



**Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
7pm at Elford Village Hall.**

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

**In Attendance:** Mrs Jones (Clerk), Staffordshire County Councillor Alan White

**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**

Nick Collins from Alrewas provided a demonstration of CCTV cameras and explained how such a system could operate in Elford. It could be used to record instances of anti-social behaviour such as vandalism or dog fouling, misuse of vehicles, or criminal activity. Copies of the film could then be passed to the police. Questions were asked about the technical capabilities and about privacy; it was secure and would be used only to protect residents. This was a flexible system and could be adapted to meet the needs of the village, and the available budget. Nick was thanked for attending; Councillors would consider this at a future meeting.

Cllr White was informed of matters relating to Home Farm since the granting of the planning permission for the lagoon. Building had not commenced, so deliveries of waste for spreading could not be controlled under the planning conditions. There were concerns about deliveries currently taking place. It was thought that the Environment Agency were shortly to have a meeting at the site with the farmer. An enquiry had been sent to Birmingham's Trusts and Charities Committee to ask whether they would give permission as landlords, but a full reply had not yet been received.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

No absences

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

None received

**3. To receive a Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr Jones. He would complete the Register of Interests form shortly.

**4. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 9/11/15**

**Resolved:** Approved

**To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> November**

- (i) Home Farm Lagoon  
Councillors were concerned about reports of waste being spread on the land during the winter months and any possible effect on local rivers.
- (ii) Youth Leisure  
Some information had been received about Whittington's BMX track. The young people who had previously raised this would be invited to the February meeting.

**5. To receive the Clerk's report**

- (i) Police 'drop in' date – PCSO Costas Karpi would be available on 22<sup>nd</sup> December at the Post Office session, Elford Village Hall.
- (ii) Flooding enquiry – a request for information about possible 'at risk' properties had been forwarded to the Flood Warden, Dave Hill.
- (iii) Further CPR training – this had been held recently and was again successful.
- (iv) Resident letter – a letter had been received regarding a sign at the picnic area and the issue of the local sale of Christmas trees.

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

- (i) 15/01321/FUL Application at Elford Lodge, Burton Road for retention of garden cabin.  
**Resolved:** No objection
- (ii) Neighbourhood Plan - Grant funding of £5,020 to cover costs and workshops to the end of the financial year had been approved. The consultants would attend at 6.30 prior to the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January to discuss timescales and arrange dates of consultation events.

**7. To appoint a representative to the Village Hall Committee**

Cllr Collins agreed to act as the Village Hall representative.

**8. To consider playground maintenance**

Cllr Standerwick reported that nearly 30 volunteers had attended the clean-up day on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Materials had been provided by the Parish Council so that playground funds could be kept for future improvements. The volunteers had been supportive of the removal of the internal fencing and improved external fencing. A further working day would be held in early Spring.

**9. To consider handyman and village maintenance**

Derek would be asked to do regular jet washing of the playground, and his hours would be increased as required up to a maximum 10 per month. Cllr Gilbert commended Derek's hard work and contribution.

**10. To consider dog fouling**

Certain owners were not clearing up after their dogs again, particularly on the field. Signage would be requested at entrance and exit points to the field and alley ways to remind people to clear up after their dogs in the interest of local children who played there. The Clerk would contact Environmental Health. *Action: Clerk*

**Resolved:** Approved

**11. To consider the draft budget 2016-17**

The draft budget had been prepared by the Clerk with the assistance of Cllr Standerwick. Following discussion of various additions and deletions it was proposed by Cllr Wain that the precept be increased from £12,000 to £13,000 to cover spending requirements.

**Resolved:** Approved

**12. To receive questions and reports from Councillors**

Cllr Smith said that Mr Burgess had requested that the gritter be returned to the Parish Council; this would be collected for storage in the playground shed.

**13. To receive correspondence**

SPCA bulletins  
AMS landscapers, grounds maintenance contracts  
Lichfield District Council Parish Forum, January 19th; Precept information  
Resident regarding picnic area

**14. To receive a financial report.**

- (a) Bank reconciliation – this was noted.
- (b) Banking – The Cooperative Change of Signatories form had needed further amendments, to remove Mrs Batchelor and Mrs Newport as well as Mr Taylor. The application for Internet Banking was completed with Cllr Wain, Cllr Collins and the Clerk listed as users.
- (c) Audit – the interim audit had been completed. There were no issues of concern.
- (d) Precept – Lichfield District Council had sent information on the phasing out of the Council Tax Support Grant and the process for requesting the precept.

**Resolved:** Approved

**15. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.**

Payments to: M. Jones, total salary and expenses; £369.68  
D. Beaumont, handyman work £50;  
Elford Village Hall, Room hire, £113.50;  
WYG, Planning fee, £1500;  
Florascape, bedding plants £150.

**Resolved:** Approved

**16. Date of next meeting.** (Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016) **7.30pm** (later start due to a previous meeting)

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.