



# ELSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Est: 1894



## MINUTES OF MEETING held on TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019

### 7.00pm at the VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Cllrs Bertie Pinchera (in the Chair), Peter Clark, Michael Key, Rev Liz Murray and Andy Biddlecombe

**In Attendance:** Lynda Ogilvie (Acting Clerk), Cllr Sue Saddington (NCC) *part*

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Matt Dyer sent apologies, which were accepted.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 including Notes of Matters Discussed in the Closed Session**

These minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest

**4. Report of the District and County Council Members**

At this time, neither District nor County Council members were present, so this item was deferred to later in the proceedings, when Cllr Saddington had arrived.

**5. Update on the Chequers Inn**

There was no further information on this item. Members reiterated the council's position that it would not overpay for this business, and that they felt this reflected the wishes of residents.

**6. Update on the Parish Community Led Plan**

Chairman reminded members that the Council had agreed in principle to update the parish plan which is now 15 years old. He, together with Acting Clerk and one resident, had met with members of RCAN to discuss the process of updating the parish plan. It was agreed that the Council will take the full service from RCAN at an estimated cost £5000. Grant funding will be sought to offset this cost, and RCAN will oversee funding applications. RCAN stressed that this must be a community-led parish plan, and the first task will be to establish a steering group of volunteers to start the process of engaging with all residents. There are already 4 or 5 people who have expressed an interest in getting involved.

**7. Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present.

**8. Correspondence**

i) Village Green: dogs on the Green. Complaint from resident

Chairman has received verbal complaint from resident regarding dogs exercising on the village green. The resident stated that on the Elston pages of the NSDC website there is information stating that dogs are not allowed on the village green, but there are no signs anywhere.

Acting Clerk will contact NSDC to ask if they have signs which could be made available.

A second resident has contacted the Chairman to say that she has difficulty in getting a double buggy through bollards at the bottom of the park. There would appear to be no need for these bollards and members agreed to seek their removal. Acting Clerk to investigate whether this can be done by Elston PC, or if it should be NCC which undertakes this work.

## 9. Planning Applications

a. Applications: 19/02127/FUL The Forge, Low Street, Elston

Members agreed to support this application, 4 in favour, 1 abstention

b. Appeals

i) 19/00063/DEC Shetlands, Old Chapel Lane, Elston. Rendering  
Noted.

ii) 19/00059/DEC Elston Lodge Farm, Lodge Lane. Change of use  
Noted

c. Decisions from Newark and Sherwood District Council

i) 19/02047/TWCA White House, Elston. Application permitted.

For information only

ii) 19/02029/TWCA. The Poplars, Low Street, Elston. Application permitted.

For information only.

d. Any other planning matters to report

There were no further planning matters.

## 10. Progress Reports on Parish Council Matters

a. Village Website and Facebook pages

It was agreed that the village website could now be launched.

Chairman explained the two Facebook pages which he had established which it is hoped will assist in engaging with younger people in the village. Approximately 60 people have visited the Facebook pages so far.

b. Village Hall and Church Lane Registration

Work on this is ongoing.

c. Playground Gate

The gate has been received, and awaits installation. Cllr Clark to action.

d. VE Day Preparation

This will be considered in detail in the New Year.

## 11. Environment - Top Street Traffic - Recent accident at corner of Top Street and Pinfold Lane

A resident had reported that a car had hit her fence at the corner of Top Street and Pinfold Lane. This has been reported to the police, and is subject to ongoing discussions with VIA to try to get speed reducing measures introduced. Chairman has requested that up to date traffic measurements be undertaken, and a request has been made for the introduction of a 20-mph statutory speed restriction to be instated and a weight restriction on HGV's. Chairman has been told that this would only be paced near a school entrance, and is currently advisory only. Recordings will be taken at points along Top Street.

## 12. Finance – Authorisation of Payment of Accounts

Payments sheet No 6 was approved for payment.

## 13. Governance – Draft Standing Orders for Adoption

Deferred to next meeting.

(At this point, Cllr Saddington arrived)

#### 4) Report of the District and County Council members resumed

Cllr Saddington confirmed that a 20-mph speed limit, in Nottinghamshire, was only placed near school entrances, and was advisory only.

Members discussed the request made to VIA for a footpath from the A46 into the village, which is unlit and potentially dangerous. The estimated cost is estimated to be over £500,000, and it is unlikely that this can be funded. Cllr Saddington suggested that the Council could approach the County Council LIS team to investigate whether it would be possible to obtain a LIS grant to fund the footpath in three sections over three years.

Cllr Saddington stressed how important it is for the Parish Council to comment on planning applications when they are received. Recent changes in the Planning Committee procedures mean that even if the PC requests that an application go before committee, this may not always happen. She also suggested that a site visit could be useful

#### 14. Diary Dates 2020

Suggested meeting dates had been circulated, and these were approved. Acting Clerk to inform village hall lettings officer.

Chairman explained that he envisaged the parish meeting scheduled for May to be expanded to include representatives of the various groups and societies in the village, and will also be used to introduce and promote the parish Community plan process.

A second parish meeting is proposed in September, which again will be used to link to the parish plan. Chairman hoped that the plan may be ready to be presented to the community at that time, but this will be a very tight timescale.

#### 15. 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 resolved to exclude press and public for the following items:

a. Confidential Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
Already approved.

b. The Chequers Inn  
No further information available about possible purchase.  
It was agreed that advice will be sought from the Legal Team at the National Association of Local Councils as to the powers which a parish council requires to purchase a business such as the pub. Acting Clerk will draft a suitable letter for approval.

c. Initial view of Budget 2020/21  
Members discussed the draft budget which Chairman had circulated. There are some unknown factors relating to the potential position at the year end, but the crucial decision remains budgeting for the potential loan to purchase The Chequers and also to provide additional facilities at the sports field. Chairman estimates that this will require an additional £17,000 for the year 2020/21, and £21,000 for 201/22, although this will be offset by rental income from the pub. This will more than double the current precept.

Members will consider the budget with a view to agreeing it at January meeting. NSDC has sent a precept request to be returned to them by 31 January 2020.

d. Recruitment of a new Clerk  
A local Clerk has expressed an interest in the role, and has had an initial chat with Chairman. It was agreed that Cllr Murray and Chairman will meet with her in the New Year and discuss the role more formally.

Chairman said that he had ascertained that the PC was not obliged to advertise the position, so if this candidate fitted the bill, they could appoint her quickly.

The meeting closed at 10.25 pm.

**Next meeting: Thursday, 16 January 2020**

Agenda items to include:

- Dogs on Village Green and suitable signage
- Standing Orders
- Budget and Precept 2020/21
- Sports Field and The Chequers

Signed as a correct record:

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Date .....

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