



ELSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Est: 1894



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
12 February 2021 commencing 7.00 pm
HELD BY ZOOM VIDEO LINK**

Present: Cllrs Bertie Pinchera, Andy Biddlecombe, Peter Clark, Michael Key, Matt Dyer

In Attendance: Cathryn Crane, Clerk, and Lynda Ogilvie, former Locum Clerk, Jim Sweeting (Elston Football Club), District Councillor Ivor Walker and County Councillor Sue Saddington.

Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and reminded all that the meeting is being recorded.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Sandra Wright & Cllr Liz Murray

2. Declarations of Interest

None to declare

3. Minutes of the Meeting held 21 January 2021

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Key and seconded by Cllr Biddlecombe.

4. Sports Field

Cllr Pinchera introduced this item which was presented to consider and resolve matters relating to the submission of the planning application and appointment of consultants to oversee the tendering process for works to be undertaken.

Cllr Pinchera noted that it is now apparent from the working group that the Council need professional support to assist with the preparation of the planning application and to help with the preparation of the tendering process which as a Council we are obliged to follow as stated in the Standing Orders.

In November 2020 the Council had already agreed to a £1500 spend to prepare for the planning application of which £369.00 is already committed. The Council are now being asked to agree more than this with the spend being brought forward.

This expenditure is budgeted in the overall scheme costs and does not result in any greater commitment by Council than originally envisaged but it has now to be pulled forward. The potential risk to Council is this is expenditure which cannot be recovered should the project fail to be approved, or the loan and grants anticipated not materialise.

It is important to note that this is a large project for Elston Parish Council and concerns were raised around the nervousness of monies that could be spent with no benefit. The budget could absorb this as the budget for example includes provision of £5,000 for the Community Plan which may again have to be postponed for a further year.

Mr J Sweeting joined the meeting at 19.15. Mr Sweeting updated the Council on why it was important to employ the architects. They would ensure that the application is managed whilst going through the assessment process and produce any of the necessary drawings and generally check that nothing is missed. This in turn would speed up the process. Mr Sweeting noted that it was important to note that this is not additional money to that already requested. The item which was the driving force behind this urgency is the units may only be available to us until the end of June.

Cllr Pinchera proposed that the working group appoint BE Designs to assist in the technical aspects relating to the planning application at a cost of £2,800 ex VAT. The Heritage Report of £700.00 was discussed. This was seconded by Cllr Clark. 4 Cllrs were in favour and 1 Cllr abstained.

Cllr Dyer proposed that the Clerk write to BE Designs to negotiate the £2,800 and discuss the proposal of working to a £1500 budget and the balance being paid on completion of the project. Cllr Clark seconded this proposal, and all were in favour.

Cllr Pinchera proposed that the Council appoint Welland Procurement, part of Melton Borough Council, to assist with the tendering and procurement process at a cost of £2,500 ex VAT. Precisely when they will be engaged in the process is to be clarified with them. This was seconded by Cllr Clark. All in favour.

Mr Sweeting asked if there was another meeting planned to seek approval. Cllr Pinchera stated that the next full Council meeting is on the 25th March 2021, but our works schedule doesn't anticipate a planning decision before 24th April. Therefore Cllr Pinchera had pencilled in another Council meeting at the end of April when further information is available allowing us to progress to the next stage. By the following meeting on the 27th May Council should have the information they need to fully commit to the project.

Cllr Pinchera reminded all that a summary of the schedule is available to view on the Excel spreadsheet that had been sent with the meeting pack v1. 12th Feb 2021. Cllr Pinchera asked that Mr Sweeting and the Clerk keep the schedule up to date and inform Council routinely on progress. Cllr Pinchera recommended that Council also familiarise themselves with the budget as this is an Elston Parish Council initiative and Council is responsible for its delivery and it is important that we are all aware of the plan.

Cllr Biddlecombe left the meeting at 20.23.

Cllr Pinchera on behalf of Council thanked all in the Working Group have been involved to date in the process up until now and especially Mr Jim Sweeting who has made great efforts to ensure the success of the project. It's a very significant undertaking which is being handled professionally.

9 . Dates of next meetings

25 March 2021 – Parish Council Meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm