, balance for playground repairs £2011.50; Moss Office Supplies, stationery £69.57; PP Tamworth, printing £88; J. Singh, wine refreshments £105; A. Kent, food refreshments £111.12;

Resolved: Approved

15. To receive correspondence.

SPCA updates

Resolved: Noted

16. Date of next meeting.

Monday 10th November 2014, 7.00 p.m, Elford Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.