



Minutes

Meeting of the Parish Council

Monday 26th July 2021 at 7 pm at Elford Village Hall

Present: Councillors Turley (Chair), Biden, Gilbert, Payne and Wright
In attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk)

Open Forum

54. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Toon had apologised as he was unwell and Cllr Hilderley as he was working. The apologies were accepted. District Cllr Leytham also later apologised.

55. To receive Declarations of Interest

None received.

56. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 14th June 2021

The Minutes were approved.

57. To receive the Clerk's Report

Development at The Shrubbery; Elan Homes Technical Manager had contacted the Parish Council to say the work on the access would commence soon and they would consider measures to prevent unauthorised access. It was confirmed that the Parish Council would not wish to maintain the drainage pond. Flooding onto Eddies Lane after heavy rain had occurred again; Elan had been contacted regarding prevention but had not yet replied and they would be chased up. A resident had asked about the temporary closure of the public footpath, this was unlikely to be changed as work was to commence soon.

Post Box; Royal Mail had been asked again about the reinstatement but had replied that they had no information on the timing of installation from their contractors.

20mph advisory signs; traffic slow signs had been displayed by Cllr Turley.

Hedge trimming; a resident had complained that hedges from Raddle Lane to Harlaston Road had been trimmed within the nesting season. Cllrs said this would have been permissible on safety grounds to improve visibility.

ATT

Bend by Railway Bridge on A513; a resident had reported two accidents after resurfacing work was done. Highways and PCSO Costas Karpi had been informed.
Phone kiosk; New signs were to be obtained and the handyman would be asked to paint it, users would be encouraged to keep Elford's Book Box tidy.

Resolved: Approved

58. To consider any planning matters:

New Applications:

- (a) 21/00967/COU Birdsley Farm, conversion of storage building to a 3 bedroom dwelling; it was agreed that there was no impact on neighbours and no reason to object.
- (b) 21/00467/FUH Avenue House, Church Road, erection of estate fencing and gates to driveway; it was agreed that there was no objection as the proposal appeared to be appropriate to the conservation area.
- (c) 21/01312/FUH 58 The Beck, 2 storey side extension; the extension was well designed to fit in with the location and would have no adverse effect on neighbouring properties, there was no objection.
- (d) 21/01332/FUH 6 The Osiers, extension to form new garage, increase of existing garage height and conversion to form annexe; no adverse effect on the conservation area or on the amenity of other residents, there was no objection.

Previous applications: No decision made yet on applications at 1 The Square or The Old Rectory.

Update on the Social Club: Christopher Pincher MP had contacted the District Council and would be thanked for his help. The application was now proceeding with a new Planning Officer and an online meeting with the developer had helped to outline what was needed to make progress. Amended plans had been submitted to comply with these requirements and consultation dates had been notified. The plans were acceptable to the Parish Council and comments would be submitted shortly.

Lichfield Local Plan consultation; comments had been invited on legal or soundness grounds. The Parish Council had no further comments.

Resolved: Approved

59. To consider the playground

Alan had jet washed the surface but had reported that its condition was worsening due to its age and replacement would be required before too long. The electrical work and survey had been completed. New picnic benches had been delivered. The deposit had been paid for the school gate to be installed next term. Cllr Payne would make safe some protruding screws and had agreed with Alan not to replace some loose panels. Discussion took place on future options for replacing the equipment; Cllr Payne would investigate funding opportunities and obtain advice from specialist companies before the next meeting.

Resolved: Approved

60. To consider the Sportsfield

Cllrs Payne and Turley would sign the Leases and the outstanding documents returned to the solicitor. Birmingham City Council would need to approve them. Quotes were required for work at the Cricket Pavilion to provide disabled access and refurbished toilets.

It was agreed that work on the car park to allow an extension of a football pitch previously agreed would take place the following week.

The Football Club had requested a storage unit for their mower but it was agreed that Cllr Biden would ask the Cricket Club to provide space within the existing unit.

Resolved: Approved

61. To consider the Rights of Way

A resident had contacted the Parish Council regarding obstructed paths and stiles. Cllr Wright had walked the Rights of Way, some of which were overgrown. He would provide details of obstructions and the Clerk would report them to Staffordshire County Council's Rights of Way team. The Walks Leaflet would need updating.

Bromford had been invited to this meeting regarding Right of Way 6 but had not responded. They would be contacted again.

The footpath via The Green was still impassable, the Rights of Way team had not yet replied to the householder's queries.

Resolved: Approved

62. To consider forward planning

It was agreed that Cllrs would bring initial ideas for the Council's priorities to the next meeting. This would assist with budgeting and identifying spending opportunities for CIL payments from developers.

Resolved: Approved

63. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Wright reported back on ideas from a training course on using Facebook to promote the Parish Council and keep residents informed. There were also some updates required to the website.

Cllr Wright also mentioned recent car theft issues and disturbance from parties. PCSO Costas Karpi would be contacted to invite him to the next meeting. Residents should also take their own measures for security and report any incidents to the police. Cllr Turley would investigate CCTV for the entrances to the village although there would be issues of privacy and data protection to resolve, as well as financing it.

Cllr Turley mentioned that he was aware of concerns again about farm traffic. He had suggested a 20 mph limit for the drivers to Home Farm.

PJT

64. Correspondence

SPCA bulletins
LDC news items for website
C.Pincher MP, regarding planning enquiry
Mike Deegan Consulting, funding and bid writing service.
Support Staffordshire Training opportunities.

65. To consider the Clerk's appraisal, salary and pension recommendations (confidential)

It was agreed to increase the Clerk's hours to 8 per week to reflect actual hours now worked and raise the salary by 3 increments as it was some years since an appraisal had taken place. The sums would be backdated to the start of this financial year. A pension contribution would also be paid.

66. To receive a financial report

Bank reconciliation; current account £14,243 Deposit, £9,264 (Playground account), 95 Day Notice £1,044 (Taxi account). Sums would be transferred from the savings accounts to reflect spending on the playground and taxi service.

Resolved: Approved

67. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

Payments authorised earlier in July;
M. Jones, salary, reimbursement of expenses £394.44; HMRC £57.20;
Alan Robey, handyman work £193.69; R. Harcombe, maintenance £145; A. Cox, Avenue mowing £140; Village Hall, post office room hire £82.50; A. Payne, reimburse picnic benches £485; GE Collis & Sons, donation towards gate from playground to school, £130;
Payments to authorise;
Safety signs for less, 20mph signs £135, slow signs £22.20; Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association, Cllr training £30.00; P. Turley, reimburse sign clips £55.06;
Cllr Wright would authorise the payments.

Resolved: Approved

68. Date of next meeting: Monday 13th September, 7pm, Elford Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9pm

