

ELSTON PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Elston Village Hall on Thursday March 14 2019, at 7.00pm**

Coun. Peter Clark (Chairman) Sue Dyer Lisa Smith (A) Michael Key Jim Archer Hayley Wright
Clerk Mike Elliott, Newark and Sherwood councillor Ivor Walker, was present and five residents.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The council were told that Coun. Sue Stirling has retired due to ill health.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 10, 2019 were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman after comment was made on lack of comment in them in respect of the discussion on the matter of the incorrect spelling of two names on the war memorial and the fact the minutes had not been provided to the members prompt enough. The clerk was asked to produce the minutes within seven days.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME LIMITED TO 15 MINUTES

A resident spoke to the council in regard to planning application 19/00288/ful concerning proposals for change of use from a domestic garage to enable the operation of a business for the production and storage of cured meat products at Elm Cottage on Low Street, and expressed his concerns as an owner of adjacent property.

Mr I Ault, representing Elston Sports Associations, advised the council of the current status of the community field on Pinfold Lane which the council leased from Notts County Council. He said it was continually accessed and enjoyed by residents for use as dog walking, children's play, family time, personal fitness across all ages. The original conversion from agricultural to social use was undertaken a low cost and funded by well-meaning village individuals. A local firm R&R Landscapes had carried out some improvement work to the site at cost, with an overall proposed scheme having been put forward at a total cost of £10,000, to include the restructuring of hard-standing and car park to prevent additional users putting pressure on Pinfold Lane itself, and to provide a community field the village needs and deserves.

Mr Ault said the total price had been underwritten by himself. A sum of £1000 had been given by Elston Sports Association, and a similar sum by Elston Village Hall £3000 being targeted and committed to be raised by the village. He said they were asking the parish council to consider to give the other half of the total cost through a grant of £5000.

The clerk was asked to check on the situation of the lease. Coun. Ivor Walker said originally it had been restricted to 25 years because at the time of its granting an officer of Notts County Council had said the question of development on the site was not out of the question.

The Rev Elizabeth Murray asked for confirmation that local resident Mr David Sankey who was dealing with the matter of required corrections to name spelling on the village war memorial was not working on behalf of the parish council. That confirmation was affirmed.

The meeting was told that planning permission had been granted for proposals to improve and erect an extension to the village almshouses. The scheme would cost £70,000. A sum of £30,000 was being made available by the Trustees and the remainder would be raised by an interest free loan.

5. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Coun. Saddington has given apologies, saying she had a Notts County Council event as its chairman to attend. Coun. Saddington has confirmed she had put forward Brecks Lane to be considered for resurfacing. She had also asked for Church Lane to be resurfaced and she believed this has been included in a programme.

Coun. Walker said the District Council were busily engaged with the district and parish elections on May 2.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

NALC would be holding a training forum this summer and also a new councillor training session. The council would make the events known to any new member after the election on May 2.

P M Winter gave grass cutting charges for the coming year. They showed a two per cent increase on existing figures and members agreed to accept them for the coming year.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

APPLICATIONS

T1 willow- remove due to oversized for garden casting shadows and overhanging boundaries. Replacement tree to be planted. Elm Cottage Low Street Elston, Ref. No: 19/00489/TWCA No objection

Change of use from domestic garage to enable the operation of a business for the production and storage of cured meat products Elm Cottage Low Street 19/00288/FUL | Object. Concerns were expressed on traffic grounds and the possible impact of a business being established in a confined area and goods vehicles using the drive access to the property. The possibility of a problem caused by smells was a strong concern.

Change of use of the site to Tractor/Mower machinery repair commercial use, i of storage building in connection with the commercial use of the site and formation of new vehicular access from Fosse Road plus retrospective permission for the installation of hard surfacing. 19/00231/ful. Elston Lodge Farm Lodge Lane. No objection

DECISIONS FROM NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

18/02227/ful. Change of use of agricultural barns and land to Tractor/Mower machinery equipment repair and storage, Elston Lodge Farm, Lodge Lane. Approve.

8. UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Reference was made by the chairman on the position involving responsibilities of Housing Associations, saying they do not seem to respond effectively to issues raised.

9. PLAYING FIELD

No reports were raised

10. VILLAGE HALL

The chairman reported on a meeting that had been held to discuss the ongoing matter of the land and Church Lane leading to the village shop, village hall, playing field, church and the school. The council solicitors were seeking Statements of Truth in regard to its use from those who benefit from it. Local resident Mr Bertie Pinchera had submitted such a statement to the solicitor, Larken and Co. of Newark. The chairman said he would progress the matter through the others involved.

11. CHEQUERS INN, COMMUNITY ASSET

The question of parish council funding for the development of the former public house into a community centre through the Trustees of the village hall was discussed. It was understood the property was on the market for sale at £350,000.

The clerk said NALC had informed them that a parish council were not able to run a business without holding the Power off Competence. He was seeking comment from them in regard to a press report the chairman had given him of a council elsewhere in the country running its village pub.

Coun. Archer pointed out to the meeting that the village group seeking to initially purchase the premises had only been able to raise cash promises of £90,000.

The meeting was reminded the initial application by the public house proprietors for a change of use of the premises to residential had been turned down by Newark and Sherwood district council.

12. DEFIBRILLATOR

All was working well and the unit was in place in the village hall. The item would be taken off the agenda.

13. ENVIRONMENT –

The question of use by dogs on the playing field and the sports field was discussed, A proposition by Coun. Archer seconded by Coun. Key that all dogs on the two fields must be kept on a lead was defeated 3-2 in a vote.

14. FINANCE

Authorisation of payment of accounts

15. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

The Parish council elections is on May 2. Nomination packs are available from the clerk or the Newark and Sherwood Office. Nomination forms have to be submitted by hand to Newark 4pm on April 3.

16. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING MAY 9, 2019

Standing orders, and financial regulations have been updated and will be circulated to members at the annual meeting on May 9.