



# ELSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Est: 1894



## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 1 July 2021

### MINUTES

**Present:** Cllrs E Murray (in the Chair), P Clark (*from 7.35pm*), B Pinchera, A Biddlecombe, M Key, S Wright

**In attendance:** Cllr Ivor Walker (NSDC), Cllr Sue Saddington (NCC), Lynda Ogilvie, Acting Clerk, and Penny Ballard, Clerk and 2 members of the public.

**Chair welcomed all to the meeting, and introduced Penny Ballard, who has been appointed Clerk to the Council**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2021**

These were accepted as a correct record, and signed. Proposed Cllr Key, seconded Cllr Wright, all in favour.

**4. Public Questions**

A resident asked if there had been any response to the Petition to the Diocesan Chancellor in relation to alterations to the War Memorials. No response has been received so far. Cllr Pinchera proposed that the Clerk write to the Chancellor and ask when a decision might be expected, seconded by Cllr Wright, all in favour.

Cllr Ivor Walker asked about the positioning of new dog bins, as he had noted that there are now two bins on Elston Lane. It appears that this bin should have been located on Old Chapel Lane. Clerk will contact contractor and arrange for this to be moved.

**5. Reports from District/County Councillors**

Cllr Walker (NSDC) reported that the district council is slowly returning to some normality, and planning committee meetings have taken place in Castle House again. The council has spent around £50 million in supporting businesses affected by the pandemic. In response to a question, Cllr Walker said that the Council was preparing bids for the money allocated to Newark by Central Government, and the plans which the Council has presented so far have been well received. The settlement will be over a ten-year period.

Cllr Saddington (NCC) informed the meeting that tetrapaks are now being accepted at recycling facilities, but these must not be placed in the household recycling bins.

She also reported the following:

- 1 million doses of Covid 19 vaccines have been administered
- NCC are establishing a cross party review to look at road improvements in the county, and residents will be given the opportunity to express their views
- NCC has set aside £1m funds to invest in partnership with other agencies to help vulnerable people who have been affected by the pandemic

- The Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) will continue in its current form until March 2022, after which it is likely to be reviewed
  - The County Councillors' divisional fund of £5000 will be allocated. This means that Cllr Saddington will continue to be able to give small levels of supported to projects in her area
  - NCC will be conducting a survey of residents to ascertain priorities for the Council
- Cllr Saddington has been appointed Chair of Health Scrutiny and is completing tasks agreed by the previous administration. These include looking at maternity provision, the ambulance service. She will also be looking at mental health issues, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and primary care.  
(Cllr Clark arrived at this point)

## 6. Chairman/Clerk's Report

In addition to the information circulated, Acting clerk reported that she had now been in touch with NSDC Trade Waste department to arrange emptying of new dog bins.

## 7. NALC Chairmanship Training

Cllr Murray asked for approval of her attendance at a NALC Chairmanship training event at a cost of £40. Cllr Wright proposed, seconded Cllr Biddlecombe that this should be approved. All in favour.

## 8. Finance

### a) Approval of payment sheet

Acting Clerk advised members that an invoice had been received from the expert who had prepared the Heritage Statement which accompanied the Council's planning application. It does not appear to have been received by the Council before, but is outstanding and has been added to the Payment Schedule.

With this addition, Payment Sheet 3 was approved, proposed Cllr Murray, seconded Cllr Biddicombe, all in favour.

### b) To note any expenditure under delegated authority

There have been no items approved under delegated authority

### c) Any other matters appertaining to Finance

There were no other matters appertaining to Finance

## 9. Planning Applications

- a) 21/01337/HOUSE 3 Tudor Oaks, Elston NG23 5NW  
Replace Wooden windows and front door with uPVC Windows and composite front door  
Members have no objection to this application

A further planning application has been lodged:

21/00671/HOUSE Regularisation of the raising of the roof and reinstatement of dormer windows as approved under 17/01456/FUL

Members discussed whether this application could be considered, as it had only just been received, and there had been no time for members to look at the associated papers in detail. However, because of the timescale it was decided to proceed, and the application was supported (5 members in favour, 1 abstention)

## 10. Communications Policy

A draft communications policy had been circulated. Members considered that this was a good initial document but should also include communications channels being used.

Matters discussed included the following:

- Octave – subscription magazine, but could include a regular update on parish council matters, and a contribution to the cost could be considered
- A one-off questionnaire/leaflet to residents to ask their preferred method of communication
- Collective email to those who wish to receive information this way

Cllr Wright proposed, seconded Cllr Biddlecombe that a one-off leaflet should be circulated to all residents.

Councillors were asked to read through the draft communications policy, and provide the Clerk with their feedback.

## 11. RoSPA Play Report

RoSPA has inspected the play equipment and provided a report, which indicates work which needs to be carried out. Cllr Pinchera proposed, seconded by Cllr Wright, that Playdale should be sent the report and asked to quote for repairs. Clerk to action.

## 12. Grant Application for mowing Churchyard

Having declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item, Cllr Murray asked Cllr Clarke to Chair this item.

Cllr Wright proposed that the grant application be approved, seconded Cllr Biddlecombe, 4 members voted in favour, 1 abstained. Motion carried.

### **13. Sports Field - General**

#### **a) Willow tree**

Cllr Key reported on his meeting with the contractor who had advised that further work is necessary on this tree, as it is in a poor state, and one large branch overhangs the car park. If the work is not carried out, there is a risk that branches might fall unexpectedly, and this could cause harm to anyone nearby.

Cllr Key proposed, seconded Cllr Biddlecombe, that the contractor be asked to quote for the further work recommended.

#### **b) Hedge trimming**

A neighbouring resident has asked that when the hedge is trimmed along Pinfold Lane, that its height is not reduced too much so as to protect against noise and visual intrusion. This will be taken into consideration when work is carried out in the autumn.

### **14. Sports Field Project**

#### **a) To consider change to siting of building as per two options suggested by BE Designs**

Sport England has indicated to the planning officer that they would prefer the modular buildings to be sited elsewhere so as to maximise the play area for football, and Council has been asked to consider which of two relocation options to approve.

It was noted that these two options are not in accordance with the plans put forward to the planning office, and have not been considered by neighbouring residents. The original design, with the modular buildings end-on to the road, minimised the visual impact to neighbours, and also allowed sufficient space for off-road parking. Cllr Clark proposed, seconded by Cllr Biddlecombe, to ask the planning department to determine the application as it was submitted by Elston Parish Council. Cllr Murray proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr Wright, that the Council submit supporting arguments for this decision. 5 members voted in favour of the amendment, 1 against, therefore the amendment was carried.

The original proposed was then voted on, 5 members in favour, 1 against, motion carried.

#### **b) To note possible alternatives to modular buildings and consider implications**

It was noted that there are companies which specialise in ready prepared and fitted out modular buildings, the cost of which would be similar to the fit out of the empty units currently being offered. Choosing to purchase one of these units could have benefits, both in cost and time. Clerk asked to check with Welland Procurement what the position would be with regard to the need to go out to tender if the cost of groundworks is below £25,000.

This will be considered further when the planning decision outcome is available, but in the meantime the working group on this project will be asked to investigate fitted out modular buildings.

#### **c) Funding Update**

Nothing to report at this time.

#### **d) Report to Council to support application for Borrowing Approval**

The business report to Council had been circulated, and was discussed. It is still incomplete and there are a number of matters which need to be resolved, such as the sum to be borrowed and the length of time of the loan. However no decision could be taken on these matters until costs and other funding provision have become clearer.

A proposal to hold a display in the village hall for residents to learn fully about the proposals was left for a later decision

### **15. Casual Vacancy**

Clerk will confirm with NSDC but it is likely that no election has been called, therefore the Council may co-opt to fill the vacancy. Agreed that a notice will be circulated, invited anyone interested to contact the Council with a brief note of their reasons for wishing to be considered.

### **16. Date of Next meeting: 23 September 2021**

Council will arrange an earlier meeting when the planning decision on the Sports Field is known.

**Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.00 pm.**

DRAFT