

Elford Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 7pm Monday 13th January 2014 at Elford Village Hall.

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

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), 7 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)

A lengthy discussion took place regarding proposed works at Home Farm. The tenant explained about previous proposals that had been put forward and about the purpose of the lagoon which was now being developed to process fertiliser for use on the land. Councillors said that there was concern among residents about the increased heavy traffic both as a result of the construction of the lagoon and once it was built, and that planning permission should be applied for so that any detrimental effects and impacts on the village were considered and decided upon appropriately through the planning process. The Chair emphasised that the Parish Council have supported local farmers in the past but have to react to complaints it receives that impact residents in the village, particularly when there is very limited information and justification being made available about the proposals. The Parish Council would be consulted on and would consider the merits of any planning application once submitted and would then forward comments to the District Council prior to a decision being made. The applicant was thanked for attending the meeting.

The Playground Action Group had attended to explain the current position. The swing manufacturers had gone into administration, so the swing would need to be repaired locally and then inspected by ROSPA. Pressure washing of the playground had begun. An open meeting would be held on Thursday 6th February for all who were concerned about the playground, not just those willing to form a new committee. It was important to think about future plans. New members were required to organise fun events for the village, attend working parties or fill roles on the committee such as Chair and Treasurer.

2. **To receive Apologies.**

None received

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 9/12/13**

Resolved: Approved

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 9/12/13:

- 4.1 HS2 – Residents affected by plans to re-route power lines had been informed of the opportunity to view the HS2 Bill and documents prior to this and the next 2 meetings.
- 4.2 Potholes – these had been reported again and Highways had apologised for the delay. Interim work had been done in Brickhouse Lane, but they would be contacted again, and also reminded to mend those in The Shrubbery. Highways would also be contacted regarding the damage to the bridge on Fisherwick Road.

5. Clerk's report

Vacancy – Cllr Matthews had resigned from the Council due to work commitments and thanked for his contribution. The electoral notice had been displayed. The Parish Council would be notified by the District Council when co-option could go ahead. Two applications had so far been received.

Tree at the picnic area – this had been knocked onto the road at the Osiers by a stolen car and Birmingham City Council as landowners had been contacted to arrange its removal.

Asset Register – Cllr Standerwick offered to meet a representative of the playground group to confirm which assets were held by the group. The register would be updated at the next meeting.

Elections Query – A request had been received by the Parish Council requesting that the school not be used for elections, due to the disruption to education. This would be discussed with the elections department at Lichfield District Council.

Insurance – The Clerk would shortly meet a representative of the insurance company to review this and would report back.

Best Kept Village – The entry paperwork had been received and Elford would enter again to defend the title.

Email addresses – these were now available for use by Councillors and Clerk and would be put on the website. Clerk@elfordpc.co.uk was the new contact email for the Parish Council.

Tree at Fisherwick Road bridge – this had been reported to the Environment Agency by the Flood Warden who was concerned that they could not remove it immediately. The Parish Council would write asking for this to be done.

Dog waste bins – The District Council had been asked to empty these.

6. Clerk's report on planning issues.

The wind turbine application at Wigginton Fields in the adjacent parish had been refused. No other applications were received this month. Consultations had been received on Neighbourhood Plans in the District. Enforcement had confirmed that planning permission would be required for the construction works which had begun at Home Farm.

7. To receive an update on measures to reduce speeding

'20 is plenty' signs had been displayed and had raised public awareness of the issue. Traffic had been slowed by the signs; Councillors felt this was positive news and would continue to monitor this.

8. To consider progress on twinning

Awoingt in France had requested that a Councillor attend an event in early April; school representatives would attend and continue the links already developed. None of the current Councillors were able to attend and Awoingt would be informed.

Action:Chair

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider the Sportsfield

The Football and Cricket Clubs would be invited to meet prior to the next meeting to discuss where to site new equipment and a request to improve the car park.

Action:Clerk

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider the draft budget 2014-15

Various amendments were discussed and the revised figures would be approved at the next meeting.

The precept would be held at the same figure as last year, £12,000, and this would be requested from Lichfield District Council.

Action:Clerk

Resolved: Approved

11. To consider the draft Financial Risk Assessment

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

12. To consider village maintenance

Derek would be asked to continue to trim ivy from trees in The Shrubbery, and to attend to an overgrown area in Church Road. Councillors would walk around the village with him to confirm regular jobs to be done.

Action: Cllrs Gilbert and Standerwick

Resolved: Approved.

13. To consider any matters for the website

The information about the Playground Meeting on 6th February would be added, along with the Flood Warden's letter about the tree in the river, and details of a fundraising event for police cadets received from Councillor Arnold.

Action: Clerk

14. To receive questions from Councillors.

Cllr Batchelor enquired about the purchase of a storage box to be kept at the Village Hall to contain copies of the Lichfield Mercury. This would stop papers from blowing around and it was agreed that it was a good idea to order this.

Cllr Standerwick asked Councillors to take details of the new email addresses.

Cllr Wain discussed a matter of a confidential nature after members of the public had left the meeting following completion of other business.

15. To receive the financial report.

(a) Bank statements and reconciliation – These had been forwarded.

(b) Interim Audit – No issues of concern.

Resolved – Approved

16. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments were listed to: M. Jones, salary and expenses; Elford Village Hall, room rental & post office; Society of Local Council Clerks, Clerk's Manual; D. Beaumont, handyman work; Lichfield District Council, Playground Inspection; Post Office Ltd, HMRC, PAYE; Information Commissioner, Annual fee; Fazeley Signs, sign boards.

Resolved: Approved

17. To receive correspondence.

HS2 further information
SPCA updates
Community Council –Best Kept Village 2014; annual village events calendar
Highways – apology regarding Brickhouse Lane potholes
Whittington Ranges firing times
Whittington and Fisherwick P. C. – public drop in meeting HS2, 11th January

18. Date of next meeting.

February 10th 2014, 7.00 p.m, Elford Village Hall,

6.30 Cuppa with Councillors. HS2 information available to view.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.