



ELSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Est: 1894



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING on
THURSDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2019
Held at 7.00pm at the VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs Bertie Pinchera (in the Chair), Peter Clark, Mathew Dyer, Michael Key, Rev Liz Murray

In Attendance: Lynda Ogilvie (Locum Clerk), Cllr I Walker (NSDC) and 10 members of the public

Before opening the meeting, Chairman invited Cllr the Rev E Murray to say a few words about Cllr Jim Archer who had passed away during the week. Cllr Murray gave details of Cllr Archer's funeral arrangements, and said that Jim had served his community well, and his wisdom and sense of humour would be greatly missed. Council and residents present observed a minute's silence in his memory.

Locum Clerk will notify Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) of the Casual Vacancy following Cllr Archer's death.

1. Proposal to appoint a Locum Clerk

Council approved the appointment of Mrs Lynda Ogilvie as Locum Clerk. Proposed Cllr Murray, seconded Cllr Key, all in favour.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Biddlecombe was not present.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 22nd October 2019 including Notes of Matters Discussed in the Closed Session

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2019 were approved as a correct record, and signed. Proposed Cllr Key, seconded Cllr Dyer and all in favour.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

5. Report of the District and County Council Members

Cllr Ivor Walker reported that a planning application had been received by NSDC for the demolition of garages, and the development of three bungalows on Winston Drive – this will be considered under Agenda Item 11.

Cllr Saddington was unable to attend the meeting, and had sent apologies.

6. Update on the Chequers Inn Progress

Cllr Dyer reported on the latest developments with regard to the purchase of the Chequers Inn. An offer had been made to the owner, which reflected the significant repairs and maintenance which would need to be costed in, but this offer was rejected. The owner came back with another asking price, but this was still considered too high. Ultimately there is the possibility of considering if a compulsory purchase order could be obtained, and this will be looked at if no agreement can be reached with the vendor. A further update will be made at the December meeting. Cllr Dyer stressed that the process would take time.

7. Elston Community Led Plan Proposal

Elston's current plan is now 15 years old, and needs updating or possibly re-writing. There would be a cost to this, possibly as much as £5000 but there are grants which might be available. There would be a need to consult the village, via a questionnaire. Members felt that it would be helpful to have the plan updated, and a village questionnaire would give the Council direction. Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) are experienced in supporting communities in development parish plans, and could be invited to assist in the process.

Council approved a proposal to take this forward in the New Year, proposed Cllr Murray, seconded Cllr Key, and all in favour.

8. Elston Sports Field Developments

Council members had received a comprehensive report from a resident which gave background to the sports field and outlined proposals to improve facilities. Members noted the following:

- It is unlikely that the field will ever generate significant income
- Costs to undertake the proposals outlined in the report would be high, and grant funding cannot be guaranteed
- Notts County Council are unlikely to be prepared to sell the field to the parish council, but may be willing to extend the lease (which currently has 23 years remaining)
- With appropriate funding the field could be used for a variety of activities, not just football

After listening to comments made by members of the public present, Council approved proposal to move forward with improving facilities on the field. Proposed Cllr Clark, seconded Cllr Pinchera, and all in favour.

9. Public Question Time

A resident gave her views on Planning Application 19/00045/DEC Erection of 1 Affordable dwelling on Land adjacent to Tu Pare, which is now the subject of Appeal. She was against the development because of encroachment in the green spaces of the village, and also the possibility that it would set a precedent for further development in the area.

10. Correspondence

An email had been received from a resident in support of developing the sports field, and providing better facilities.

11. Planning Applications

a. Applications b. Decisions from Newark and Sherwood District Council

Planning application 19/01948/FUL Demolition of existing garaged and development of three 1-bed bungalows on Winston Drive

Council supported this application, proposed Cllr Clark, all in favour.

19/00045/DEC Erection on one affordable dwelling on Land Adjacent to Tu Pare, Low Street, Elston. This has now gone to appeal. Council does not appear to have received notification of the Appeal so no dates are to hand. Locum Clerk to check if there is still time to comment.

12. Progress Reports on Parish Council Matters

a. Village Website

Chairman reported that this is now substantially completed, and should be up and running by Christmas. Cllr Murray has volunteered to edit the website, and will report back on its operation and whether additional support is needed.

b. Gateway Village Signs

This process is now complete. The manufacturer is currently very busy so there may be a delay in completion, but it is hoped that they will be ready for installation in the New Year. Net cost to the council will be £2470 which is well below the sum allocated.

Chairman also mentioned that the sign outside the village hall was in need for maintenance work, which a resident had offered to take on. However, he cannot get the sign down. Cllr Clark agreed to see if he could do this.

c. Village Hall and Church Lane Registration

Cllr Murray gave members an update on information which had been established from Church records regarding ownership of the car park and the lane. It would now be up to solicitors to consider what can be registered by whom.

d. **Playground Gate**

Former Clerk, Mike Elliott, has undertaken to order a new gate, but there is a delay with the manufacturer. He will pursue this.

There is also some rubber reinforcing which is required, and will be done at an appropriate time.

e. **VE Day Preparation**

Cllr Murray has been discussing this with Cllr Biddlecombe, and ideas are being formulated. These include a tea party, possibly a scarecrow competition with an appropriate theme, and inviting reminiscences from those who recall the period.

As the village hall has been booked for the whole day, it would be possible to arrange an event in the evening, with music and songs from the time. Cllr Murray will provide further information as the ideas for the event become clearer.

13. Environment - Top Street Traffic, Footpaths, Free Trees

Top Street traffic remains a problem. An email has been received from a representative of VIA which referred to the fact that Nottinghamshire County Council does not put 20 mph speed restrictions in place other than around schools. He also referred to speed flow data from a 2015 Traffic Survey which suggested that the speed recorded at that time was below what would be needed to introduce traffic calming measures.

Council felt that this information was out of date, and Chairman undertook to follow this up with NCC and ask for their Traffic Survey to be updated. He will also discuss any further options available.

Footpaths – there are proposals from the Ramblers Association to reinstate several footpaths in the village. In some cases these ancient footpaths will need to be rerouted, and this will take time.

Chairman reported that he had enquired about putting fixed obstacles at the entrance to Carrgate Lane, which is a bridleway. He had been advised that it would be possible to erect concrete blocks provided they are 5 feet apart, but if objections are received they would have to be removed.

Free Trees – Mountain Ash (Rowan) and Crab trees are available from NCC to residents and the parish council. The parish council could obtain up to 50 trees, but does not own any land on which to establish them.

Cllr Murray will insert an item in Octave to ask residents who might wish to have a tree to come forward.

14. Finance – Authorisation of Payment of Accounts

Council approved Payment Sheet No 5 – November 2019 – attached.

Chairman also reminded members that the Council would need to consider its budget for 2020-21 so that it could be ready to request the required precept by February 2019.

Locum Clerk will circulate the budget prepared for the current financial year for reference.

15. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – 10th December 2019

- Budget
- Diary Dates

16. To consider resolving that under section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the basis it would likely disclose exempt information

Members approved excluding press and public for the following items:

- a. Confidential Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2019 – approved as circulated.
- b. The Chequers Inn

A local resident has agreed to negotiate with the vendor to try to break the current impasse on price, but it was necessary to establish a top price which members felt the council could accept. Members discussed options, and agreed an upper limit which is noted on a separate confidential report.

- c. Recruitment of a new Clerk

Locum Clerk gave some information on the process and undertook to liaise with Cllr Murray on the next steps.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday, 10 December 2019

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