



Minutes

Meeting of the Parish Council

Monday 13th September 2021 at 7 pm at Elford Village Hall

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

In attendance: District Cllrs Leytham and Warburton, Mrs Jones (Clerk), 3 residents

Open Forum

A resident described a proposal to commemorate veterans on Remembrance Day by placing large poppies on lampposts, she would obtain and display them and was willing to fund this. The Cllrs felt that this should be funded by the Parish Council, this would be discussed later. She also suggested continuing to help vulnerable residents after the pandemic.

Another resident asked about responsibility for the drainage pond at the Shrubbery housing site. Elan Homes would be contacted by the Parish Council to find out the developer's intentions for the maintenance when the site had been completed.

A resident and a friend had recently jet washed the playground surfacing and was thanked. He hoped that more volunteers would help with the playground and was willing to be involved as the playground was such an asset to the village. He described various repairs that were required. He suggested using the playground for a village event to mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year and outlined some thoughts on how the event could proceed. He was thanked for his support; this proposal would receive consideration.

66. To receive apologies for absence

None received

67. To receive Declarations of Interest

None received.

68. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 26th July 2021

The Minutes were approved.

69. To receive the Clerk's Report

Development at The Shrubbery; the Flood Warden had mentioned responsibility for the drainage pond to the site engineers and had discussed with them a preferred

more direct route for drainage from the development, which would alleviate flooding on The Beck, the Parish Council had consulted Birmingham City Council on this. A nearby resident had reported concerns about the construction of the site access and the developers had confirmed that this was temporary to allow access for construction vehicles. The route for removal of spoil would also be checked.

Post-box re-instatement; there was still no progress on this, Royal Mail had been unable to confirm when their contractors could install it as there was a backlog of works. A further enquiry would be sent.

Coffee Shop; this had now reopened at the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings, using a booking system, and was well attended.

Resolved: Approved

70. To consider any planning matters:

(a) New Applications:

21/01588/FUH Beechcroft, Brickhouse Lane; single storey extension to rear and demolition of conservatory. No objection.

Resolved: Approved

(b) Update on the Social Club:

A response had been sent in August on the latest plans. There had been correspondence between the planner and agent but no real progress. The Parish Council was keen to have this resolved as the site was becoming dangerous; children should keep away from it. Cllr Leytham would pass on these concerns to Planning.

(c) CIL Payments; The Clerk would contact the Planning Department about this and report back to the next meeting.

71. To consider the Playground

An initial quote had been received for replacement of the surfacing and equipment and others would be obtained. A meeting had been held with a specialist in obtaining grants for Parish Councils for such projects and it was agreed that he would be paid £275 for a scoping report on possible options, which would be discussed at the next meeting.

It was agreed to purchase a repair kit for the damaged surfacing. The local roofer had been asked to repair further damage caused by vandalism.

Resolved: Approved

72. To consider the Sportsfield

The signed Lease had not yet been received from the Football Club; Cllr Turley offered to collect this so that the legal formalities could be completed.

Cllrs suggested that if it was not received the gate to the field should be locked.

Resolved: Approved



73. To consider the Rights of Way

Cllr Wright reported on issues on the local Rights of Way, including an impassable path 13a near Birdsley Farm, which should be reported to the County Council. He intended to update the Walks Leaflet.

An update had been received from the householder at The Green; the Rights of Way Team had told him to put in an accessible gate and separate pathway along his drive.

There was a temporary closure of the route through the Elan Homes site until February due to the building works.

Resolved: Approved

74. To consider Village Security matters

Cllrs Turley and Wright had attended a presentation on a village CCTV system at Alrewas which covered the entrances to the village and would work well in Elford. Four households would need to agree to have the cameras and CCTV boxes installed and it would cost around £3000. It would act as a deterrent and give a feeling of security to residents. There was a possibility that CIL funding could be used. Following a spate of incidents over the summer, including two attempted thefts from Home Farm, PCSO Costas Karpi had been contacted and invited to the meeting.

75. To consider Remembrance Poppy display proposal

It was agreed to display these around the village and the Parish Council would contribute to the cost of the poppies.

Resolved: Approved

76. To consider Forward Planning

Cllrs suggested initial ideas for the Council to improve the village, these would be prioritised at the next meeting. Cllr Payne suggested that the picnic area was under utilised and could be spruced up after the development work was completed. The area at the far end of the Sportsfield previously set aside for a BMX track should be made use of. The Parish Council could consider installing gates and planters at village entrances to aid traffic calming. Cllr Wright said there was a need for benches around the village for residents to sit on and socialise. He also suggested a fenced off dog walking area. Cllr Biden expressed concerns about road safety, there was a need to calm the speeds of drivers within the village. His long-term ambition was for a village sports club with sharing the pavilion facilities with both teams and residents. Cllr Turley suggested an anti-litter campaign involving the school and using children's posters.

77. To consider Parish Council communications

Cllr Wright would draft a newsletter in due course to keep residents updated. A query had been received on the Parish Forum, it would not be held until May.

Resolved: Approved



78. To receive Questions and Reports from Councillors

Cllr Payne asked for initial thoughts on the Jubilee celebration which had been suggested during Open Forum. It was agreed that there should be an event, possibly a simpler version as many people were already organising the Scarecrow Festival, following consultation with groups such as the Cricket Club and other local authorities; further consideration would take place at the next meeting.

Cllr Hilderley said that the potato and maize harvest was imminent and that traffic from farm vehicles may increase, Cllr Turley would enquire of Home Farm.

Cllrs Warburton and Leytham said that each District Cllr had £300 to spend on local projects; village organisations were encouraged to apply for a small grant. A new Chief Executive had been appointed and there would be changes to recycling.

79. To receive Correspondence

SPCA bulletins

LDC news items for website, flooding prevention grants, Service of Remembrance Police and Fire Commissioner, police reporting number 101, and online reporting Elford Boys regarding hedge damage, the contractor had agreed to rectify this Awoingt group, thanks for use of the playground for the July 14th pancake event Resident's further email about hedge cutting and wildlife

80. To receive a financial report

Bank reconciliation; current account £14,262 Deposit, £8,083 (Playground account), 95 Day Notice £1,044 (Taxi account). Monies had been transferred from the playground to the current account to replace sums spent.

The Clerk would investigate a cheaper tariff for playground electricity.

Resolved: Approved

81. To consider authorising schedule of accounts for payment

M. Jones, salary, reimbursement of expenses £470.20; HMRC £74.40;
Alan Robey, handyman work £93.75; R. Harcombe, maintenance £290; A. Cox, Avenue mowing £70; Village Hall, post office room hire £60; Bennetts, taxi hire £115.20; BJ Electrical Services, playground survey and repairs £776.40; Scottish Power, electricity £28.19; Mrs Hughes, reimburse tub and plants £72.99
Cllr Payne would authorise the payments.

Resolved: Approved

82. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12th October, 7pm, Elford Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

