

Elford Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 7pm Monday 10th February 2014 at Elford Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Batchelor (Chair), 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)

An enquiry was made about whether the village would commemorate the anniversaries of D Day and the beginning of World War One, various suggestions were made and this would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Further information was given about developing links with Awoingt in France, and the possibility of representatives of the school and village attending events being organised in France on April 4th – 6th. Interested people from Elford had been asked on the website to get in touch for more details and to express an interest in attending. It was hoped that the school Governors or the Friends would wish to get involved.

Around 20 people had attended a meeting about the Playground and several were meeting again to hopefully form a new committee.

The organisers of Burns Night at the Village Hall had done an excellent job and provided a very enjoyable and well attended event for local people.

2. To receive Apologies.

Cllr Wain had apologized and his apology was accepted.

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 13/1/14

Resolved: Approved

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 13/1/14:

4.1 Highways – The damage to Fisherwick Bridge had been reported to Highways and forwarded to the structures team; potholes had been chased up, Highways had said they were still waiting for resources to do the work. A damaged footway and a fallen tree on the A513 near the junction with The Shrubbery would be reported.

4.2 Playground – Feedback on the February 6th meeting was promising; it had been well attended and new people were interested in being involved.

4.3 Speeding – There had been no further comments from the public, but residents seemed to be more aware of the need to watch their speed which was positive news.

4.4. Elections – It had been confirmed that the Village Hall would continue to be used for polling, so the school would not need to be closed on election days.

5. **To co-opt a member onto the Parish Council to fill the casual vacancy.**
Two candidates had applied to become members of the Parish Council and Helen Newport was co-opted. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed, and she was then welcomed to the meeting as Cllr Newport.

Resolved – Approved

6. **To receive the Clerk's report**
Tree at Fisherwick Bridge – The Environment Agency would remove the tree when the water level had dropped and when it was safe to do so.
Insurance – The Clerk had met a representative of the insurers for a review. It had been advised that the value of the playground equipment should be checked to ensure it was sufficiently insured.
Bus consultation – passengers had been asked to complete a questionnaire by the County Council on various subsidised routes. Cllr Standerwick offered to produce copies and arrange for these to be passed on to regular users of Elford's bus service.

7. **To receive the Clerk's report on planning issues.**
(a) To consider application 14/00060/FUL 20 Croft Close – Two storey rear and single storey front extension to form lounge, porch and two bedrooms.

Resolved: No objection

- (b) Applications granted –
13/01240/FUL Hetherington House, single storey rear extension to form orangery.
13/01021/FUL Elford Mill, Millside House and Millside Cottage, retention and extension of existing flood bank.

- (c) Consultations had been received on the Lichfield Local Plan – Employment Land Review, Green Belt Review, and modifications to the Local Plan.

8. **To consider works at Home Farm and approve taking of planning advice**
Planning had confirmed that an application for planning permission was needed and that until it was determined a stop notice would remain in place. Expert advice would be needed to respond to the application.

Resolved: Approved

9. **To consider progress on twinning**
Further information had been received from Awoingt regarding the events at the weekend in early April; an appeal for any residents willing to attend had been displayed on the website. It was thought that the Head teacher would attend, and the Governors and the Friends of Howard School would be contacted.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Batchelor

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider the Sportsfield

It had not been possible to meet the Football and Cricket Clubs yet and it was hoped to arrange this on a Saturday morning. The Football Club had hoped to move the car park but this would use land earmarked for younger people. It was agreed to arrange an on-site discussion on ways to improve the current car park.

Action:Clerk

Resolved: Approved

11. To consider the draft budget 2014-15

The revised figures were approved unanimously. The precept of £12,000 had been requested from Lichfield District Council. The budget would be displayed on the website in due course.

Action:Clerk

Resolved: Approved

12. To update the Asset Register

The Clerk would complete this and liaise with Cllr Standerwick. Various issues would be clarified with the insurers.

Action:Clerk

13. To consider the draft Financial Risk Assessment

A section on compliance with data protection legislation would be added.

Action:Clerk

Resolved: Approved

14. To consider village maintenance

Derek had been thanked by a local resident for his help and it was agreed to minute this feedback. Cllrs Gilbert and Standerwick would arrange to walk around the village with him to discuss regular tasks to be done.

The Clerk had met Rob to confirm details of the grass cutting and maintenance contract for the coming year.

Action: Cllrs Gilbert and Standerwick

Resolved: Approved.

15. To consider any matters for the website

Spring photographs would be added next month. Details would be added for Cllr Newport, and a new email address Helen@elfordpc.co.uk would be added.

Action: Clerk

16. To receive questions from Councillors.

Cllr Batchelor said that the pathways leaflet was prepared and ready to distribute, but could the Rights of Way team at the County Council first be asked to clear the Green Lane towards Comberford as it was totally overgrown, and could this be discussed at the next meeting?

Cllr Batchelor had also prepared a flyer regarding email contacts with residents and asked if this could be discussed further at the March meeting.

17. To receive the financial report.

The bank statements and reconciliation had been forwarded to Councillors.

Resolved – Approved

18. 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, annual fee; R.W. Harcombe, grounds maintenance; D. Beaumont, handyman work; Florascape, Christmas tree and replacement for lost cheque 342; Post Office Ltd, HMRC, PAYE; J.Batchelor, reimburse printing costs; Daytona, newspaper box.

Resolved: Approved

19. To receive correspondence.

HS2 – extension of deadline for consultation on Environmental Statement to 27th February
Staffordshire County Council – subsidised bus service consultation
Lichfield District Council – invitation to Chairman’s Annual Dinner to Chair of Parish Council
SPCA updates

Resolved: Noted

20. Date of next meeting.

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

HS2 information available to view.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.