



## **Minutes**

### **Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**7 pm, at Elford Village Hall**

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

**In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), 7 members of the public, PCSO Costas Karpi and Bromford Homes Neighbourhood Coach**

#### **Open Forum**

Residents reported that a fence had been installed between the pub and the back of the Club car park, closing off a route that had been used for at least 30 years and were informed that the Club's solicitors had requested this to make progress on the sale. The meeting discussed the matter; this was a short cut not a Right of Way, it crossed a boundary between two properties, as it had been used for over 20 years it could be made a Right of Way under the Countryside and Wildlife Act but the landowners' consent was unlikely. This would be discussed along with queries about the other paths through the car park when the area was redeveloped.

A resident asked why Elford had not entered Best Kept Village and the Chair explained that there had been a lack of volunteers or support from residents in recent years. There would be a meeting during the New Year of those who wished to support this.

Following recent thefts from vehicles a resident asked for CCTV to be installed at the entrances to the village. It would show vehicles entering and leaving Elford and would be a deterrent. PCSO Costas Karpi explained that legal, technical and monitoring issues made this complicated, along with regulations governing privacy. Everyone should be proactive about their home security, however this was still a low crime area. Various rural crime issues were debated by those present.

Another resident said that the pathway between The Beck and Croft Close was very muddy and asked whether stone could be put down.

The representative of Bromford Homes gave an update on the pathway over the stile. She explained that it was used frequently and that the tenant did not feel safe with people walking past her home, also about the rudeness of some users, residents should be reminded to be courteous if using the route.

*AST*

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

District Cllr Leytham

**2. To receive Declarations of Interest**

No

**3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 16/10/19**

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**4. To receive the Clerk's Report**

The Post Office organisers would shortly visit the Village Hall to assess whether the facilities were appropriate for the service to resume.

The Solicitors had been contacted regarding the renewal of the Sportsfield Under Leases, the matter was in hand.

Herbicide had been applied to the playground surfacing.

The traffic lights on Chetwynd Bridge on the A513 were to be made permanent as the construction of a new bridge would be too expensive and a 40-mph speed limit would be in place while the work was done.

Defibrillator pads had been ordered to replace those opened during a recent incident when the device had been prepared for use but then not required.

**Resolved:** Approved

**5. To consider Planning applications**

There had been no applications.

Nothing had been heard recently about the application on land at The Shrubbery, the Clerk would review the plans on Lichfield's website.

An application had been made to Staffordshire County Council for the southern extension to Alrewas Quarry which had previously been consulted on. This was close to the Elford Park area but outside the parish boundary.

**Resolved:** Approved

**6. To consider Right of Way off The Beck**

Information on the incident discussed at the last meeting had been given in error, and a letter of apology had been sent to the resident for any distress caused by the letter she had received. Cllrs discussed measures required to keep the stile safe.

**Resolved:** Approved

**7. To consider 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War Two.**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would support any initiatives to commemorate the anniversary on the bank holiday of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020, in conjunction with the church.

**Resolved:** Approved

PJT



**8. To consider village security**

Following the discussion during Open Forum it was agreed to obtain further information and to explore the pros and cons of CCTV at the entrances to the village. Until a decision was made on this the Clerk would share police advice on security measures and Neighbourhood Watch reports with residents. Everyone should play their part by remaining vigilant, sharing information on social media and ensuring that their own property was secure and protected. *Action: Clerk, Cllr Turley*

**Resolved:** Approved

**9. To consider the Christmas Tree**

Cllr Gilbert would purchase and install the tree to be donated to the Village Hall.

*Action: Cllr Gilbert*

**Resolved:** Approved

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

Cllr Payne asked whether surfacing stone could be obtained for the alleyway to Croft Close and Cllr Gilbert said that he would investigate the matter.

Cllr Turley reported that he had been copied into a letter to Home Farm complaining about the speeds of farm vehicles and damage caused to a resident's car wheel. Cllr Hilderley had contacted the owner to make the point about the concerns of local people and he had agreed to discuss this with his contractors.

Cllr Biden said that the new gate to Brickhouse Lane was not closing properly, Cllr Gilbert offered to contact the fencing contractor about this in addition to reminding him of the work needed to the barrier in the pathway from Croft Close to the Square.

Cllr Toon said the drain covers were blocked with leaves in the Beck which risked flooding in heavy rain. The Clerk had reported this and it should be swept soon.

Cllr Gilbert asked for a loose manhole cover on Burton Road to be reported.

**11. To receive correspondence**

SPCA bulletins and AGM information

LDC info on grant funding, electoral canvass, business funding opportunities,

Housing in Later Life Project, Garden Waste Sign up, Tourism Awards

Came & Co insurers newsletter

**12. To receive a financial report**

The bank reconciliation had been given. There was currently £8,864 in the current account including £1914 earmarked for the taxis and £9,127 in the deposit account for the playground.

Cllr Payne was given internet banking access information for the Parish Council's accounts.

The draft budget would be prepared for Cllrs to discuss at the next meeting.

**Resolved:** Approved

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

Payments to: M. Jones, salary, reimbursement of expenses; £338.90; HMRC £77.60  
A. Robey, handyman work and materials £84.75;  
Elford Village Hall, room hire £17.50;  
Modus Cleaning Solutions, playground biocide £280.00;  
Lichfield District Council, bin emptying £967.20, play site inspection £78;  
RW Harcombe, grounds maintenance £125.00;  
Eon, lighting maintenance £214.16;  
Bennetts Taxis, taxi hire, October £266.40;  
King's Bromley Poppy Appeal, wreaths £40

**Resolved:** Approved

**14. Date of next meeting:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

