

EDINGALE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th April, 2013
at 7.30pm at Edingale Village Hall.

Members present:

Cllr C Wesley, Chairman

Cllr Mrs N Mason MBE

Cllr Mrs M Cliffe

Cllr H Dhillon

Cllr J Startin

Cllr S Sprason

In Attendance:

Mrs M Jones, Clerk to the Parish Council

2 members of the public

1. To receive Apologies. Cllr Van Arkadie had apologised; his apology was accepted.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation.

None received.

3. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th March.

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, with the amendment of 2 for 1 in item 5(a).

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

A member of the public asked about the loss of the pub as an asset to the village, if it changed to residential use. He and a group of others had been prepared to buy the pub a few years earlier and would consider doing so again. Cllr Sprason said that he had met the owner and spoken to the planning department. The owner had told him that no-one had expressed an interest in buying it but he was willing to listen to constructive ideas. The Parish Council could help by finding out if residents wanted to keep a pub and all were invited to come to the Annual Parish meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 7th May to express their views. If an application for change of use was made in the meantime the Parish Council expected to strongly object, as could residents individually.

Another resident said that Christopher Pincher M.P. had suggested that the Black Horse be nominated as an Asset of Community Value to protect it as a pub and he had brought the forms for the Parish Council to complete. There was agreement that this should be done and this would be put on the agenda to be resolved formally at the next meeting on May 7th.

A complaint was also raised with regard to dog owners not clearing up dog mess along the walkway between Woodyard Drive and Hatchett Lane. Residents would be reminded about this health hazard, in a route where children often walked.

5. To receive the Clerk's Report.

Best Kept Village Mr Pilgrim had confirmed that the entry has been sent.

Highways They had been asked to clear all the drains and Cllr Sprason confirmed that this had been done. A reply had been received from Highways regarding the lack of a footway in front of properties at 74/76 Croxall Road suggesting that the Parish Council could contact the residents and that the new County Councillor could be requested to fund this under the Divisional Highways Programme.

Action: Clerk

Rights of Way A plan had been received from Staffordshire County Council of rights of way in the parish.

Funding Ideas The Community Council had been contacted for ideas about funding for Village Halls and suggestions of grant awarding bodies had been sent to the Village Hall Committee and also to the PTA.

6. To receive Correspondence.

Information from Planning Department about Community Right to Bid (Black Horse) SPCA regarding the Staffordshire Rural Declaration and HS2 Policy Statement C Pincher MP and Staffordshire County Council stating that funding for flood defence works is not currently justified.

Staffordshire County Council, Supported Housing Scheme posters.

Staffordshire County Council, map of public rights of way.

Staffordshire County Council, regarding Superfast Broadband plans.

Local resident complimenting on the hedge laying work and asking for a dog bin.

Local resident regarding replacement of damaged fence.

HMRC, PAYE tribunal report.

Highways reply to query regarding Croxall Road properties.

Arboricultural Officer, Lichfield District Council, asking if the Parish Council had plans showing the historic significance of a hedgerow near New Buildings Farm (none available)

7. Councillor's Business.

Cllr Mason requested a budget for purchasing plants. She asked for more volunteers to assist the Village Hall committee during events, such as serving refreshments. Residents would be requested to offer their assistance.

She asked whether the verges could be cut in time for Best Kept Village judging.

Cllr Cliffe mentioned 2 accidents in the village when vehicles had slipped on ice.

Cllr Dhillon said that 5 members were on the Village Hall committee and that assistance on the community day on 13th April would be welcome. Contributions of toys and so on would be welcome for the auction.

Cllr Sprason asked whether the large pothole on Croxall Road opposite Devon Barns could be reported. He asked about who was responsible for the embankment along Croxall Road, and Cllr Mason said that each householder should maintain the area in front of their property. He asked that information regarding his meeting with the owner of the Black Horse should be attached to these minutes, which was agreed. He also mentioned the Strategic Land Assessment, and it was agreed to ask the planning department for information as to how this could affect Edingale.

8. To receive District and County Councillor's comments.

District Cllr Arnold had asked for the comments of the Parish Council on a request to the Arboricultural Officer, Lichfield District Council, regarding the removal of a potentially historic hedgerow near New Buildings Farm. Cllr Cliffe did not participate in the discussion. Councillors confirmed that they did not object. Cllr Arnold had said that the Hoggs Hill wind farm had been recommended for refusal at planning committee.

9. To consider any planning applications.

None received.

The application for the wind farm at Hoggs Hill had been refused.

10. To consider distribution of the Housing Survey and Parish Plan leaflet.

RESOLVED that the Chairman would arrange delivery to households.

11. To consider request by Mary Howard School PTA.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council could not assist with this request. There could be a future contribution to a joint community IT facility in the Village Hall.

12. To consider updates to the website.

Cllr Sprason had agreed with the web host to add pages such as a What's On section. RESOLVED to authorise Cllr Sprason to discuss updating the site on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillors were asked to look at the site and further consideration would be given to changes required on the next agenda.

13. To consider request to repair fence at Blakeways Close.

RESOLVED to ask the contractor to repair the gaps.

14. To consider request for a dog waste bin at Blakeways Close.

RESOLVED to ask the District Council to install a further bin near the footpath. The dog warden would be contacted regarding publicising the issue and fining offenders who did not clear their pet's mess.

15. To consider quotes for tree trimming at Blakeways Close.

RESOLVED that a further quote would be requested for felling or trimming the lime tree near to 2 Rowley Close.

16. To consider quote for work to the village pump.

RESOLVED not to proceed with this matter at present.

17. To receive the Financial Report.

(a) **Capital fund.** NatWest were again asked to transfer the remaining funds to a new Co-operative Bank fixed rate account.

(b) **Bank account.** RESOLVED to transfer the Parish Council accounts to a new account with the Co-operative Bank.

(c) **PAYE.** The Annual Return had been sent to HMRC for 2012-13. RTI was now being used. A PAYE Tribunal report had been received.

(d) The end of year accounts would be done shortly, and prepared for audit.

18. To approve the payment of cheques on the cheque payment schedule.

Approved payments to Mrs M Jones, salary and expenses; Mr K Pilgrim, reimburse Best Kept Village expenses; Mr L Watkins, grass cutting.

19. Date of next meeting.

TUESDAY 7th May at 7 p.m. - to include the Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.30

Signed Chairman

DRAFT

Addition to Minutes prepared by Cllr Sprason

I met with Matt Ellis at the Black Horse on the 23rd March. I explained the purpose of my visit, and we had an open discussion surrounding the circumstances behind his decision to close the pub back in Oct 2012.

Since then the pub has been used for residential purpose by Matt. I discussed the possibilities of a revival of the pub. Matt explained that at no time since the pub closure, has any serious offer been made.

Despite the long passage of time, Matt was still willing to consider any constructive ideas. Given that no interested parties have come forward and in the absence of a viable business proposal the future of the Black Horse looks bleak. Matt is now seeking advice from LDC Planning, and has a pending planning application for change of use.

I have suggested that a copy of this letter, be added to the minutes of the next PC meeting. Should anyone reading this have any interest in the pub as a going concern in what ever format that may be, please make contact with Matt urgently.

DRAFT