



ELSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Est: 1894



MINUTES OF MEETING held on THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 2020

7.00 pm at the VILLAGE HALL

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

In Attendance: Lynda Ogilvie (Acting Clerk) Cllr Ivor Walker (NSDC), Cllr Sue Saddington (NCC) PC Adam Pace, and 7 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

There were none.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 10 December 2019

With correction of a typographical error in item 11. Line 6, ('paced' changed to 'placed') the minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed (Proposed Cllr Clark, seconded Cllr Biddlecombe, all in favour)

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none

4. Report of the District and County Council Members

Cllr Ivor Walker had no matters to report.

Cllr Saddington informed members that she would be offering some financial support (generally up to £200 per parish) towards VE celebration events but needs to have a request for this assistance by 31 January. She also needs bank details to accompany the request. She also noted that the current round of applications for LIS funding closes on 28 February. It was also noted that an area of footpath between the Village Green and Low Street (aka. Big Scutchel) which needs repair, has been reported and action is in hand.

5. Update on the Chequers Inn

Cllr Dyer reported that there was no further progress, and that the next stage to be considered is a compulsory purchase order, and this will now be progressed

6. Update on Sports Field

A resident reported that little had happened since the last meeting. He had been in contact with the Football Association about their support, and was waiting for the FA to get back to him. He intends to put a business plan together. The priority for 2020 is to get the pitch to a playable state for the U16s, who will not need changing facilities. It is hoped that better facilities can be developed in 2021, and for this match funding would be required, possibly up to £20,000. He will put some information together for the proposed public meeting on 17 March in connection with the Parish plan. Council confirmed their upper limit was £50,000

7. Update on the Parish Community Led Plan

A resident reported that she and 6 other residents had met with Jenny Kirkwood of RCAN on 15 January. This had been a productive meeting, and agreement was reached to organise a public meeting on 17 March, in the village hall, to engage with the community, and inform people of what was happening and how they could get involved.

8. Public Question Time

Village Police Officer Pace was invited to address the meeting. He has spent some time looking around the village, and is aware of traffic issues. These are typical of a village which was not designed for current road traffic usage, and solutions are difficult to find. He explained the position regarding 20 mph limits – these, when introduced, are usually guidance only. In areas where 20 mph restrictions are fully enforceable, they must be accompanied by traffic calming measures such as road humps or narrowing of the road. PC Pace did confirm that a weight limit was expected to be put in place, but he did not know the time scale for this.

PC Pace said that despite being assigned to Elston only a few weeks' ago, he was to be re-deployed to central Nottingham in February. He assured the meeting that he would remain available to be contacted, and would continue to help where he could in the future. Council thanked him for his efforts on Elston's behalf

9. Casual Vacancy

Members agreed to move this item to the Confidential section of the meeting.

10. Correspondence

The only item of correspondence was further emails from the person who had reported the problems of bollards which did not permit the passage of double buggies.

11. Planning Applications

a. Applications:

20/00030/FUL Removal of hedgerow and installation of Agricultural gate of approx. 5 Metres, Brecks Lane.

Support but request that consideration be given to establishing a section of sealed driveway under the gate in order to prevent excessive mud being taken onto the highway.

20/00029/TWCA Tree works at Elston Hall, Top Street, Elston - Noted

b. Appeals

None received

c. Decisions from Newark and Sherwood District Council

None received.

d. Any other planning matters to report

No further matters to report.

12. Progress Reports on Parish Council Matters

a. Village Website and Facebook pages

These are now live and receiving a growing number of visits from residents

b. Village Hall and Church Lane Registration

All documents are now with the solicitors

c. Dog signs and footpaths

Clerk reported that she had been in contact with NSDC and was promised a response from the Council, but nothing has been received yet.

Members discussed whether restricting access to dogs on the village green was the right approach, and how the information on Elston's web pages on the NSDC website had been approved. It was pointed out that the original decision to restrict dogs was to protect children playing on the green. Agreed that this should be discussed again at the next meeting

d. Removal of bollards

VIA has said that they would be content for the bollards to be removed, and either Elston PC could arrange for it to be done, or VIA would undertake the work when it could be scheduled. After discussion about the options, members agreed to ask VIA to undertake the work, proposed Cllr Murray, seconded Cllr Clark and agreed unanimously.

- e. Playground Gate
Purchased and in hand, but recent weather conditions have delayed its installation.
- f. VE Day Preparation
Cllr Murray had previously circulated an outline of events proposed over the VE weekend. The main events were centred on the Saturday and would conclude with a disco and hog roast in the evening. It is expected that the only costs will be for the disco and the hog roast, and these will be offset by a small charge for the hog roast, and support from Cllr Saddington. Further details will be reported as the events are firmed up.

13. Environment - Top Street Traffic

This matter had been discussed earlier with PC Pace

14. Finance – Authorisation of Payment of Accounts

Payment sheet No 7 was approved, and signed.

15. Governance – Draft Standing Orders for Adoption

Members approved draft Standing Orders, previously circulated.

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 resolved to exclude press and public for the following items:

- a. Confidential Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2019
Already approved.
- b. The Chequers Inn
Members approved a proposal by Cllr Clark, seconded by Cllr Biddlecombe, to investigate the compulsory purchase of The Chequers pub, 5 in favour, 1 against. It was noted that some residents had expressed the view that they did not wish the pub to reopen because of local problems with traffic.
- c. Budget 2020/21.
Members discussed the proposed budget for 2020-21 in detail. As there are still some uncertainties about some of the figures, an extra meeting was agreed for Friday, 24 January at 7.00 at the Church, the only Agenda item will be the budget, and Precept.
- d. Recruitment of a new Clerk
The applicant for the position of Clerk to Elston Council was present, and answered some questions from Councillors. She confirmed she was available and remained interested in the position She then left, and members approved her appointment. An offer would be made to her for 8 hours per week, and a contract will be finalised and presented to her. A starting salary was agreed, and would be reviewed in September following a probationary period. Cllr Murray undertook to speak to the applicant and make appropriate arrangements with a start date in February.

9. Casual Vacancy *continued*

Members discussed the two applications for the casual vacancy which had been received. Both applicants were considered suitable but there was only one seat available. This was put to a vote, three members voted for one candidate, and three for the second candidate therefore the Chairman used his casting vote and Sandra Wright was duly selected. Clerk will contact both candidates with this result.

There being no further business, Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm, and thanked members for their attendance.

Signed as a correct record

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Chairman

Date