

Elkesley Parish Council

Minutes of the Elkesley Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th November 2016, at 7.00pm in the Elkesley Memorial Hall, High Street, Elkesley

Present: Cllr Raper, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Flear, Cllr Fish and Cllr Stronach

Others Present: District Cllr Kevin Dukes and members of the public

(The Chair had already advised that he would be a little late).

Cllr Raper (Vice Chair) started by explaining that the meeting would be a little late starting; as they were interviewing a member of the public who had shown an interest in the co-opted onto the council. Cllr adjourned to the meeting room to interview Mr May. Cllr Oldbury joined the meeting during the interview.

Councillors re-joined the public and Cllr Oldbury (Chair) opened the meeting at 7.15pm

1673/16 To receive and approve apologies for absence

No apologies for absence.

1674/16 To receive and record declaration of interests from Members in any item to be discussed

Cllr Fish declared an interest in agenda item 12 – Memorial Hall.

1675/16 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 18th October 2016

Cllr Stronach proposed to approve the minutes of the meeting held 18th October 2016 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Raper and resolved by the Council.

At this point Cllr Raper spoke to the Chair regarding a letter from Bassetlaw District Council's Monitoring Officer, stating Cllr Stronach should have things to say at the council meeting.

Cllr Stronach said he had nothing to say and nothing to add. Cllr Raper enlightened the Councillors and members of the public that at the last meeting there was an agenda item regarding the bus shelter where Cllr Stronach accused Cllrs Raper and Flear of being in the pocket of the landowner. Cllrs Raper and Flear wrote to the Monitoring Officer to make a complaint. The Monitoring Officer upheld the complaint and in notifying Cllrs Raper and Flear of the outcome the Monitoring Officer noted that Cllr Stronach had addressed fellow Councillors in a rude and accusatory manner, he had shown a distinct lack of respect which undermines their integrity, it also calls into question the effectiveness and integrity of the Parish Council itself. In order to address the impact of his accusations, Cllr Stronach was advised to rectify the situation at the next Parish Council meeting and apologise to both Councillors personally or in writing as soon as possible.

Cllr Stronach replied by stating Cllr Raper was not telling the truth. He says he had nothing to apologise for. After a heated discussion the Chair advised that the 'Parish Council would refer this back to the Monitoring Officer for advice'.

1676/16

To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

- The Bassetlaw District Council plan is out on website, villagers are invited to get involved in the process
- Cllr Dukes has had a meeting with A1 Housing re signage in Holly Close and the parking issues
- Busses', this is a County Council issue but Cllr Dukes will liaise with David Pidwell on this and keep us informed

At this point the Chair brought forward agenda item 11

1677/16

To receive update on the Parish Council vacancies advertised in the notice boards

Cllr Stronach proposed to vote Mr May onto the Parish Council; this was seconded by Cllr Oldbury and resolved by all Members of the Council. The Parish Council welcomed Cllr May.

The Chair advised that there has been no other interest in joining the Council, and if Councillors or members of the public knew someone who may be interested to please ask them to contact the council.

1678/16

To hold a 10 minute public session

Matters raised:

- A member of the public asked how the 2017 budget was formulated
- Reports of an active mole in the cemetery
- Play area seating
- The new bus shelter is still undamaged, the assumption is that the lighting and being overlooked helps
- Lighting and seating on the play area will help on the play area which was requested at the time of planning but cost implications were unviable with 1 standard light costing £26,000

1679/16

Planning – To consider any planning applications, note any correspondence and decision notices

- **a) Update on the Robin Hood Inn planning application**

The Robin Hood Inn planning application has been withdrawn, but Parish Council are unsure of where it will be going now. Andrew Watt, who helps communities with sort of thing has contacted the Chair and would like to work with him on this, at no cost of the Parish Council.

- **b) Appeal notice for The Bungalow, Brough Lane, Elkesley**

Cllr Flear felt we should respond and gave reasons why. Cllrs Flear and O'Brien will work on the letter together and circulate prior to the deadline.

- **c) Consultation on the removal of the telephone box on Headland Avenue**

As the representatives of the public the Parish Council have been informed that BT wish to remove the only public pay phone in the village. The Chair read out the details from BT and

Cllr Flear asked if we could identify how many emergency calls were made. Cllr O'Brien asked if we should be asking the villagers before making a decision.

Cllr O'Brien proposed to put flyers out; this was seconded by Cllr Stronach. Flyer to be emailed to Cllr May for distribution.

1780/16 Finance– To approve payments and receive financial update

Copy of the October finances, bank statements and budget figures had been circulated for the Cllrs to view and the following payments were approved.

- a) Street Cleaner – November wage £247.80 (1674)
- b) Clerk – October wage and expenses £141.01 (1675)
- c) SPF Ironwork – repairs to play area gates £144.00 (1676)
- d) Cllr Stronach – petrol for lawnmower £9.64 (1677)
- e) Elkesley Memorial Hall – room hire and contribution to the Post Office £56.00 (1678)
- f) Mrs Bragg – water for the cemetery £40.00 (1679)

1781/16 Proposal to discuss allotments for the village

Cllr Flear has contacted the District Council for information, various options are available but consultation is required to find out the bare bones before any decisions can be made. Cllr O'Brien will add this information to the flyer for the telephone box; this was proposed by Cllr Flear; the Chair seconded and resolved by the Council.

1782/16 To consider a policy for a Code of Conduct for public participation at Parish Council meetings

Cllr O'Brien explained the principal behind the policy and how the Council has an order of business (agenda) and if things are not on the agenda the Councillors can't make a decision on them. This policy enhances the procedures Councillors have to abide by and identified the conduct expected of the public. After debating the various items in the policy it was suggested that the Council trailed this for a couple of months first which was Proposed by Cllr Fish and seconded by Cllr Stronach; Cllr Flear and Cllr Raper were in agreement and resolved by the Council.

1783/16 To consider an electronic media policy for the Council

Cllr O'Brien proposed to approve the electronic media policy for the Council; this was seconded by Cllr Flear and resolved by the Council.

1784/16 Request from Memorial Hall for a donation towards Christmas Lunch for senior citizens in the village

After discussions it was agreed to provide £1.00 per head towards the costs which was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Stronach and resolved by the Council.

To receive village reports:**a) To receive sports field and play equipment inspection**

- Gates repaired and the excess paint has been handed over for the other gate
- Price for reroofing existing shelter is £600 for galvanised sheet
- Price for the benches £350.00 per bench

The Chair would like to see repairs carried out to the play area. Cllr May spoke about bringing Retford United Junior team to the village to use the sports field. Grass cutting could be done by the Retford United staff, which could release Parish Council equipment to do other areas more regularly. The Memorial Hall Committee have said they can supply tea and coffee, which would help support the Memorial Hall financially.

b) To receive any highways and service faults

- Two emails have been sent to the County Council about the High Street and the flooding at Headland Ave when it rains
- Cllr Raper has been in contact with the District Council regarding signs for Headland Ave
- Potholes can be identified on the County Council website, the more complaints of a pothole is more likely it is that it will be dealt with
- Cllr O'Brien noted that the trees just outside the cemetery, which have already been reported to the County Council are still overhanging the pavement forcing pedestrians onto the road
- Cllr O'Brien identified that the finger post sign on Jockey Lane was still missing letters and falling apart

Cllr Raper will look into the above items.

Cllr Flear has been made aware of the scheme to deal with potholes ourselves; he doesn't have all the details but wants to know if this is something the Parish Council wants him to get details of as he doesn't believe it will cost anything. Everyone agreed we should get the information.

Cllr Fish mentioned the condition of Jockey Lane as you pass the Nottingham Sleeper Company and asked if anything could be done as it is a mess and an eyesore. Cllr O'Brien requested that this is put as an agenda item for the next meeting as it may be a lengthy discussion

c) To receive update on the Cemetery

The water butt has been filled. Cllr Stronach resigned from his grass cutting responsibilities at the cemetery, because "people won't stop cutting the grass". The member of staff who deals with grass cutting said he was doing it with the large ride on mower thinking he was helping out. Cllr Stronach got into a heated debate, which was rude and inappropriate and Cllr O'Brien highlighted this. The

Chair called a Section 16 from the Councillor's Code of Conduct, which four Councillors; Flear, O'Brien, Oldbury and Raper agreed with and Cllr Stronach was asked to leave the meeting. Cllr Stronach then left the meeting.

A self-help remedy for moles in the cemetery is to put ferret droppings down, although Cllr May is going to be looking into professional removal and will advise.

The church clock is not chiming on the hour but has just been serviced in September. Mr Johnson is aware and they are working to sort it out, if it is not resolved he will bring it back to the Council for further work to be approved.

d) To receive defibrillator inspection report

Cllr Raper has emailed for paperwork but has not yet received a reply. No report was therefore supplied. Cllr Raper will obtain and bring a report to the next meeting. Cllr May highlighted free training which is available.

1786/16

To receive suggestions for the 2017 budget

- Hedge cutting on the sport field
- New shelter
- Seating around the village, item 22 on the budget sheet is for seating in the village – Mr John Stronach will obtain prices for seating

Cllrs were asked to look at what may be required in the budget and bring to the next meeting. Decision deferred to next meeting.

1787/16

To receive update on costs and actions from the annual independent play area inspection

The RSS quote for works to the play equipment covers a lot of items that at present do not need attention, some items are not required anymore because the work has been carried out already and others are being addressed separately. The costs were generally high for what was being quoted for. Some items are essential and the total of items identified by the Chair comes to £762.00. The Chair proposed to get this work done; this was seconded by Cllr O'Brien and resolved by the Council. The Chair will bring a report back to the next meeting.

1788/16

Proposal to discuss the BMX track and also consider any quotations received

The Chair reported that the costs to complete – proposed to spend £200 on steps to the side £800 berm (curve) and £400 already agreed for surface material total of £1,400 which leaves around £1,500 towards a junior track.

To supply a new shelter would be around £3,000 but still awaiting quotes. With regard to the 'sleeper steps', the chair will contact the insurance company to check that this would be acceptable with them.

1789/16

To receive items of information for future agenda items

- Update on outstanding items from the play equipment report
- Consider if hedge cutting on the sports field is required next year and costs
- Consider if lighting on the sports field is feasible and if it would be cost effective
- Discuss the damaged to Jockey Lane from lorries and the safety of the public using it
- BMX update on insurance and liability
- 2017 budget and to consider what we need to budget for

1790/16

Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on the 20th December 2016 at 7pm in the Elkesley Memorial Hall, High Street, Elkesley.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.40pm.