



Minutes

Meeting of the Parish Council

Monday 16th March 2020

7 pm at Elford Village Hall

Present: Councillors Turley (Chair), Biden, Gilbert, Hidderley, Payne, Toon, Wright

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), County and District Cllr White, District Cllr Leytham, 13 members of the public

Open Forum

The Chair welcomed a large group of residents to the meeting. He introduced Cllr Alan White who was responsible for health and social care on the County Council. A resident asked about the dreadful state of the road surface at Brickhouse Lane, a temporary repair had been done, Cllr White would pressurise Highways to provide a permanent solution and speak to the owner of Home Farm about the traffic.

Another resident asked about the Fisherwick road bridge and about the barriers left on the A513, the Clerk would contact Highways about these matters.

Cllr White explained the County Council's contingency planning to protect vital services during the challenging situation of the spread of Coronavirus, and he emphasised the importance of following government advice.

The Chair had been approached by a concerned villager about setting up a support network for people who had to self-isolate and discussion took place on how to coordinate this. A leaflet would be produced giving contact details for those who needed help with shopping or a friendly phone call and for volunteers to offer their support. The Chair expressed the thanks of the Parish Council to those who were willing to help their neighbours, it would give any possible support.

Although the Coffee Shop was now closed until further notice the taxi would continue this week but could have to stop when things worsened.

The Flood Warden explained issues to be learnt from the recent flooding event, including a need for regular gully cleaning to improve water flow, improvements to traffic control during times of flooding, and the provision of facilities for emergency workers at the Village Hall. He also offered to speak to the developers of the club site regarding the drainage. He commented on the implications for flooding of the development planned on the field off the Shrubbery and this information would be passed on to the Planning Officer. The Chair thanked him for all his help.

1. To receive apologies for absence

None

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

None

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 10/2/19

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. To receive the Clerk's Report

Notice board - now replaced, an excellent job had been done by the local contractor.
Birmingham City Council - confirmed agreement to the advertisement and CCTV at the cricket pavilion, would need Committee consent to the canoe proposal.

Cricket pavilion – storm damage, covered by insurance, quotes obtained for awning.
Fly tipping - reported to the District Council.

Insurance – renewal now due under Long Term Agreement.

Resolved: Approved

5. To consider Planning applications

(a) 20/00255/ABN Home Farm, erection of general purpose agricultural building, this had now been approved.

(b) 19/01707/FUL Elford Sports and Social Club, erection of 8 dwellings following demolition of club building; Highways had proposed a condition that the developer would pay for the relocation of the shelter. The Flood Warden had sent comments on drainage; this information would be forwarded.

(c) 19/00662/REMM Land at The Shrubbery; information from the Flood Warden on drainage would be sent. Cllr Toon pointed out that flooding of properties below the site in The Beck was getting worse, it was the duty of the landowner to stop the flooding and the Parish Council should take action to resolve this if there was further delay on development of the land.

Resolved: Approved

6. To consider removal of the bus shelter

Middleton Parish Council had offered to purchase the shelter but as it had been decided to relocate it they would be informed that it was not for sale. Amey had asked that the developer would pay the removal costs.

Resolved: Approved

7. To consider Sportsfield Leases and comments from Sports Clubs

At an informal meeting with the clubs, the question of Scarecrow parking on the field had been discussed along with maintenance of the car park. These matters would be discussed further with the solicitor and with Birmingham City Council.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider road damage at Brickhouse Lane

The damage to the surface had worsened and become dangerous, it had been reported

several times to Highways by the Clerk and others. A temporary repair had now been made, it would be necessary to maintain pressure for a permanent solution and to keep monitoring the condition of the Lane.

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider Best Kept Village Community Competition

It was unclear whether this would go ahead due to Coronavirus but it would be kept on the agenda.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider future use of kiosk in Church Road

The hedging around the kiosk had been cut back by the neighbour and was expected to grow back. Residents' opinions on the use of the kiosk should be sought, this would be considered on a future agenda.

Resolved: Approved

11. To receive an update on flooding

Thanks had been sent to all those who had helped during the recent storms and flooding event. The Flood Plan would be updated by the Flood Warden to reflect changes in personnel and other matters identified during recent events.

Resolved: Approved

12. To consider any maintenance required

Potholes and verges had been reported to Highways. The climbing frame had been repaired. Alan would be asked to fix a spring closer to the Sportsfield gate and to paint the wooden playground equipment.

Resolved: Approved

13. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Payne said the Playground Working Party would be delayed due to Coronavirus. He offered to find out details of outdoor musical instruments which could be installed at the playground.

Cllr Biden said that the Ramblers were identifying lost footpaths and any information could be sent to him.

Cllrs Toon and Gilbert raised the issue of dog fouling at the Sportsfield where irresponsible owners did not clear up after their animals on an area where children played. Information would be put on social media and improved signage organised. If this continued the Parish Council would insist that dogs be kept on leads or even banned from the field.

Cllr Turley had received reports of a resident filming children playing football on the social club car park. It was agreed to contact PCSO Costas Karpi about this.

Cllrs Wright and Turley had attended SPCA training and found it very useful, it was recommended to all Councillors.

14. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins, Planning Training event, NALC employment documents
Lichfield District Council information on Police Station demolition, tours of
Lichfield, small business grants; all details available on the Elford Parish website
Staffordshire Highways, verges to be cut 6 times a year
Resident to thank the Parish Council for quick action on trimming the trees
Came & Co insurers, newsletter
Great British Spring Clean, now registered
Fire and Rescue Safety plan 2020 -24 consultation

15. To receive a financial report

The bank reconciliation was given. A donation had been received from the Coffee Shop of £700 for the playground and £1134 for the taxi service.
The Co-op Bank form for a new 95 day notice account was signed by Cllrs.
A VATreclaim had been submitted.

Resolved: Approved

16. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

Payments to: M. Jones, salary, reimbursement of expenses £385.72; HMRC £82.80
A. Robey, handyman work £62.50;
Elford Village Hall, room hire £24.50, Post Office £12.00;
Bennetts Taxis, taxi hire, February £230.40;
RW Harcombe, grounds maintenance £90.00;
B.Wright, website hosting £60.00;
Beacon Street Garage, playground repairs £128.16;
SPCA Training £35;
Came & Company, insurance £425.25;
Cowley Construction, notice board replacement £1099.
Receipts; Taxi passengers donation £178, Coffee Shop playground donation £700,
Coffee Shop Taxi donation £1134.

Resolved: Approved

17. Date of next meeting: 15th April 2020; this may not proceed due to the Coronavirus.

The meeting closed at 20.50 pm.