



ELSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Est: 1894



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2020

At Elston Village Hall, commencing 7.00 pm

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

**In attendance: Cllr Ivor Walker, NSDC
Lynda Ogilvie, Locum Clerk
6 members of the public**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Andy Biddlecombe.
Apologies were also noted from District Councillors Neil Mison and Keith Walker, and County Councillor Sue Saddington.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 13 February 2020

These 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

Cllr Walker reported that Trent Valley Internal Drainage, which covers over 44,000 hectares, had experienced a very difficult period during the recent wet weather. He also said that NSDC have plans for major new projects, including a new swimming facility at the Dukeries, improvements to Southwell Leisure Centre, a new homeless shelter for Newark, and contributions to the upgrading of village greens in its area.

The £25 million allocation from central government would not now include Farndon. Projects will have to show need.

5. Proposal to improve the playing surface on the Sports Field

Chairman referred to the background note which had been previously circulated.

A resident reported that a member of the FA had been to inspect the pitch, and indicated that there is a good chance of getting some funding. There are 5 potential pitches on the field, and each would be eligible for funding. There is however a need to improve drainage, and to reseed and fertilise the pitches. Costs for these works are estimated at:

- Clearing the dyke - £1000 + VAT
- Football Pitch grass seed mixture (3x20 kg @ £95.00 including VAT) - £285
- Fertilize at end March, and again in July/August: 15 x 25kg - £27.00 including VAT - £405
- Total Cost for this work will be £1890 including VAT.

All members were in favour of supporting this project to provide proper sporting facilities for young people. Cllr Pinchera proposed, seconded by Cllr Clark, that the Council pay for the above works to be carried out. All members voted in favour.

Chairman said that he and Cllr Clark had recently met members of the newly formed Sports Association and Council should meet with them to hear of the plans they would like to put to Council for the development of the Field.

Cllr Key asked if there was an expectation that floodlights would be installed at any point – it was noted that this would be desirable long term, but that there was an awareness of the impact on local properties. However, floodlights are not currently being planned.

Chairman said that he felt that a separate meeting should be held to consider the future proposals for the field, and members agreed on the date of 11 June for such a meeting.

6. Proposal on the War Memorial within Elston All Saints Church

Under the powers conferred by Section 1 of the War Memorials (Local Authority Powers) Act 1923, as amended by Sections 133(1) and 133(2) of the Local Authority Act 1948, this council proposes that the errors on our war memorials shall be corrected.

Cllr Murray proposed (seconded Cllr Pinchera) that this motion be deferred until the outcome of the Faculty request on the same matter was known. She believed that this was imminent.

Members voted against this proposal (2 in favour, 4 against).

The original motion was then put to Council by Cllr Clark

Under the powers conferred by Section 1 of the War Memorials (Local Authority Powers) Act 1923, as amended by Sections 133(1) and 133(2) of the Local Authority Act 1948, this council proposes that the errors on our war memorials shall be corrected.

To prepare an application for submission to the Diocese/Chancellor for the faculty and assist the Clerk in liaising with contractors as may be necessary. The Faculty would request the World War 1 memorial shall be amended from 'Toulson' to read 'Towlson' and the middle initial of Joseph Wade be amended from 'W' to 'V'. and that on the World War 2 memorial the name of 'Vivian' Castle be amended to read 'Vivien'

The Parish Council will meet the costs associated with delivering this motion including, but not limited to, the application to the diocese/Chancellor for the faculty and for the corrective work to the memorial.

The council will accept grants and donations towards such costs incurred as and when they are forthcoming.

Councillor Clark to assist the incumbent Clerk of the Parish Council to prepare the application for submission to the Diocese/Chancellor for the Faculty and assist the Clerk in liaising with contractors as may be necessary.

Chairman proposed that the motion should be split so as to deal with separate clauses, individually as the motion was lengthy and detailed. However, Cllr Clark declined to accept this therefore his proposal was considered by Council as a whole.

Cllr Pinchera proposed that the original motion be amended as follows: the word 'shall' in line 3 be changed to 'should'. Proposal seconded by Cllr Murray, 3 votes in favour, 3 against, Chairman used his casting vote in favour therefore amendment was passed.

Cllr Murray suggested that a limit should be put on the financial contribution from the parish council and proposed that this should be £1500. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Dyer, 3 votes in favour, 1 against and two abstentions. Therefore, the motion was passed.

Cllr Pinchera stated that in his view the Faculty request must be returned to full Council for approval before being signed. Cllr Wright proposed this motion, seconded by Cllr Murray, 4 votes in favour, 2 against. Motion carried.

Cllr Murray requested that Cllr Clark provide information about the legal advice he had obtained in connection with this proposal, and for the Parish Council to be shown the advice received. She also asked if Cllr Clark accepted that the Diocesan Chancellor has the authority to approve any changes to the war memorial – Cllr Clark stated that he did not know the answer to this but he was firm in his belief that the Parish Council has the power to both ‘spend and amend’ on the war memorials in the Church.

The final wording of the motion reads as follows:

Under the powers conferred by Section 1 of the War Memorials (Local Authority Powers) Act 1923, as amended by Sections 133(1) and 133(2) of the Local Authority Act 1948, this council proposes that the errors on our war memorials should be corrected.

To prepare an application for submission to the Diocese/Chancellor for the faculty and assist the Clerk in liaising with contractors as may be necessary. The Faculty would request the World War 1 memorial should be amended from ‘Toulson’ to read ‘Towlson’ and the middle initial of Joseph Wade be amended from ‘W’ to ‘V’. and that on the World War 2 memorial the name of ‘Vivian’ Castle be amended to read ‘Vivien’

The Parish Council will meet the costs up to a maximum of £1500 associated with delivering this motion including, but not limited to, the application to the diocese/Chancellor for the faculty and for the corrective work to the memorial.

The council will accept grants and donations towards such costs incurred as and when they are forthcoming.

Councillor Clark to assist the incumbent Clerk of the Parish Council to prepare the application for submission to the Diocese/Chancellor for the Faculty and assist the Clerk in liaising with contractors as may be necessary.

The Faculty wording to be presented to Full Council for approval, and signed by Clerk and Chairman.

Motion passed, 4 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

7. Public Question Time

Member of the public agreed that the Chairman should not be expected to sign any document which had not been fully approved by Council. He also noted that the Diocesan Chancellor would make the decision on any changes to the War Memorial.

8. Correspondence

Emailed correspondence received via Notts ALC from an organisation called ‘Power for People’. This group ask for support for the Local Electricity Bill, which they are campaigning to become law. Members declined to support this Bill because of uncertainty of the implications for the National Grid.

9. Update on Parish Community Led Plan

Cllr Wright confirmed arrangements for the open meeting on 17 March. There is some discussion as to whether it should be a ‘village’ plan or a ‘parish’ plan, the word ‘parish’

encompassing the whole of the applicable area. Members felt it should be a ‘village’ plan.

10. Update on VE Day Celebrations

Cllr Murray circulated an outline of the events planned over the VE weekend. The main thrust of events will be on Saturday 9 May. The organisers were hoping to provide a hog roast on Saturday evening, but this is no longer available. A disco is being provided from 5.00 pm, with the first music aimed at children, and a poster is being prepared.

Consideration was being given to what food to offer, and how to ensure that this was controlled so that residents attending could all share in this. The favourite suggestion was a ration book which those wishing to attend could obtain free at the village shop, and use it to obtain food on the evening.

Cllr Murray said that £200 has already been received from Cllr Saddington's divisional fund, but that there would be additional costs and she asked if the Parish Council could offer financial support up to £500. This was proposed by Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Wright, all in favour.

Plans may need to be revised in the light of developments for the control of the Coronavirus

11. Planning Applications

- a) 20/00323/TWCA Manor Farm, Low Street, Elston NG23 5PA Removal of 2 Pine trees and 3 self-set Sycamore trees – noted, no further comment
20/00303/TWCA Elm Cottage, Elston, Newark NG23 5PA Removal of Leylandii hedge on west side of garden – noted, no further comment
20/0026/TWCA Old Church Barn, Top Street, Elston NG23 5NP Reduce height of Cotoneaster Tree, also Red Maple, reduce height – noted, no further comment
20/00416/FUL 3 Chapel Farm Close, Elston, Newark – application for single storey rear extension – members supported the proposal.
- b) Appeals
None received
- c) Decisions from Newark and Sherwood District Council
20/00030/FUL Removal of hedgerow and installation of Agricultural gate, Brecks Lane, Elston – Full Planning Permission granted, conditions include the construction of a vehicular crossing over verge of public highway.
- d) Any other planning matters to report
There were none.

12.Environment Matters

- a) Highways – Top Street/ localised flooding

Correspondence has been received from Mike Keeling, VIA in which he confirms that he has requested a traffic survey on Top Street, and hopes that this will be carried out before the end of the current school term, or at the start of the next term. The equipment will be positioned opposite Cobwebs, or Firs Barn. He will also arrange for the culvert to be cleared.

It was reported that a building on the entrance to the village from the A46 was being used for people with learning difficulties – could this help support the request for a 20-mph speed limit? Considered unlikely as the residents were adults, although it was noted that there is no footpath from the property into the village.

- b) Flood Warden

The appointment of a flood warden was discussed. It was suggested that this role could be expanded to include keeping an eye on potholes, damage to footpaths, and overgrown hedges which could be

reported to the appropriate body. It was further suggested that there should be more than one flood warden.

Cllr Clark asked that the council budget some funds for regular

maintenance of watercourses through the village. Although those with riparian rights/duties are responsible for keeping the watercourses clear this does not always happen. It was reported that Severn Trent had been approached about this in the past, but declined to help. Members felt that Severn Trent could be approached again – Clerk to action. This topic to be placed on the next Agenda.

c) Dog Restriction Policy

Members agreed that nothing can be done about this until consultations have taken place via the village plan questionnaire.

e) Tree on Village Green

Cllr Murray will get someone to inspect the tree and decide what needs to be done. There was discussion about whose responsibility any required works would be, and this will be addressed when the result on the inspection is known. There will be a cost to having the tree inspected, which the Parish Council will cover.

f) Additional item – Ownership of land currently used as car park, and access lane

Cllrs Murray and Pinchera had met with Larken’s Solicitors to discuss the registration at the land registry of the village hall, which is now being actioned. The car park area appears to be owned by the Diocesan Board of Education; a conveyance is recorded in the Church Terrier of 1935 but relevant documents are no longer available. Church Lane may not be included in this document. The Diocese and Larken’s will discuss the documentation and advise Council in due course

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

Council so resolved.

15. Recruitment of New Clerk

There are two applicants. Cllr Pinchera has produced an application form which will be sent to both to complete. Interview Panel will be Cllrs Murray and Wright, with Locum Clerk in attendance.

There being no further business, Chairman closed the meeting at 9.52 pm.

Signed as a Correct Record

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Chairman

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Date

