



ELSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Est: 1894



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2020 VILLAGE HALL, ELSTON 7.00 PM

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

In Attendance: Lynda Ogilvie (Acting Clerk), Cllr Sue Saddington (NCC) *part*, Cllr Keith Walker and 26 members of the public

Chairman opened the meeting with introductions of Councillors to the members of the public present, and confirmed that the potential new owner of The Chequers Inn would attend the meeting at 8.00 to explain his plans for the pub, and answer any questions.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr Matt Dyer were received and accepted.
Apologies from Cllr Ivor Walker were noted.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2020

These were approved as correct record and signed.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

4. Report of District and County Councillors

As Cllr Ivor Walker was not present, there was no NSDC report.

Cllr Saddington said that she had arranged for £200 to be paid to the Parish Council as a contribution to the VE Day Celebrations. Cllr Saddington was asked about resurfacing to Pinfold Lane, which she confirmed had been requested but she has not yet been advised if it will be in this year's works programme. It was noted that drainage on the sports field was still problematic, and there would be a need to install services to the field if development takes place. It would be sensible to tie this in with the resurfacing work.

5. Update on Chequers Inn

This item was deferred until Mr R Berridge had arrived.

6. Update on Sports Field

The local football club is in the process of forming a formal Sports Association. It is hoped that this will assist in obtaining grants and be tax efficient. It was noted that the drainage to the field is still causing difficulty, and this is because the dyke needs cleaning – cost likely to be several hundred pounds which the users of the field will cover. There is also suspicion that a culvert under the road may be damaged. VIA have been contacted about this.

The need for the coming year is for the field to be sprayed against weeds, aerated, and re-seeded. The cost for this is anticipated to be £2,500-£3,000 and may be an annual requirement.. Chairman said that the parish council could fund, or assist in funding, this work, but would need a clear and properly costed plan, and some clarity on the medium term plan for the field as any development will need approval.

7. Update on the Parish Community Led Plan

Cllr Wright reported that the first meeting of the steering group has taken place, and that the planned village meeting on 17 March will be an opportunity to explain the process, and engage with residents. She stressed that this steering group was not a closed group, and anyone who was interested in the plan could and should become involved.

8. Public Question Time

A resident asked about progress re speeding along Top Street. Chairman reported that the Parish Council awaited final confirmation of the introduction of a weight restriction, but the traffic survey which had been requested was expected to be carried out towards the end of February. This may help to trying to get a lower speed restriction in place, but it was accepted that this was not going to be straightforward.

It was reported that part of the fence surrounding electricity sub-station had collapsed into the sports field – Clerk will contact Western Power to report this.

9. Correspondence

- a) Letter from NSDC informing that they are carrying out a survey of open spaces in the district and will be visiting all parishes to map open spaces. In addition, they wished to be advised of allotment provision. Letter to passed to Allotment Association for their input.
- b) Letter from Newark First Aiders advising that they are going to provide free first aid sessions, and interested persons should contact them. Cllr Wright to investigate further.
- c) Seminar to be hosted by Geldards solicitors on 4 March providing advice on how to deal with fly tipping and squatters, a growing problem especially in rural areas.
- d) Flood Warden training – Cllr Biddlecombe to investigate further
- e) Nottinghamshire Waste Local Plan Issues and Options – notification of public consultation.

10. Planning Applications

- a) Applications – none registered.
- b) Appeals
 - Land Adjacent to Tu Pare, Low Street, Elston, 19/00045/DEC : Appeal Dismissed – Noted.
 - Shetlands, Old Chapel Lane Elston. 19/00063/DEC : Appeal Allowed – Noted
- c) Decisions from Newark and Sherwood District Council – there were none.
- d) Any other planning matters to report – there were none.

11. Environment

- a) Top Street Traffic – already covered during Agenda Item 8.
- b) Bollards – these have now been removed and the path made good
- c) Village Green – restrictions on dogs, and appropriate signs
The Village Hall Management Committee has confirmed that its official policy is that dogs are allowed onto the field if they are on a lead. They ask that the Parish Council provide appropriate signage.
- d) Dog bins – sports field and village hall green
Members discussed whether to permit dogs to use the sports field, and under what conditions. Varying views were expressed, and it was agreed that this would be deferred to the next meeting, when a decision on this and also signage for both the village green and sports field would be considered.

It was noted that there is a bin for the disposal of dog excrement on the sports field, but there may be a need for additional bins in the parish.

5. Update on The Chequers Inn *continued*

This item, having been deferred, was re-opened upon the arrival of Mr Richard Berridge, prospective new owner of The Chequers Inn.

At this point Chairman suspended the meeting and Mr Berridge was invited to speak to the Council and residents present about his purchase of The Chequers Inn and his proposals for it.

Chairman gave background to the last few years during which the pub had been closed, and stated that the fervent hope of the village is that it would be re-opened as a public house, as it has been for more than 200 years.

Mr Berridge gave details of his current businesses, which include another village pub in addition to other related businesses. He confirmed that it was his intention to re-open The Chequers as a pub as soon as practical. This was subject to the removal of the registration of the pub as an Asset of Community Value and there are time constraints on this.

Mr Berridge answered various questions from councillors and residents. All present expressed their support wished him every success in his venture.

The meeting was reconvened.

Chairman proposed that the Council does not trigger the moratorium on the Asset of Community Value, and all councillors voted in favour. Clerk will advise NSDC of Council decision.

11 .Environment *continued*

- e) Playground gate
This has now been installed.

f) Pollarding of tree on village hall green

Members discussed this with regard to ownership and responsibilities. It is not clear if this work needs to be undertaken, and who should do it. Further clarification is required, but no action to be taken until professional advice is obtained. Cllr Murray agreed to make some informal enquiries. Approval for any tree work must be obtained from NSDC Planning.

It was reported that water is coming through the brick wall at property opposite the Church. Chairman confirmed that the Trustees of Ann Darwin Cottages were aware of this, and he understands that Severn Trent have been to investigate. It is being monitored closely and does appear to be linked to the recent heavy rainfall.

12. Finance – Authorisation of Payment of Accounts

Payment schedule 8 was approved and signed.

13. Recruitment of New Clerk

Cllr Murray informed members that the person who had attended the last meeting as prospective clerk had decided that she would not have time to take on the role, as she anticipates her current job to become more time consuming in the near future.

However, a person currently living in Newark had expressed interest. It was suggested that she, Chairman and Lynda Ogilvie meet with him to discuss the role further. He could then be invited to attend the next meeting to meet other councillors. Members approved this course of action.

There being no further business, Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm

Signed as a Correct Record

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Chairman

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Date