



**Draft Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 12th December 2016
7 pm at Elford Village Hall.**

Present: Councillors Standerwick (Chair), Collins, Jones, Smith and Turley.

In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), Gavin Cox, Mr and Mrs Billingham.

Notice and quorum: Due notice of the meeting had been given and a quorum of Councillors was present. The Chair declared the meeting open.

Open Forum

Gavin reported back on maintenance; he had finished planting crocuses, swept leaves in the playground and trimmed the lime trees along The Beck which were restricting visibility. He had cut back the bushes by the kiosk, and would clear out the interior prior to painting it. He would next tidy the alley ways, remove saplings along The Avenue and repair the shed roof. Cllr Standerwick would purchase 3 rolls of felt and tacks. The playground pots would not be planted until spring. Gavin would also help to put up the new playground signs kindly donated by Mr Wassall.

Mr and Mrs Billingham spoke about a request from Awoingt for a move towards a twinning association. It was 3 years since the contact between the two villages had started, links between the schools had developed and it was hoped to encourage younger people to join in with a more official link. The Mayor of Awoingt was keen on this being achieved and the French would receive funding for it. The process involved connection between the communities, arranging visits and taking part in events such as the Scarecrow Festival or Remembrance Service; this first stage had already been achieved. The second stage would involve an official visit including a member of the Parish Council, and the villages would display a plaque noting twinning. Thirdly a twinning association would be formed which included a member of Parish Council. A statement of intent would be signed by both the Chair and Mayor.

There would be a social evening in the pub for anyone interested on January 14th, followed by a visit to Awoingt from Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th May. The Clerk would find out more about the twinning process and the matter would be put on the next agenda.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Wain apologised as he was ill, Cllr Gilbert apologised for work reasons. RESOLVED to accept the apologies.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation

None received.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 14/11/16

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

To receive information on matters arising from the meeting of 14th November.

(i) Sign locations – Cllr Turley had met the Highways Community Liaison Officer and had agreed on the locations, near the right turn sign to the Beck approaching from the north, and near to Elford Mill approaching from the south, the nearby residents had agreed to this. The locations had been sent to the Road Adoptions team for forwarding to Legal Services, and they had advised checking with Planning that their consent was not required. The order had been sent to Plantscape.

(ii) Avenue maintenance – Cllr Wain had written to Birmingham City Council to request that the Parish Council take over management of The Avenue, and this had been acknowledged.

(iii) Sportsfield Committee – Members had been contacted to confirm that a meeting would not take place until January, and Cllr Wain had written to the Football Club regarding a licence agreement between the clubs.

Resolved: Approved

4. To receive the Clerk's report

Applications had been made to Cllr White's Staffordshire Community Fund for funding towards playground surfacing repairs and the proposed BMX track on the Sports field. The January meeting date would be changed to Tuesday 10th as the Clerk had another meeting on the 9th.

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

- (a) 16/01220/ABN, Elford Lowe, Agricultural Building; no objection
- (b) 16/01265/FUL, Church Gate Cottage, Church Road; no objection.
- (c) Application 16/00929/FUL, Elford Lowe, construction of 3 timber cabins; permitted.

6. To consider the Neighbourhood Plan

Further drafts of a housing questionnaire had been produced by the consultants, it was agreed to send the second version, subject to amendments. This would be delivered in January, and a further meeting of the Steering Group would then be arranged.

7. To consider maintenance tasks

The tasks for the month had been agreed during Open Forum. The internal fences would also be removed in time for the surfacing repairs to be done.

8. To consider playground repairs

It was agreed to accept the quote of RSS providing the guarantee was acceptable. The Clerk would contact them to check this and if appropriate to arrange for the work to be done.

Action: Clerk

Resolved: Approved

9. To consider draft budget for financial year 2017-18

Various amendments were suggested, and these would be made to the draft prior to further consideration at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

10. To receive questions and reports from Councillors

Cllr Smith suggested that the school were encouraged to use the barn at the playground as it was underused, if so the hedge would need to be removed. Cllr Jones would mention this to Mr Lovern.

Discussion took place on how the Parish Council could assist with improvements to broadband. Cllr Standerwick would find out the cost of improving the copper network. Cllrs agreed that it would be helpful to establish a Facebook page under the control of the Parish Council, to be used for passing on information about events and activities organised by various Elford groups, and to be open only to residents. It could also circulate information on incidents such as break-ins, and encourage residents to share information such as CCTV evidence. The Clerk would set this up.

11. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins
Derek Beaumont

12. To receive a financial report.

The bank reconciliation was noted.
Derek Beaumont had requested payment for Public Liability insurance previously taken out when working for the council. It was agreed to pay half of this.
Audit meeting - the Auditor had advised on best practice in complying with the Transparency Code when publishing information on the website.

Resolved: Approved

13. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment.

Payments to: M. Jones, salary and expenses £306.34
Elford Village Hall, room hire and post office £127.50
G. Cox, maintenance £80

Resolved: Approved

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th January, 7 pm

The meeting closed at 9.15