



**Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 26th August 2015
7pm at Elford Village Hall.**

Present: Councillors Wain (Chair), Collins, Gilbert, Smith, Standerwick, Taylor and Turley

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), District Councillor David Leytham, District Councillor Tom Marshall, 3 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.

Open Forum

Two members of the Action Group formed to oppose the construction of a fertiliser lagoon at Home Farm had attended the meeting. They explained the Planning Appeal process and commented on the choice of written representation. As the proposal had generated significant local interest the Local Planning Authority could request a Hearing or Inquiry at any time before the deadline of 4th September, but so far they had declined requests to do so. The proposed lagoon had been refused on two main grounds, highway safety and odour, and responses should be made on these planning considerations. Copies of a paper listing objections to the applicant's claim were handed to Councillors. Around 80 or 90 local residents had attended a public meeting the previous week, despite the short notice and holiday period, and this indicated the high level of local opposition. The potential effects of this proposal were compared with the problems of odour experienced from the applicant's business in Measham, and it was claimed that the lagoon was being constructed to store the product of the applicant's anaerobic digester rather than for any agricultural need. The District Councillors apologised on behalf of Cllr Strachan who was unable to attend; Cllrs Marshall and Strachan had proposed and seconded the refusal of the application at Planning Committee and would send in reports to the Appeal Inspector. Cllrs Leytham and Marshall offered to liaise with the planning department regarding the District Council's representations to the Inspector. They would inform them about the spreading of fertiliser over the summer and the effects on residents, many of whom had complained to Environmental Health. It would be important to ensure that the planning department had all the facts of the case. Various statutory bodies would also be contacted. Cllr Wain asked what more the Parish Council could do to assist and after a lengthy discussion and many constructive suggestions as to the way forward he thanked those who had attended.

1. To receive apologies for absence

None received

2. To receive new Councillors' Declarations of Acceptance of Office

Declarations of Acceptance of Office were signed by Cllrs Collins and Turley and they were welcomed as members of the Parish Council by the Chair.

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

None received

4. To consider response to a Planning Appeal against the refusal of an application for the construction of a lagoon to hold liquid centrate fertiliser at Home Farm, Elford; To approve any relevant expenditure.

Cllr Wain confirmed that he had approached a firm of Planning Consultants and it was agreed that they would be instructed to prepare the Parish Council's written representation. The Consultants would seek an extension of time for representations in order to seek specialist reports.

The sum of up to £3,500 was available to be spent on professional fees and this was approved. The Clerk explained that Section 137 of the LGA 1972 permitted this.

The Clerk would analyse the budget for the rest of the year and prepare figures for future expenditure, and would also clarify the Parish Council's powers to spend this. This further expenditure would be approved at the next meeting.

Cllr Wain would prepare a brief for the planning officer to assist with the District Council's response, following the advice of the consultants. He had contacted Birmingham City Council to inform them of the appeal. Cllr Wain would continue to liaise with the Action Group.

Resolved: Approved

5. Date of next meeting. (Monday 14th September 2015)

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.