

# Elford Parish Council

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 7pm Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Elford Village Hall.

**Present:** Councillors Wain (Chair), Batchelor, Gilbert, Newport, Standerwick, Taylor.

**In Attendance:** Mrs Jones (Clerk), 8 members of the public.

**Notice and quorum:** Due notice of the meeting had been given and a quorum of Councillors was present. Accordingly, the Chairman declared the meeting open.

### 1. **Open forum** (Public Participation)

Two residents asked for a defibrillator for the village, which could save lives. This had been suggested previously but no residents had volunteered for training and nothing further had been heard from the organiser. It was agreed to investigate further and to promote it in the newsletter.

Two members of the former shop committee attended to provide the final fund raising accounts. Grants, loans and shares had been repaid and local groups had received donations from the outstanding amount. The signed copy would be placed on the notice board and displayed on the website.

Madame Olga Leriche had attended while visiting the area and spoke to the meeting as a representative of the Parish Council of Awoingt in Northern France. She explained how friendly links between the two villages had begun and were developing, including letter writing between the pupils of the two primary schools. A World War I commemoration event was to take place in early April, to be attended by the Headteacher of Mary Howard School and Mr and Mrs Billingham to represent residents, and all were welcome. It was expected that links between the two villages would continue informally with an exchange of views, rather than formal twinning. The Chair welcomed the link and thanked Mme and Msr Leriche for attending, and Mrs Billingham for her contribution. Further information would be available at the Annual Parish Assembly in May.

### 2. **To receive Apologies.**

None received.

Councillor Newport was welcomed as a member of the Parish Council.

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

None received.

### 4. **To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 10/2/14**

**Resolved:** Approved

#### **To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 10/2/14:**

4.1 Highways – Work would be done to the damaged footway on Burton Road, and a crossing for motorised buggies and for prams would be installed, but this would depend when funding from the Divisional Highways Programme was available. The Neighbourhood Highways Team would be asked to clear the footpath.

4.2 Playground – It had been confirmed that a new committee was in operation, which included youth members; a website [www.elfordplayground.co.uk](http://www.elfordplayground.co.uk) and Facebook page had been developed. A successful working party had been held recently. All agreed that this was positive news.

**5. To receive the Clerk’s report**

Meeting dates – The May meeting would be moved to Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> as the Clerk would be on holiday from 10<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> inclusive. The Annual Parish Assembly would be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30. The October meeting would be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Staffordshire Village Diary of Events – The dates of the Barn Dance, Beer Festival, Scarecrow Weekend and Bonfire Party would be sent to the Community Council.

Legislative Changes –Legislation had been enacted including repeal of s150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 regarding cheque payments, and the Local Audit and Accountability Act which changed audit arrangements and also allowed filming and tweeting from Council meetings.

**6. To receive the Clerk’s report on planning issues.**

- (a) Consultation had been received on the Lichfield Local Plan – modifications. This included further house building in other areas of the district, and an area to be considered for wind turbines to the North West of Elford.
- (b) Consultation had been received on the designation of the Whittington and Fisherwick Neighbourhood area.
- (c) Consultation had been received on the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- (d) The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment was discussed.

**7. To consider the shop fundraising accounts**

The accounts were noted and acknowledged; they would be made available to the public on the notice board and website.

**Resolved:** Approved

**8. To consider Home Farm**

The Parish Council had been informed by the farmer of an increase in heavy goods vehicles delivering fertiliser products to the farm over the next few weeks. This was permitted as an agricultural use and the Environmental Agency would monitor the product being used on the fields and. There was concern about excessive odours, which could need reporting to Environmental Health at the District Council. Contact numbers for the public to report any concerns would put on the website.

Action:Clerk

**Resolved:** Approved

**9. To consider French visit and payment of the Head Teacher’s costs**

The Parish Council were pleased that representatives from Elford would attend the event in Awoingt on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Wain would prepare a message to be taken to Awoingt, and it was proposed that a flag showing the Elford logo be taken. The Clerk confirmed that public money should not be used for payments to any individual, even though they were acting to bring credit to the community, and the Head Teacher would be informed of this.

Action:Clerk, Cllr Wain

**Resolved:** Not to approve payment of the Head Teacher’s costs.

**10. To consider improvements at the Sportsfield and approve purchase of goal posts**

A site visit with the Chair of the Football Club had agreed car park improvements needed. The Clerk would research grants, Cllr Gilbert would look into costs of materials, and a meeting with the Cricket Club would be arranged to ensure their agreement. The Parish Council was prepared to contribute jointly with the two clubs to an improved car park. An area of land would be retained to be developed for youth recreation.

It was agreed to contribute £1000 towards two mobile small size goal posts for informal use as long as an FA grant for the balance was received. The Clerk would confirm this to the Football Club and ask them to return their signed Lease.

Action:Clerk

**Resolved:** Approved

**11. To consider the walks leaflet and newsletter flyer**

Cllr Batchelor was congratulated on producing an informative leaflet. Copies would be available for visitors at the Village Hall, Church and Walled Garden and on the website. Cllr Gilbert offered to clear some fingerposts of ivy. Highways had been asked to clear footpath 15 but this had not yet been done; members of the public wishing to use this route could contact them directly.

Further information would be added to the newsletter and residents would be asked to provide email addresses so that they could be kept informed. This would be the last hand delivered newsletter; those not using email could collect newsletters in future from the Village Hall, or read them on the notice boards, to cut printing costs.

Action: Cllrs Batchelor and Gilbert

**Resolved:** Approved

**12. To consider a village commemoration of World War I and/or DD Day**

This suggestion was discussed, and it was agreed that these events merited remembrance rather than a celebration. It was agreed to contact Revd Denise and to offer to support any commemoration being planned during the year by the Church.

Action:Clerk

**Resolved:** Approved

**13. To consider entry to Best Kept Village**

Elford would enter the competition again in 2014. The Clerk would send the entry forms with an updated map. A large banner would be ordered to raise awareness of the event on the approach to the village, and the competition would be publicised on the website and in the newsletter leaflet.

Action:Clerk

**Resolved:** Approved

**14. To approve the updated Asset Register**

Cllr Standerwick and the Clerk had updated the Asset Register to include up to date values and insurance details.

**Resolved:** Approved.

**15. To approve the insurance renewal**

A lower quote had been received. In view of the good service from the existing brokers it was agreed to renew the insurance and to request a reduced fee.

Action: Clerk

**Resolved:** Approved.

**16. To consider village maintenance**

Cllr Gilbert had agreed tasks needed with Derek, and he also offered to clear a right of way across the field between the Beck and Eddies Lane.

Action: Cllr Gilbert

**17. To consider any matters for the website**

Aled would be asked to add Spring photographs as soon as possible. Information as discussed in previous items would be added.

Action: Clerk

**18. To receive questions from Councillors.**

Cllr Standerwick asked that feedback be given to residents who had previously raised matters at Open Forum.

Cllr Gilbert asked that the damaged footway on the corner of Croft Close and The Beck be reported to Highways.

Cllr Batchelor asked if information could be obtained about a village defibrillator.

Cllr Newport asked about supporting the Village Hall.

**19. To receive the financial report.**

The bank statements and reconciliation had been forwarded to Councillors. The Clerk reported on banking and the satisfactory financial position at the year end.

**Resolved –** Approved

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

Payments listed to: M. Jones, salary and expenses; Elford Village Hall, room rental & post office; R.W. Harcombe, grounds maintenance; D. Beaumont, handyman work; Community Council, Best Kept Village fee; Broker Network Ltd, insurance fee

**Resolved:** Approved

**21. To receive correspondence.**

SPCA updates

Came & Co, insurance renewal information

MOD, Whittington Firing times

Community Council, Staffordshire Diary of Village events, Good Neighbour Scheme

Enoch Evans LLP, Leases

Lichfield District Council, Community Infrastructure Levy

**Resolved:** Noted

**22. Date of next meeting.**

April 14<sup>th</sup> 2014, 7.00 p.m, Elford Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.