



ELSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Est: 1894



EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 14 June 2022

To be held at 7.00 pm in Elston Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs P Clark (in the Chair), B Pinchera and D Sankey

In attendance: Cllr Ivor Walker (NSDC), Cllr Sue Saddington (NCC), Clerk and six members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

2. Election of Chair

Cllr Sankey proposed Cllr Clark, Cllr Clark seconded – Cllr Peter Clark appointed as Chair

3. Election of Vice-chair

Cllr Clark proposed Cllr Sankey, Cllr Sankey seconded – Cllr David Sankey appointed as Vice-chair

4. Appointment of Locum Clerk – Darryl Flinders

Cllr Clark proposed, Cllr Sankey seconded and Cllr Pinchera abstained

5. Declarations of interest

To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests pursuant to section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 from councillors on matters considered at this meeting

None received

6. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 March 2022 for approval

These were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the chair. All councillors in favour

7. Appoint representatives on other local bodies

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Peter Clark, Anne Frankin, James McFaddon and Chrissy McFaddon

8. Appoint Casual Vacancies

Three members of the public expressed an interest to be co-opted and were present for co-optation at the meeting. The council received approval to proceed from NSDC. Having received only three applications, and sufficient votes obtained from councillors present, three new members were co-opted: Mark Wildsmith, Richard Hargreaves and Gemma Griffiths (subject to eligibility criteria, completion of Register of interests and The Clerk receiving a signed Declaration of Acceptance). Cllr Pinchera objected to the process and abstained when voting for Gemma Griffiths

9.

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.

10. 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)

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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

14. 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)

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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