



ELSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Est: 1894



MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

7pm Tuesday, November 8th 2022

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs P Clark (in the Chair), D. Sankey, B. Pinchera, M. Wildsmith, R. Hargreaves, J. Williamson & M. Green

In attendance: County Cllr Sue Saddington and 1 x Member of Public

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. 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

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on October 4th 2022 for approval

These were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

4. Reports from District/County Councillors

County Cllr Sue Saddington has attended a briefing with Highways England regarding the Southbound overhead signage and lack of advance warnings of the stationary traffic on the approach to the A46 junction. Currently, the signage only displays the journey time from the signage to Grantham rather than the potential danger of stationary traffic on the inside lane on the A46 junction approach. Highways England has agreed to look at this and consider changes. A46 dualling consultation is now underway; further information is available online.

5. Clerks report

The Royal British Legion 'Unknown Tommy Statues' have been received and are in use. Clerk to investigate dates for Parish Council meetings throughout 2023 and contact Cllrs accordingly. The Clerk asked Cllrs to consider dates for 2023 meetings. Cllr Sankey made The Clerk aware of Octave deadlines (20th of each month). Clerk to liaise with The Village Hall over hall availability and report back. The Clerk delivered his report within 5 minutes of being invited to do so. Some councillors took the Clerk's report agenda item as an opportunity to introduce other matters, including some that should have been separate agenda items as decisions/resolutions cannot be lawfully taken on items that are not specifically listed on the agenda.

Councillors were advised to stick to the agenda. The Clerk advised the council that he would consider any item that a councillor wished to be included on the agenda if supporting information was presented. This will allow councillors time to consider any proposed item, and based upon feedback from councillors, the Clerk is suggesting that the latest time for agenda items to be considered will be a minimum of 7 days in advance of the meeting (not including Sundays and public holidays).

6. Correspondence

The Council has received two requests for financial support via email. The Village Shop and The Village Hall have both requested financial support. The Clerk was asked to contact and refer both applicants to the parish council website, download, complete and return the formal Grant Application Form for the council to consider.

A member of the public requested permission to display Ghost Hog signs in the village. Parish Council permission is not required to display such signs on private property (fences/gates/etc)

7. Public question time (Session is limited to no more than 15 minutes)

Standing Orders are suspended whilst members of the public are invited to ask councillors questions

A member of the public (MOP) questioned the Parish Council on matters of Governance and suggested this as an agenda item. The MOP was advised to contact The Clerk via email and the Clerk will respond accordingly

ITEM 20 – Civility & Respect Code was brought forward by the chair

To discuss civility and respect at council meetings and communication between councillors and staff. Cllr Williamson to propose a voluntary code for all councillors and staff to consider. Cllr Williamson has proposed that code is adopted by the council. A copy of the NALC code was circulated to all councillors in advance of the meeting. A training budget for councillors will be included in the January agenda to ensure that councillors are aware of their responsibilities and equipped to deal with new councillor training and more specialist matters, such as planning. The adoption of the model Civility and Respect Pledge from NALC and a pledge has been proposed by Cllr Williamson, resolved and accepted by the majority of Cllrs.

8. Finance

a) Financial Report

The Clerk apologised for the delay in providing financial information in advance of the meeting, this was a result of IT issues. Online banking access has been requested for the Clerk, and this is yet to be set up by NatWest. The current bank balance is £42586

b) Approval of payment sheet

It was resolved that the payment sheet was checked and approved

c) To agree and authorise payments as advised

It was resolved to agree and authorise payments presented

d) To discuss budgets and consider the Council's financial requirements for the year 2023/24

The council is awaiting a precept base figure from NSDC before calculations can be made. The Clerk will re-visit the previous precept and distribute the figure as a reminder to the council of what income came from NSDC Precept payments.

ITEM 14 – Community Led (Customer Led) Parish Plan was brought forward by the Chair

Cllr Sankey to update the council on the amended draft questionnaire and his proposals regarding the plan and to discuss and resolve how best to proceed.

Cllr Sankey advised the council that the plan is ready to proceed, and the format and results of the pilot exercise have been circulated. The format works very well and is easy to complete, and he suggested that it be distributed after the holiday season, in the new year. A financial incentive scheme, in the form of a random selection process with a single prize of a voucher for the winner, to complete and return the questionnaire within a couple of weeks. Cllr Sankey suggested that Facebook and Octave could be used to generate more interest using the line that "It's your chance to tell the Parish Council what you want to be done in your village."

Cllr Sankey proposed that the questionnaire is distributed early in the new year and offer an incentive to complete and return it as soon as possible in the form as circulated. It was resolved that the council would go ahead with the proposal. A budget of up to £500 was proposed by The Chair to cover the cost of the incentive, production and associated distribution costs to date, and the council has resolved this.

9. Planning Applications

None advised

10. War Memorials

The Clerk reported that despite his efforts to obtain an update on the Consistory Court Hearing outcome, he was unable to establish any progress. The Clerk was told that the PC would receive a decision when it was available from The Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham office.

11. Gateway sign on Lodge Lane – update

The plaque has been cleaned and re-lacquered. The supplier has advised that the sign will be installed on the 19th November.

12. Footpaths, Hedges & road safety

Updates on footpaths & hedges – Cllr Sankey

This item has been moved to the January meeting.

13. Flood prevention

Watercourse maintenance/flooding risk/any flooding concerns

Watercourse maintenance/flooding/risk/ other flooding concerns. Update on Darwin Park watercourse budget for the contractor to excavate and dispose of the spoil. Agree on a ditch maintenance strategy and approve costs/budget associated with Implementing this.

The council will assess work carried out to date as the mouth of the culvert appears not to have been cleared. Councillors to visit the site and report back

14. Community-led Parish Plan

BROUGHT FOWARD

15. Inspections

Play equipment – Update

Checked

Defibrillator - Update

Checked by Cllr Clark

16. Communication with the community and New Parish Council Email Accounts And website – update

Cllr Sankey would like the council to consider how improvements can be made in how we communicate with the community.

It is proposed that after speaking with a contact, the council could have a regular piece each month/or every other month published in Octave/Facebook which would include feedback from each parish council meeting, county Cllr reports, road closures etc. Cllr Sankey to create content and circulate a draft between councillors before publication. To be added as an agenda item in January with a proposal of how this would work.

17. Presentation of the Welcome Pack

Cllr Williams to present the new welcome pack after taking on-board feedback from councillors at the previous meeting and making modifications accordingly. A proposal will be made that may require a resolution.

It is proposed that the council accepts the amended welcome pack, as presented on November 8th together with a budget of £50 to cover initial production costs. The council resolved to accept the proposals.

18. Village Hall – Land – Field – Moved to January meeting agenda

Dogs on lead signage VH field – Update

Village Hall Land Registry - Update

19. Civility & Respect Code – Moved was brought forward by The Chair to item 14

20. Sports Field Development – Moved to January meeting

Update on sports pavilion and field development, together with Football Foundation funding and construction, consider possible action(s)

A petition in support of providing support for the changing rooms was suggested.

21. Standing Orders – Moved to January meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10pm.

I declare this is an accurate account of the meeting and agree to accept the minutes as a true account.

Signed:

Chair Elston Parish Council

Date:

DRAFT