

ELSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Elston Village Hall on Thursday March 9, 2017 at 7.00pm

Couns Peter Clark (Chairman)
Sue Dyer Lisa Smith
Michael Key Jim Archer
Hayley Wright Sue Sterling

Also present the Clerk Mike Elliott, and 14 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Coun. Lisa Smith and the reason accepted.
2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2017, were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman. Comment was made that a date given for the previous meeting had been changed with very little notice and the chairman and the clerk were asked to work together to avoid this in regard to future meetings.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the Elston Allotments Society attended the meeting and raised two questions, the first being to seek permission for a tenant, currently taking a course from the National Bee Keepers Association, to keep bees on the site and the second matter to have a waterless composting toilet on site. The council was told that the Society now has just under 50 members and a toilet would be an important part of their infrastructure. The council support both requests.

The council were asked to request that damaged fencing around the electricity sub-station be repaired.

The question of ownership of the land around the village hall and the lane leading to it was raised and a call made to the council for action to attempt to solve what was a long running matter which was of concern to some residents. Detailed investigation into them matter had been made by a resident and he had provided the council with his findings. It was clear the ownership of the land and the lane had not been determined, with the school and the church both confirming it was not theirs.

The proposed siting of a boules pitch on the recreation ground was raised by a local resident who claimed it would introduce a flooding problem. He had contacted a number of authorities and outlined their comments but was not willing to pass on the written information to the council.

5. CASUAL VACANCY

The clerk said there were two applicants for the single seat vacancy. Mr David Sankey and Mrs Hayley Wright. The council confirmed it wished to vote by ballot and this resulted in the co-option of Mrs Wright. She signed the necessary Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and was welcomed to the council by the chairman and took part in the remainder of the meeting.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS
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16/01995/ful. The Chequers Inn Public House, Toad Lane Elston NG23 5NS. Change of use from public house to private dwelling. No removal of buildings or structural changes. Internal stud wall erection only.

No decision taken as yet by the planning department who had informed the parish that the information in the application was insufficient for a decision to be reached. Currently the planning department were mindful to consider a refusal of permission.

DECISIONS FROM NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL (IF ANY)

16/01881/ful. Proposed development of 10 new affordable homes, Land Off Elston Lane Elston Nottinghamshire. This had been refused by Newark & Sherwood DC. Members had been provided with a copy of the reasons for the decision.

7 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

There was Nothing new to report

8. UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The clerk said insurance would not be provided for a skate boarding ramp in the car park unless the area concerned was totally enclosed and physically excluded from the car park area. The meeting agreed this was not possible.

The clerk had attended a NALC seminar at Epperstone when details were given of the new arrangements for audit work for 2016-17, the last one under the present scheme involving the Audit Commission, who have now been disbanded by the Government.

A message from Mr Andy Curson said he had not received any information from the police.

9 PLAYING FIELD

The council agreed a budget of up to £390 for the necessary rubber matting to improve the grass surfacing to the goalmouth and under the hammock on the play equipment.

10 VILLAGE HALL

The council discussed the question of ownership of the land and agreed action to engage legal advice to enable them to progress the matter. The clerk was asked to discuss the matter with the local office of NALC for advice.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Yorkshire Bank branch at Newark, where the council hold the account, is closing. Notts County Council member, Coun. Sue Saddington had granted £200 towards refurbishment of playground. BT re telephone box. The clerk confirmed he had asked BT to be allowed to buy it. However BT are inundated with requests and say they are dealing with them as quickly as possible..

Mr Richard Hargreaves complained about the condition of Brecks Lane, and the number of potholes. The clerk said he had reported the matter.

Coun. Sue Saddington comments on a loss for a while of a mobile phone service in at least parts of the village. She had reported the matter and this had resulted in action.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS including CLOSURE OF CHEQUERS PUBLIC HOUSE, VILLAGE LITTER SIGNS, POLICE ISSUES.

The clerk was asked to source a supply of stick-on signs for erection on lamp posts in the village saying Cold Calling was not accepted.

The condition of pavements in parts of the parish was a concern, with them covered in leaves and mud. The clerk was to write to the resident at the Old Vicarage in regard to topsoil moving from his premises on to the pavement and causing a problem for pedestrians.

Coun. Key reported there had been more incidents of hare coursing. He expressed strong concerns on lack of police action in regard to problems for dog walkers using a route taking in the village and East Stoke. The attitude of a family in East Stoke with their own dogs created serious incidents but it was felt the police overlooked them. The chairman would approach a police officer living in Elston and the clerk would write to the Police Commissioner.

Coun. Key asked for recognition to be made to Mr John Marshall for his continuing litter picking exercise in the parish. Coun. Archer said there were three or four others residents carrying out similar exercises.

13 DEFIBRILLATOR

The cost of a defibrillator could range from about £1100 to £2000. Newark First Responders would be happy to look to organise training event for CPR and to advise in regard to a defibrillator. The council agreed to proceed with purchase of such a unit at a cost of up to £2000. The clerk was to discuss the matter with the First Responders.

14 FINANCE

Authorisation of cheques for payment of accounts was approved as per the circulated list

15 SKATE PARK, AND BOULES FACILITY

The council were told that an area of about 15m x 5m would be required. Coun. Archer was obtaining a quote for the work for provision of the facility from a local contractor. The member made comment on the situation involving the local objector to the scheme and his refusal to pass on written information he had concerning use of the site. The chairman said there was no evidence of flooding in the area of the playing field concerned nor that provision of the facility would increase such a risk.

16. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

No further comments were received.

17. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND FOR NEXT MEETING MAY 11, 2017

The question of condition of pavements would be an item as would the boules pitch provision and, if an approach was received, possible funding for the village Pre School Play group.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.