

EDINGALE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th September, 2012 at 7.30pm at Edingale Village Hall.

Members present:

Cllr C Wesley, Acting Chairman

Cllr Mrs N Mason MBE

Cllr Mrs M Cliffe

Cllr S Sprason

Cllr J Startin

Cllr H Dhillon

In Attendance:

Mrs M Jones, Clerk to the Parish Council

Mr I Van Arkadie, Co-opted as Councillor during the meeting

2 members of the public

1. Apologies received

All Councillors were present.

2. Declaration of interests

No Councillor declared an interest.

3. Approval of minutes of Parish Council held on Monday 13th August 2012.

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. To adjourn the meeting, to hold the Public Session (maximum 15 minutes) and to reconvene the meeting

Two members of the public attended to express their concerns at the possibility of wind farm developments in the area. The Chairman stated that there had been a rumour of a wind farm in Edingale but no application had been received to date. If one was received the Parish Council would object, as explained in the recent newsletter, and residents would be able to do so too. It was noted that the District Council had received a report from a planning consultant pointing out flaws in the application at Syerscote Lane, Haunton.

The problem of potholes was also raised; this had been reported to Staffordshire Highways and it was thought that an inspector had checked them; a further letter would be sent expressing concern at how deep and dangerous these had become.

5. To co-opt a new Councillor and receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office

There had been no response to the notice asking if electors wanted an election. RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Ian Van Arkadie on to the Council. The Chairman welcomed Mr Van Arkadie on to the Council and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

6. To agree and sign the Contract of Employment for the new Clerk.

RESOLVED to agree to the contract and this was duly signed.

7. To consider adopting the new Code of Conduct

RESOLVED to consider this at the next meeting.

8. Clerk's Report

(a) **Bridge Repairs** Harlaston Parish Council would take responsibility for this. They needed further information on the technical specification and liabilities and would ask County Councillor Ellis to confirm this. A member of the public had reported how dangerous it was, and the Clerk would inform Councillor Ellis of this.

(b) **Drains in Croxall Road** This had been reported to Highways and would be chased up.

(c) **Village Hall Deeds** This matter would be placed on the next agenda.

(d) **Cockerills Transport PC** Allsopp had been contacted.

(e) **Audit** The documentation had been sent to the Audit Commission.

(f) **Policies** The Clerk would produce draft Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for consideration for adoption at the next meeting.

(g) **Training** Training for Councillors would be arranged through the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association.

(h) **Chairman** The Clerk pointed out that the position of Chairman should be properly resolved, and this would be placed on the next agenda.

9. Correspondence

Constituent complaint via Matthew Ellis - he would be replied to as the church would deal with this, the PCC would also be contacted

Further response from Mr and Mrs James on grass cutting

Letter from Mr Fairweather on grass cutting and wind farm proposal

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service appeal for nominations for outstanding volunteer groups

Community Council oil bulk buying scheme

LDC posters on energy saving schemes

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association report

Community Council AGM

SPCA Newsletter and Annual Report

10. Councillors' Business

Cllr Mason commented on the hedge cutting and on Best Kept Village. She raised the recent meeting regarding development of Brookhay Villages and Twin Rivers Park on the A38 and felt that public transport links from Edingale to the National Memorial Arboretum and the new developments should be sought.

Cllr Cliffe had been contacted regarding a hedge in Rowley Close; Cllr Startin offered to look at this.

Cllr Wesley raised the matter of a hedge near the Village Hall; Cllr Dhillon would pass this on the Village Hall committee.

Cllr Dhillon endorsed the writing of a letter to the District Council to stress that Edingale required a better public transport service to new facilities in the area. He also reported on the Village Hall meeting, which had been informed of recent hooliganism and damage. This had been reported to the police, and the Parish

Council would also contact them to ask for an improved police presence as a deterrent. A family event was to be held on Saturday 15th.

The builder had felt reluctant to take on the work at the water pump, due to the lack of facilities there, and the fact that the road would have to be closed, but had said that it would cost in the region of £2000. The Clerk would ask English Heritage if this was likely to be a historic site, and if they know of any specialist builders. This would be on the next agenda.

Cllr Sprason commented that in Blakeways Close weeds needed spraying and trees trimming; Greenlands would be asked to deal with this as part of the Lengthsmen's agreement. He asked that the Jubilee Oak Tree be placed on the next agenda.

11. District and County Councillor's comments

Councillor Arnold had spoken to the Clerk regarding the Parish Council's opposition to wind farms and regarding the footbridge repairs.

12. To consider possibility of planning enforcement regarding toilet hire firm

A long list of reported sightings of the toilet hire vehicles was shown.

RESOLVED to send this to the Planning Enforcement department to express the Council's extreme dissatisfaction with how this firm was being monitored and asking them to act upon it.

Action: Clerk

13. To consider correspondence regarding grass cutting

Following the receipt of two further letters asking for money to be spent on more frequent grass cutting it was noted that a third of the precept was spent already on this service. The Council recognised the problem caused by the exceptionally wet summer and would revisit the issue next year. A further response would be sent.

Action: Clerk

RESOLVED to draw up terms for contractors over the winter and draw up a budget for this facility before deciding on whether to tender for this.

14. To consider siting of Christmas Lights

Discussion took place regarding whether to limit the sites to two and the type of lights required. RESOLVED to ask electricians to quote to replace lights as previously displayed.

Action: Clerk

15. To consider the Parish Council website

Cllr Sprason proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Elverson for his hard work and continued input to the website, all agreed.

Cllr Sprason had offered to help Mr Elverson to keep the website updated with information to keep residents informed of local events and had contacted local groups.

RESOLVED that Cllr Sprason work with Mr Elverson as a joint user.

16. To receive Responsible Financial Officer's report and sign bank mandate

The RFO produced a bank reconciliation to date, and noted the receipts and payments to date. The newest Councillors and Clerk signed the bank mandate to be added as signatories, which would be submitted to NatWest.

Action: Clerk

17.To consider the Capital Fund

RESOLVED to investigate the possibility of opening a fixed term deposit with NatWest. *Action: Clerk*

18.To consider any planning applications

None received.

19.To approve the payment of cheques on the Cheque Payment Schedule

RESOLVED to approve payments to the following:

Mrs M Jones, Salary and expenses; Lichfield District Council, dog bin emptying; Greenlands, grass cutting and maintenance; Cllr. Wesley, printing costs.

20. Date and venue of Next Meeting

Monday 1st October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Future meetings; Monday 5th November, Monday 3rd December 2012.