

ELSTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
Held in Elston Village Hall
Thursday 9th May 2019, at 7.15pm**

**Present: Cllrs. Bertie Pinchera (Chairman), Peter Clark, Mathew Dyer,
Michael Key, Jim Archer, Liz Murray, Andy Biddlecombe**

Also present Clerk: Mike Elliott, and Newark and Sherwood Councillor - Ivor Walker and nine residents.

1] ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2019-2020

Cllr. Bertie Pinchera was elected.

The new chairman moved a vote of thanks to Cllr. Clark for his work and leadership of the council during his term office.

2] ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2019-2020

Cllr. Peter Clark was elected.

3] APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE There were none**4] MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON MARCH 14, 2019** were approved as circulated and signed by the Chairman**5] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were none**6] PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The question of a change needed in the spelling of two of the names on the 1914-18 war memorial sited in the porch of All Saints Church was raised. Any change would need a faculty approved by Southwell Diocese and a decision on a request made to them by Mr. David Sankey and Cllr. Peter Clark for this change was awaited. The chairman said nothing further could be done currently until that was made. The meeting was made aware there were differing points of view on the position, specifically which organisation had authority to act, whether it should, and how it wished to act. A letter of objection to correcting the memorial from Mr. Richard Books was read as was one from Mr. Sankey in favour of correction. The Parochial Church Council had deliberated on the matter and agreed not to change the existing memorial but erect a Centenary Plaque acknowledging the errors

The meeting was told of an offer to the council by the Elston Community Transport group to take over the running of the village community bus. It was agreed the item be put on the agenda for the next meeting. The chairman stated information on costs etc. would be needed before any decisions could be taken.

The order of the agenda was changed by the Chairman to bring forward

21] PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND COUNCIL VACANCIES

The clerk reported there had been six nominations for the seven places on the council for the election that had been due to take place on May 2, and as a result they were returned unopposed. The clerk reported since the unopposed elected list had been published Mrs. Lisa Smith had withdrawn her name and as a result there were two vacancies.

The meeting unanimously approved the co-option of the Rev Liz Murray and Mr Matthew Dyer to bring the number up to the required figure of seven

7] REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Cllr. Walker, congratulated on being returned as a member at the District council, said the newly elected council had yet to meet. He was also congratulated on his attendance at the parish meeting held prior to the council, that being his 50th consecutive parish meeting

8 CORRESPONDENCE

The council approved an on-going payment of an account to Quickline who have taken over the firm JCHS who previous provided the necessary service for the internet for the village hall. The current charge is £11 99p per month, but an increase is expected in six months.

Via / Notts County Council wrote in regard of public paths on arable land being obstructed by overgrowth of crops etc and asked parish councillors to report such instances to them.

A letter was received from 75VE Day which highlighted events planned for the Weekend of May 8-10th 2020 to mark the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the announcement by Winston Churchill at 3pm on May 8 of the ending of WW2.

**9] PLANNING APPLICATIONS
APPLICATIONS**

19/00685/Ful. The Chequers, change of use to form residential and ancillary workspace accommodation to be combined with existing first floor residential accommodation. **Object**

DECISIONS FROM NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

19/00288/Ful. Martin Miller, Elm Cottage, Low Street. Change of use from domestic garage to enable the operation of a business for the production and storage of cured meat products.

Permitted. Parish Council had objected to this application

10] UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The vice chairman commented on dog signs he had obtained and would be making arrangements for making use of them in the village.

11] ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERS

The chairman tabled a proposal on Roles and Responsibilities of Elston Parish Councillors in which he said a number of Parish Councils believe it helpful to allocate specific areas of responsibilities to their Councillors finding it builds knowledge and expertise and helps facilitate speedy and informed decision making by Council and he was asking members to consider in which areas they had a particular interest. His proposal was for the council to consider adopting such an arrangement. He stressed it was not the intention to delegate decision making authority to one or more Councillors, the matters that are rightly the responsibility of the full Council. The clerk said the council could not delegate any matter to a single councillor. Members were asked to consider their interests and the matter would be an agenda item on the next ordinary meeting on 11th July.

12] VILLAGE WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS

A paper had been tabled by the chairman on the subject of a village Website and Communications in general, pointing out that currently methods of Parish/Village communication were limited to the village notice board, a web link hosted by N&S District Council which carries limited information and attendance at Council Meetings which is usually sparsely attended adding that increasingly parish councils are adopting and paying directly for a website with a variety of features covering all aspects of the Parish business.

He said the Clerk has experience of Parishes where he is the Clerk that have websites and for this the clerk said they were extremely useful for displaying the information that was required under the new Transparency Act.

The meeting approved the move to have a website for the parish and to contact Grasshopper websites of East Leake to ask them to establish a site for Elston at a set up cost of £450 and a charge of £15 a month for maintenance

13] SPORTS FIELD

The meeting agreed that the clerk should progress the matter of the gifting or extended lease for the land with Notts County Council after agreeing in principle to the development of the area for organised sports.

14] VILLAGE HALL and PLAY EQUIPMENT REPAIR

The meeting agreed to accept a quotation of £526 from Playdale for repairs and new items for existing play equipment on the village and adjacent to the village hall.
The need to obtain Statements of Truth from the village hall, the village shop, the church and the village school was raised and the matter was to be progressed.

15] CHEQUERS/ PLANNING / PC PROSPECTIVE

The meeting agreed to investigate the position of the parish council buying the currently closed Chequers public house. Cllr. Dyer would work with the chairman and the clerk on the matter. A letter objecting to the application would be sent to the Planning Department (*sent 14th May 2019*)

16] CHURCH / GRAVEYARD MOWING

The council agreed to continue funding the cost of mowing the churchyard grass in the current financial year.

17] WAR MEMORIAL CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATE /RICHARD BROOKS LETTER

The council agreed there was no action to be taken under the Southwell Diocese had returned a decision on whether the existing memorial could/should be altered to correct two spelling mistakes. Subsequently, a special meeting of the PC has been agreed for the 18th June 2019 to debate the issue and resolve the position of the Parish Council

18] DEFIBRILLATOR – WEB NOS REPORTS / VILLAGE SHOP MEMBERS

The matter was to be raised at the next meeting.

19] ENVIRONMENT

19.1 The clerk was to progress the replacement of the direction sign on the side of the road leading into the village and which is currently damaged.

19.2 Action to inspect a Chestnut Tree on Pinfold Lane was agreed after it was suggested it may be damaged. The clerk was asked to arrange for a qualified report.

20] FINANCE

20.1 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS were accepted as presented and approved

20.2 TO AUTHORISE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AUDIT AND ACCOUNT REGULATIONS 2015) The council approved the annual Governance Statement as signed by the internal auditor David Dixon.

20.3 TO AUTHORISE AND APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR 2017-8 The accounts for 2018-19 which

had been signed off by the internal auditor and presented to members by the clerk, was approved

20.4 The clerk reported the balance owed by the council on the public works loan for the village hall was currently is £40,763.

22] ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING JULY 11, 2019

Councillor lead responsibilities

Public Question Time – proposal

- (a) Community Transport - proposal
- (b) The Chequers public house - update
- (c) Elston Parish website - update
- (d) Village Hall Trustee appointments
- (e) Village Hall and Church Lane Registration- update

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.35pm.