

Minutes

Meeting of the Parish Council

Monday 9th December 2019

7 pm at Elford Village Hall

Present: Councillors Turley (Chair), Biden, Gilbert, Hidderley, Payne (to 7.30), Toon, Wright (to 8.30)

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), 3 members of the public

Open Forum

The Chair of the Village Hall said that BT engineers would be at the Village Hall at 8 a.m. on Friday 20th December to install equipment for the Post Office. Cllr Turley agreed to open the premises for them.

Two residents said that the pavements in The Beck were in a poor condition, so that children had to walk to school on the road, which was dangerous. Highways had been asked to deal with this previously but had said it was not a priority; the Clerk would report the issue again. They also commented on a parked car on the pavement which made it impossible for residents to walk there.

There was also currently a problem with large number of spam emails, these referred to Elford Village and should not be opened; Cllr Wright would deal with this if he was informed of the originating address.

1. To receive apologies for absence

District Cllrs Leytham and Warburton had apologised.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 11/11/19

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. To receive the Clerk's Report

Sportsfield Underleases; there had been correspondence with the solicitors and Birmingham City Council regarding registration of the land ownership, a 7 year term would be more appropriate. New maps had been prepared.

Flooding event on 16th November; Information had been received from the Flood Warden that the pump had stopped working overnight due to a power cut,

DJT

Environment Agency engineers had attended and action had been taken to prevent the Beck flooding, thanks had been sent to them and to the Flood Warden and the local people who had raised the alarm.

Memorial tree at the Avenue; a site along Church Road for a replacement tree had been agreed with family members and it had now been planted.

Parish Forum meeting, 7th January; Code of Conduct Training, Cllr Wright and the Clerk would attend.

Notice board; repairs were required, quotes for new doors would be obtained.

Free trees from the Woodland Trust; these could be planted around the Sportsfield and other sites around the village, Cllrs agreed that this would benefit the village.

Resolved: Approved

5. To consider Planning applications

- (a) Land at The Shrubbery, a response had been sent to the amended plans, reiterating the Parish Council's concerns. Cllr Toon said that he had spoken to a planner who expected that further amendments would be made to address issues such as the risk of flooding to properties on The Beck from the development. The Parish Council would continue to monitor this.
- (b) Elford Lowe applications 18/01822/COU and 18/01821/COU amended plans and heritage report had been prepared at the request of the planners; no objection.
- (c) 19/01601/FUH East Wing, Elford House, single storey extension to front; there was no objection.
- (d) Lichfield Local Plan Review; the consultation period had begun and meetings would take place in various locations. Comments should be submitted by 24th January. This would be on the next agenda.

Resolved: Approved

6. To consider village surveillance camera suggestion

The Parish Council had looked at the information available from the Information Commissioner's Office and taken advice from the District Council. This was not viable due to issues of information security and data protection. The Parish Council instead would encourage individuals to address their own security and take measures to protect their own property, residents should use social media to inform others of anything untoward. The police would be asked if they could hold a drop-in session to give security advice to residents.

Resolved: Approved

7. To consider the draft Budget 2020 – 21

Following discussion of the draft figures it was agreed not to continue to fund the taxi after the current donation had been used. To cover contingencies including a possible increase in maintenance as the County Council would provide less services, the precept would rise to £15,000, representing a £3.44 increase per Band D property.

Resolved: Approved

PJT

8. To consider any maintenance required

No action on the alleyway surfacing was needed at present. The damaged barrier had been made safe. The gate to the playing field had been checked; Alan would be asked to lubricate the gate hinges regularly. The socket had been made safe.

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider stile from the Social Club car park

The Chair and Vice Chair had met the resident involved and it had been agreed with them to repair the stile and to place a slab to protect their garden. The work had now been done and Bromford had expressed concerns on their behalf. Bromford would be contacted to stress that the work had been required for health and safety reasons.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

10. To consider Best Kept Village

Residents who were interested in organising entry to the competition would be encouraged to attend the Open Forum at the January 13th meeting.

11. To consider correspondence regarding access for canoeing on River Tame

A bid to the heritage Lottery on behalf of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Transforming the Trent Valley Partnership had been successful and it was now planned to improve access for canoeists at the Picnic Area. A meeting would be held in the New Year to discuss this.

12. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Biden wished to make the Parish Council aware that there was no longer a Churchwarden at St Peter's. Although not a Parish Council matter this would be reported to residents on the Facebook page Elford News. He also asked whether the Sports Clubs would receive CIL payments to help fund improvements. It was likely to take some time until any building began but bids from interested organisations would then be requested.

Cllr Toon suggested that Bromford should be informed about the car parked on the pavement at the corner of Croft Close, as they had a parking space available.

13. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins and AGM information

Lichfield District Council; taxi hire charges consultation, Christmas events, electoral advice, precept.

Rawlett School 6th Form consultation

Staffordshire County Council school admission consultation

Staffordshire Police, Drink or Drive Campaign

PJT

14. To receive a financial report

The bank reconciliation had been given. There was currently £6600 in the current account including £1914 earmarked for the taxis and £9,127 in the deposit account for the playground. Sums recently paid out for the playground would be transferred from the earmarked sum to the current account.

Due to the low amount predicted to be carried forward to next year it was advisable to increase reserves in the next budget.

Resolved: Approved

15. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

Payments to: M. Jones, salary, reimbursement of expenses including defibrillator pads; £438.44; HMRC £77.80

A. Robey, handyman work and materials £70.00;

Elford Village Hall, room hire £17.50, Christmas lights £25.00;

RW Harcombe, grounds maintenance £125.00;

Bennetts Taxis, taxi hire, November £259.20;

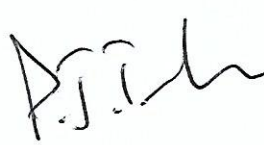
Andrew White Fencing, stile repair £384.00

Information Commissioner, annual fee £35.00

Resolved: Approved

16. Date of next meeting: Monday 13th January 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. J. H.', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.