

# **Minutes**

# **Meeting of the Parish Council**

# **Monday 11th January 2021 at 7 pm online**

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

In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), 2 members of the public

The meeting was held remotely as permitted under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

 **Open Forum**

A resident had attended to inform the Parish council that contractors working for Elan Homes had used Eddies Lane to access the land off The Shrubbery. The Lane was a single -track residential road unsuitable for such traffic and the residents, who were responsible for maintenance, had not been informed in advance. Elan Homes and Lichfield District Council had been contacted but had not yet replied.

The Clerk had contacted an Enforcement officer when informed of this, and he had then contacted Elan homes for information. He would be asked to visit the site and his contact details would be forwarded to the resident. Councillors agreed that Eddies Lane should not be used as the planning permission had only approved access from The Shrubbery.

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Payne had apologised for personal reasons and his apology was accepted.

1. **To receive Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Hidderley declared an interest in item 5, the planning application at Elford Lowe.

1. **To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 14th December 2020**

The Minutes were approved and would be signed at the next face to face meeting.

1. **To receive the Clerk’s Report**

The Manager of Elford Boys had informed the Parish Council that he had spoken to a group of youths at the Sportsfield who had caused some wear to playing surfaces and were not conforming with social distancing regulations.

An Environmental Health Officer had confirmed he would make regular patrols of the village to educate dog owners about dog fouling. He would also be asked to supply cards displaying information on how to report owners not clearing up after pets.

A replacement battery had been installed in the defibrillator.

Birmingham City Council had advised of tree work to be done at The Avenue and this had been rescheduled to avoid the weeks when the trees were illuminated.

The sponsorship of Electric Avenue had raised a large sum of money for church funds.

The Christmas tree lights had been taken down by Cllr Payne and the tree removed by Cllr Hidderley.

**Resolved:** Approved

1. **To consider planning applications**

New applications:

20/01588/FUL Elford Lowe Farm, retention of private way with reduction in width and amended gateway. This application had been made to provide an entrance way which would be acceptable to the District Council. No objections raised.

20/01705/FULM Former Clarkes Transport Depot, Demolition of garage, workshops and storage buildings to be replaced by five B1/B8 units with parking and turning areas. This application was to replace buildings at the rear of the premises. No objections raised.

Existing applications:

19/01707/FUL Elford Social Club, demolition and erection of 8 dwellings. The developer had contacted the Parish Council to express his concern about the delays to the application; Lichfield District Council would be asked to expedite matters and determine the application.

20/00989/OUT Land at The Shrubbery, outline application for 25 houses. No further information, discussed during Open Forum.

**Resolved:** Approved

1. **To receive an update on Brickhouse Lane**

Following the last meeting and further correspondence from residents, Highways had been asked for a longer-term solution to address the poor surface and drainage issues. They had replied that, depending on available budgets, longer lasting road repairs could be made in the next financial year.

Recent repairs were already eroding and Highways had been contacted again to point out the poor job that had been recently done by their contractors. The Parish Council would continue to keep up the pressure on them to solve this matter.

**Resolved:** Approved

1. **To consider traffic at Church Road junction with The Beck and The Shrubbery**

Following the killing of a cat by a car the owner had asked for traffic calming in Church Road near the junction. Some years ago Highways had been asked to improve the junction but there were insufficient incidents there for them to take action.

The Parish Council could look at the possibility of installing signage to slow traffic when applying for CIL payments following the building of housing developments in the village. In the meantime, temporary signs would be displayed.

 **Resolved:** Approved

1. **To consider any measures required during lockdown**

The Co-ordinator of the volunteers had been contacted and would continue to support those who needed help during the lockdown.

The playground and Post Office remained open, but the fitness equipment was closed, and the taxi service had been suspended again.

**Resolved:** Approved

1. **To consider playground maintenance and purchase of power washer**

It had been suggested by Alan that it was better value for money to obtain a power washer for him to use when required than to pay the price quoted by the contractor.

This was agreed and Cllr Gilbert would organise the purchase.

Everyone agreed that Alan continued to do an excellent job and was to be congratulated on his conscientious attitude.

**Resolved:** Approved

1. **To consider renewal of maintenance contracts**

The Parish Council agreed to renew the contracts for village mowing by Rob Harcombe and for The Avenue mowing by Andy Cox.

**Resolved:** Approved

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

Cllr Biden said that suggestions for responsible behaviour by dog owners should be put on the Community Facebook page. Cllr Wright said that control of dogs was a problem as well as dog fouling.

Cllr Gilbert commented on the replacement fence by the cliff, a good job had been done.

Cllr Turley had been approached by a prospective Councillor, it was good to note this interest and they would be on a waiting list until a vacancy arose.

1. **To receive correspondence** Staffordshire Parish Councils Associationbulletins; Cllr training, lockdown advice Lichfield District Council; Covid testing dates and Window Wanderland scheme Transforming the Trent Valley; meeting 19th January, Cllr Turley would attend

Support Staffordshire; newsletter

Keep Britain Tidy; Great British Spring Clean May 28 -13 June Seasons Greetings from Chair of Lichfield District Council and C. Pincher MP

C. Pincher MP; lockdown regulations

**13. To receive a financial report**

The current account stood at £5625, deposit at £9400, taxi at £1,750. Transfers from deposit accounts to the current account would be made before the financial year end.

The approved budget had been circulated to Cllrs and published on the website.

Information had been sent to the insurers to update them on the assets and requirements for the next renewal.

 **Resolved**: Approved

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

The Clerk had circulated the invoices.

Payments: M. Jones, salary, reimbursement of expenses including defibrillator supplies £585.51; HMRC £80.40; Alan Robey, handyman work £42.50; Elford Village Hall, Post Office rental £60; Scottish Power, playground electricity £24.52; Bennett’s, taxi hire £115.20; Becky Delderfield donation to reimburse expenses for gifts, £200, (approved under LGA 1972 section 137)

 **Resolved**: Approved

 **15. Date of next meeting:**

8th February 2021 online at 7pm (Zoom) The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.