



MINUTES

Annual Parish Assembly

Tuesday 14th May 2019

Elford Village Hall at 8pm.

Attended by Councillors Biden, Gilbert, Hilderley, Payne, Turley and Wright, County/District Councillor White, District Councillor Leytham Clerk, Mrs Jones, and 16 residents and representatives of local organisations.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly.

- 1. To receive Apologies.** Ed Jones, Mrs Thompson, Mr and Mrs Middlemore, Mr and Mrs Billingham, Mrs Standerwick
- 2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 14th May 2018.**
The Minutes were approved. The Walled Garden report would be added.
- 3. To receive the Annual Report of Elford Parish Council for 2018 -19.**
Ed Jones had apologised for his absence and Cllr Payne gave an Annual Report. He gave an update on the members of the Council – Cllrs Collins, Jones and Oakley had left and Cllrs Hilderley and Biden had joined. Cllr Jones had done an excellent job as Chair. Cllr Turley had been appointed as Chair for the next year. There was one vacancy and applications would be welcome.
The County Council had withdrawn funding for the bus service; a local service had been organised with other local villages but had proved to be unsustainable and had been replaced by a weekly taxi to Tamworth organised by the Parish Council for local people. Passengers donated towards this.
The Neighbourhood Plan had been completed and would be referred to when planning applications were made. CIL payments from any developers building properties within the area would be available for improving local assets. Playground improvements had been considered but the quotes for new equipment had proved too expensive and it had been decided to fund maintenance and improve the surfacing instead.

The Awoingt Twinning Agreement had been signed in August by Cllr Turley and the Mayor of Awoingt, and Elford had welcomed the French visitors.

The Post Office service closure was yet to be resolved, although the Parish Council continued to request a replacement facility for the parish.

The Cricket and Football Clubs had reached agreement to allay the concerns of local residents about noise and traffic.

Fitness equipment had now been installed near the perimeter of the field, and a generous donation had been received towards this from a local resident, for which the Parish Council was grateful.

4. To receive reports from village organisations.

Cricket Club - The Club Secretary read the attached report

Art Group - A member gave the attached report

Coffee Shop – The attached report was given on behalf of the organiser

Elford Walled Garden – The attached report was given

French Group - A member reported that the small easy going group of around 7 met on some Wednesdays 7.30 - 9 to practice French. Anyone wishing to come along should contact them for meeting dates

Village Hall – Greg Watkins gave the attached reports on the Village Hall and on behalf of the following groups:

Friends of Awoingt

History Group

Scarecrow Festival

Football Club – The attached report was read out by Cllr Payne

No reports had yet been provided by the Church or School.

Cllr Payne summed up this section of the meeting by thanking the unsung heroes whose volunteering activities made Elford such a thriving village.

5. To receive questions from residents.

A resident asked about plans for parking at the Scarecrow Festival and when this would be discussed with the Parish Council. Cllr Payne said that Council representatives hoped to attend the next committee meeting and report back on June 10th. Parking was expected to be on the same basis as in 2017; although there had been concerns about the field being returned in good condition the Parish Council were supportive of the Festival.

A query was made about the development of the field behind The Shrubbery; no information had yet been received regarding the sale; residents would be notified of detailed plans in due course. It was too soon to plan for CIL payments. A resident asked why the village had not entered the Best Kept Village competition again this year; no-one had volunteered to organise this.

Other topics covered included the cleaning of road signs, work required to Fisherwick Road bridge, (Cllr White offered to find out about progress on this) and Chetwynd Bridge works on the A513.

Everyone was thanked for attending the meeting, which ended at 9.20.