



Minutes

**Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 8th October 2018
7 pm, at Elford Village Hall**

Present: Councillors Jones (Chair), Gilbert, Hilderley, Payne, Turley and Wright

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), one member of the public, District Cllr Leytham

Open Forum

A resident asked whether anything could be done about the increase in traffic movements through the village and the resulting noise which was becoming worse. There was a risk to safety and it was difficult to park along Church Road. Tractors and trucks had passed along the narrow roads as late as 11pm during the summer. Cllr Hilderley replied that this was part of modern farming, that the good weather had meant farmers worked until late in the summer, and that farm machinery was getting bigger. Cllr Jones said that the Parish Council was unable to interfere in a farm business but would put information on the website and Facebook page to keep local people informed about additional traffic movements.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence**
Cllr Oakley was on maternity leave.
- 2. To receive Declarations of Interest**
None received.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 10/9/18

The Minutes were approved by Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 10th September

A request had been received for the Minutes to be clarified to reflect discussion regarding the Sportsfield. It was agreed to deal with this under agenda item 6 which would confirm what had been agreed.

A request for a Stop sign at The Shrubby/The Beck/Church Road junction had been sent to Highways.

4. To receive the Clerk's report

Defibrillator training; contact details for the trainer had been supplied to the Walled Garden organisers. Cllrs were pleased to note that the Football Club's defibrillator had been used to save a life of a cricket player recently.

Dog waste bin; a replacement and fittings for installation had been supplied for the Walled Garden.

Pavements on The Beck; Highways had inspected these but repairs would not be done at this time. The trimming of the lime trees would be done in due course.

Post Office service; the organisers had been contacted again but currently had no information about a replacement to operate the facility in the Village Hall; they had been asked to consider a van service, but this could currently be at capacity.

Resolved: Approved

5. To receive the Clerk's report on planning issues

(a) Applications; 18/01366/FUL Elford Lodge, Burton Road, spa/pool room. No objection.

(b) Notification of Planning Appeal, 45 The Beck. No further response was required.

Resolved: Approved

6. To consider the Sportsfield

A further letter from the resident petitioners had expressed their hope that the 6 teams playing this season would not cause the nuisance from noise and traffic which they had experienced over the last two seasons and asking for future limits on the number of teams.

The Parish Council concluded that it would not be in the best interests of the parish, nor the Football Club or Cricket Club to set rigid limits on the number of football teams within formal documents such as Leases. A degree of flexibility should be retained as it was unclear what could happen during the term of any new Lease; for example there may be new houses and more children wishing to play football and cricket in Elford.

The Parish Council had performed an important role in arbitrating between the Football Club, Cricket Club and residents and had negotiated an agreement for the current football season that should see a material and noticeable improvement leading to less nuisance, particularly with regards to traffic and noise. Both the Cricket Club and Football Club, in addition to the Parish Council, are satisfied with this agreement.

The Football Club had listened to residents' concerns and demonstrated huge flexibility (reducing teams, staggering kick off times, moving pitches, using other pitches outside the village and reducing training nights) to arrive at the solution for 2018/19. The Cricket Club were happy with the compromise. It is important to note that the Football Club has limited advance information on fixture lists or match venues, receiving these from the League organisers a small number of weeks in advance, so it was essential to retain some flexibility to find solutions if required.



It was agreed at the recent Sportsfield Committee meeting between both clubs and the Parish Council to issue a side letter to the Leases to amend the highly restrictive user clause and remedy the breach until the Leases expire in 18 months, and to issue a Licence Agreement between both clubs to confirm terms of use of the field. It had also been agreed to improve signage and cut back the hedge adjacent to the Sportsfield car park entrance to improve visibility for drivers leaving both clubs when exiting the field onto Brickhouse Lane.

The Parish Council acknowledged the petitioners' concerns for the future and was committed to reviewing the situation every summer with the Sportsfield Committee to address any potential changes for the following season.

Resolved: Approved

7. To consider the Playground

Following incidents of antisocial behaviour at night over summer weekends Cllr Gilbert had turned off the lighting. District Cllr Leytham stated that Lichfield did not lock the gates of their parks at night; the playground would continue to be accessible to all as a public open space. The safety inspection report would be available shortly.

8. To consider the bus service

Harlaston had agreed to join the hire service on a 3 months trial basis beginning 1st November which was a positive move. The service would be reviewed in 3 months when the costs and usage would be considered. Further information had been requested from the County Council on the legal status of the service.

9. To consider maintenance

Cllr Payne suggested an audit of improvements required and would report back to the next meeting on tasks to be undertaken by a working party or the handyman, such as painting and jet washing. Funds were available to spend on it. Alan had continued to keep it tidy and to do safety checks

Action: Cllr Payne

Paint had been ordered for the kiosk, Alan had varnished and painted the notice board. Cllr Jones would ask the school if they wished to use the kiosk as a display area, possibly for details of the progress of fund raising.

Action: Cllr Jones

The Christmas tree would be on the next agenda. The Clerk would obtain winter plants for the tubs and ask Alan to plant them.

Action: Clerk

It was agreed that the Avenue would not need further mowing this year.

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider Councillor responsibilities

The following roles were confirmed:

Village Hall, Walled Garden and Awoingt representative; Cllr Turley

Sportsfield Committee; Cllrs Jones, Gilbert and Hilderley

Howard School representative, Cllr Jones;

Data Protection Officer, Social Club representative and website manager Cllr Wright;



Playground, Cllr Gilbert.

Chair, Cllr Jones; Vice Chair, Cllr Payne.

11. To consider Remembrance Commemoration

Cllr Wright would represent the Parish Council and lay a wreath at the Armistice Commemoration in Tamworth.

12. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Turley reported that various residents had brought to his attention a dog barking repeatedly in the area, he would let the owners know about these concerns.

Cllr Wright reported that as he was no longer able to volunteer at the Social Club there would shortly be an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Trustees to make decisions on its future. The Chair asked for the Parish Council to be kept informed as there was serious concern for the effect on the village if the Club should close.

Cllrs Wright and Gilbert expressed concern that an area of land in The Avenue was being used as garden land; this would be reported to Birmingham City Council.

13. To receive correspondence

Lichfield District Council Parish Forum and invitation for Chair and Vice Chair to meet the Chair and Cabinet, 22nd October. Cllrs Jones and Payne would attend.

SPCA bulletins and financial training information.

Christopher Pincher MP, contact details poster.

Royal Mail, scam mail poster.

14. To receive a financial report

The bank reconciliation and budget comparison was given.

Cooperative Bank forms were completed for the addition of Cllr Wright as a signatory.

Resolved: Approved

15. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

Payments to: M. Jones, salary and expenses, including paint and antivirus software; £418.28;

Elford Village Hall, room hire £24.50;

RW Harcombe, maintenance, £125.00;

A. Robey, handyman work, £65.00;

Solus Coaches, hire, £720;

Glasdon, dog waste bin and fixing kit, £286.54

Scottish Power, playground electricity £24.93

Resolved: Approved

16. Date of next meeting: Monday 12th November

The meeting closed at 9pm

