



Minutes

Meeting of the Parish Council

Monday 14th September 2020 7 pm online

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

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), District Cllr Leytham

The meeting was held remotely as permitted under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Open Forum

No members of the public had attended.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Wright had apologised as he was on holiday, Cllr Hilderley apologised for work reasons. The apologies were accepted.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 13th July 2020

The Minutes were approved and would be signed at the next face to face meeting.

4. To receive the Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on various matters dealt with since the July meeting.

The Post Office had re-opened, appropriate risk assessments had been prepared by the Post Master and the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Turley said that the Coffee Shop would be unable to re-open for some time due to the current restrictions.

The Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire had sent a card expressing gratitude to all in the County who had helped their community during the pandemic and this had been forwarded to the volunteers in Elford along with the thanks of the Parish Council.

Information had been received on the September Clean organised by the Keep Britain Tidy group, this had been promoted on the website and notice board and small groups were welcome to take part in this initiative.

Tree saplings which had been ordered for planting at the Sportsfield would be delivered in November, the school would be asked if they wished to help with planting

and this would be discussed further at the October meeting.

Birmingham City Council had informed the Parish Council that trees in The Avenue would be cut back by their tree surgeons shortly, following an inspection. They would be asked if they could treat the ivy on them at the same time.

The Clerk had attended Website Accessibility training during the summer and would follow the advice given to prepare accessible documents. Cllr Wright had confirmed that some of the requirements of the regulations would represent a disproportionate burden on this small council. An accessibility statement was available on the website and the Clerk would prepare a plan explaining the measures to be taken.

Lichfield District Council had offered a training session online on the new Code of Conduct, all Councillors were encouraged to attend at 6pm on 17th September.

Various Highways reports had been sent. Deeper potholes had been filled in The Shrubbery, others had not yet been done. A large lorry had knocked over some bollards in Church Road and Highways would be contacted. Following the last meeting a request had been sent asking the speed camera van to check speeds on the A513 through Elford; Councillors had seen this operating.

Resolved: Approved

5. To consider planning applications

(a) Previous applications:

20/00999/PNH	54 The Beck	single storey extension	notification not required
20/00636/FUH	8 The Osiers	single storey extension	pending
20/00682/FUH	2 Mere Pits Cottages	rear extension	approved
20/00347/FUH	Model Farm	conversion of garage	withdrawn
20/00504/FUH	Ladyfields Barn	single storey extension	pending

(b) Planning appeal

20/00008/ENF Elford Lowe, appeal against enforcement notice refused. The access and gates to the south had been ordered to be removed.

(c) Current application

19/01707/FUL Elford Social Club, demolition and erection of housing; this was still ongoing. Cllr Leytham said that a neighbour had objected over loss of privacy and the matter could go to Planning Committee. Nearby residents were concerned about the state of the site and the developer would be asked to tidy it. Cllr Gilbert would contact them. The Walled Garden had agreed to take the relocated bus shelter in due course.

(d) New application

20/00989/OUT Land at The Shrubbery, the outline application for 25 houses had been renewed. Comments would be sent re-iterating the Parish Council's

concerns about the location of the drainage pond and the right of way.
Cllr Toon asked whether in the meantime a request be sent to the farmer that the field be cut, as local residents felt it represented a fire risk in dry weather.

Resolved: Approved

6. To consider the taxi service

The service had commenced again on Fridays. Those using the service had said that it was a vital service for the older residents to access services and maintain their independence. It was funded by the Coffee Shop, the funds would last until later in 2021 and then further sources of funding should be looked at. Councillors felt that it should not be funded from the precept for such a small number of users.

Resolved: Approved

7. To consider playground maintenance and vandalism

Unfortunately there had recently been some vandalism. Alan had reported it and cleared up broken glass; a roof panel had been torn off and he had replaced it. The lights in the circle had been broken and he would be asked to cap these off. He would complete the painting of the larger climber this month.

A quote would be requested for surface treatment.

Resolved: Approved

8. To consider the Sportsfield

A positive response had been received from Birmingham City Council to a query prepared by the Clerk and Cllr Biden asking whether the Lease contained any clauses preventing parking for recreational events for the benefit of the community. They would not object to parking in these circumstances and this would be communicated to the Scarecrow Committee.

The Solicitors had been asked to finalise the Leases in August but nothing had yet been heard on this. Cllr Turley would enquire as to progress.

The gate to the car park had recently been left unlocked but the Cricket Club had arranged with the Clerk to resolve this.

Resolved: Approved

9. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Gilbert was pleased to note that an old car left at the Cricket Club and owned by a member of Cllr Biden's family had now been removed.

Cllr Biden had been asked by the Cricket Club whether the Parish Council could request dog walkers not to exercise their pets on the field during sporting matches and training as a lack of control had caused problems for teams.

Cllr Toon said that there was a lot of dog mess on the grass at The Avenue and owners should be asked to respect the area and clean up after their dogs.

Cllr Payne asked whether the Howard School PTA could use the Parish Council Zoom account to update the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the PTA regarding a suitable date and would then schedule a meeting.

Cllr Payne had heard that the small apple tree next to the gate from Brickhouse Lane

to the playground was creating a mess. Cllrs did not want to remove it but agreed that the Walled Garden group could be asked if they were prepared to take the apples for their cider making.

Cllr Leytham reported on the implications of the Government's new Planning White Paper and on possible future changes to the organisation of Local Government.

He also recommended that everyone over 65 or vulnerable people should request the flu vaccine as soon as possible, as he had heard in his role on local health groups that access to vaccines could be difficult once Covid vaccinations were available.

10. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins and details of training sessions

Cricket Club charity event 13th September

Lichfield District Council voter registration and news items

11. To receive a financial report

The bank reconciliation was given; current account £10,362, playground account £9,390, taxi account £1750.

Spending against budgets was in line with expectations.

The Clerk's salary increase was approved as set out in the 2020-21 pay agreement.

Resolved: Approved

12. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

The Clerk had circulated copies of the invoices.

Payments: M. Jones, salary, reimbursement of expenses £400; HMRC £88.80;

A. Robey, handyman work and materials £101.61;

R.W. Harcombe, grounds maintenance £125;

A. Cox, mowing, The Avenue, £70;

SLCC conference fee £30

Bennetts, taxi hire £115.20

SPCA website course £75.00

Resolved: Approved

13. Date of next meeting:

12th October online at 7pm (Zoom)

The meeting closed at 8 pm.