



**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Monday 8th December 2014
7pm at Elford Village Hall.**

Present: Councillors Wain (Chair), Batchelor, Gilbert, Newport, Smith, Taylor and Standerwick (from 7.45)

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), PCSO Costas Karpi, Claire Hines, Conservation Officer, 6 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)

PCSO Costas Karpi had attended to raise awareness of shed break-ins in the wider locality. He would be holding drop in sessions for residents to raise concerns and would hand out leaflets. The details would be displayed on the notice board and website.

Mr Pountney attended to raise concerns about the Playground Group which needed new members with young families, and a new Chair. The financial position was good, it was hoped to hold another Barn Dance, but people needed to come forward to organise such events and join working parties. This would be put on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting, and would also be raised at an open meeting due shortly.

Claire Hines, Conservation Officer from Lichfield District Council, had attended to explain about the Elford Conservation Area Appraisal. This contained a description of the special character of the buildings, landscape and views in the conservation area, and the authority's proposals for management. Significant boundary changes to the area were proposed, and it was proposed to include more properties in the local list. There could be restrictions on changes made to properties so it was important that residents sent in comments before early January. The Parish Council would request an extension to the deadline to allow time for everyone to comment; Cllr Wain asked that all residents be written to. Birmingham City Council would also be contacted. After comments were received reports would be given to Lichfield's Committees, Cabinet and then to the full Council by April, after which it would be implemented.

2. To receive apologies

None.

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 11/11/14

Resolved: Approved

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 11/11/14:

i. Home Farm

There was no further information at present; as the application had not yet been resubmitted; it was hoped to hold a public meeting in the New Year when the reports had been sent out so it could be discussed with residents.

ii. Rights of Way

Cllr Batchelor had met the County Council's Rights of Way Officer to discuss the bid for funding; a grant for £350 was available this year. It was proposed to change stiles to kissing gates to improve accessibility; various locations had been discussed. This would be suggested to landowners involved.

iii. Sportsfield

A long discussion took place with Mr Simmonds from the Football Club, on grants which had been applied for, and improved facilities which were proposed. Ideally a storage building and toilet facilities would be required in due course, as there were now so many teams using the field, and it seemed likely that funding would be available. Future plans would be discussed at a meeting between both clubs and the Parish Council in the New Year.

5. To receive the Clerk's report

Electoral Boundary review; It had been decided that Elford would be part of the Whittington and Streethay ward with 3 District Councillors. Consultation had begun on polling districts and polling places.

Superfast Broadband was now available; details had been put on the website.

Properties at Elford Park were too far from the cabinet to benefit at present.

An A - board had been purchased to advertise the Open Forum.

First Aid training was delayed until January; the defibrillator would be installed soon.

The Post Office had been contacted regarding a sign; it was agreed however that a notice about opening times would be sufficient.

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

No applications had been received this month.

7. To consider response to the Elford Conservation Area Appraisal

Individual residents were encouraged to send in comments on the document. The Parish Council would ask for a time extension; Cllr Wain would prepare a response.

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider village maintenance

3 planters would be replaced in Spring. There was work for Derek at the playground.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider contract for grounds maintenance

The contract would be renewed for a further year.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider any matters for the website

The photos had been changed; hopefully new ones would be sent in shortly.

Resolved: Approved

11. To receive questions from Councillors

Cllr Batchelor reported that the blocked drain on the A513 had not yet been cleared, Highways would be chased up. Action: Clerk

Cllr Wain reported that the Council had been consulted about the replacement of a hedge with a fence next to the playground.

12. To approve the budget for 2015-16.

Councillors discussed the draft budget which had been amended at the last meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Standerwick that it be approved.

Resolved: Approved

13. To receive the financial report.

- (a) Bank statements had been forwarded and the bank reconciliation was noted.
- (b) Salary Award; new pay scales had been agreed nationally.
- (c) Audit; it had been reported that all was in order. The Auditor had recommended earmarking funds annually for playground refurbishment by resolution.

Resolved: Approved

14. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments to: M. Jones, salary and expenses; D. Beaumont, handyman work £50; R. Harcombe, grounds maintenance £35; Play Inspection Company, inspection fee £90; Prontaprint, leaflet printing in August £56.

Resolved: Approved

15. To receive correspondence.

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association bulletins
Mr Cowley, resignation as Chair and Member of Playground Committee
Chris Pincher MP, response regarding Brickhouse Lane
Staffordshire Highways, speed device results
Lichfield District Council, Conservation Area; Parish Forum; Electoral Review;
Register of electors and polling stations
Staffordshire County Council, local member's fund

Resolved: Noted

16. Date of next meeting.

Monday 12th January 2015, 7.00 p.m., Elford Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.