

EDINGALE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4th November, 2013
at 7.30pm at Edingale Village Hall.

Members present:

Cllr C Wesley, Chairman

Cllr Mrs N Mason M.B.E.

Cllr Mrs M Cliffe

Cllr H Dhillon

Cllr J Startin

Cllr S Sprason

Cllr I Van Arkadie

In Attendance: Mrs M Jones, Clerk to the Parish Council; approx. 20 members of the public and representatives of the Black Horse Action Group.

1. **To receive Apologies**

None received.

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 7th October.**

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.**

Members of the Black Horse Action Group had attended to describe progress so far and the results of the questionnaire, which indicated that most residents felt that the pub was important to the village and that a reopened pub could be a viable business. It was hoped to shortly begin discussions with the owner; the group wanted to purchase rather than lease the premises. The Parish Council had been asked to pay for a structural survey if one was needed, and this would be discussed under item 10. Everyone felt that the group had made a good start and this was encouraging news.

Another resident raised fibre optic broadband in the village; it was hoped to find out more information shortly.

Pothole repairs were also discussed; it was said that some had been filled but this had not been a very thorough job.

5. To receive the Clerk's Report

The Christmas lights had been ordered for the December 1st switch on.
Cllr Wesley had requested a hedge laying quote.

The County Council had been asked to repair the footbridge but there had been no reply to date.

Severn Trent had said there was no problem with the overall capacity of the sewage system at present.

The Village Hall Committee had asked the Parish Council to inform the housing association that they had voted not to sell land for affordable housing.

A proposed bus timetable had been sent which represented a reduction in the service. Comments had been sent on this.

6. To receive correspondence

Public Sector Mapping information

Newsletter of the Staffordshire Archives & Heritage service

Superfast Broadband Event 22nd November

Updates from Village Hall Committee

Updates from Black Horse Action Group

Staffordshire County Council - proposed amended bus timetable

Lichfield District Council - proposed changes to precept calculation

SPCA Annual Report and accounts 2012-13 and SPCA Gazette.

Mr Griffiths - reporting of Council meetings (next agenda)

7. To receive Councillor's Reports

Cllr Mason asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the Village Hall Committee for the hard work of this small number of volunteers in organising the Bonfire Night event. It had been an excellent night for all who had attended. This suggestion was approved. She also reported silted up drains which the Clerk would report.

Cllr Cliffe had spoken to County Cllr Alan White about the lack of progress in repairing potholes around the village over the past few months.

Cllr Dhillon reported on the meeting of the Village Hall Committee. The lack of helpers had led to the cancellation of the Halloween event, and more volunteers to run such events were very much needed. A list of residents' email addresses could help to inform people when help was required. Efforts were being made to bring in new activities. The decision had been made not to sell any Village Hall land, and it was thought that a covenant may have prohibited this anyway.

Cllr Van Arkadie had heard from the War Memorials Trust that grants may be available and would pass the information on to the Parochial Church Council. He would send details of church services to Cllr Sprason for the website. He referred to the planning appeal against the Hogs Hill wind turbine.

Cllr Sprason reported on the website.

Cllr Wesley had also heard about a blocked drain near the School.

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

Cllr Arnold had been kept informed regarding the Black Horse Action Group and had hoped to be able to attend this meeting.

Cllr White had offered to contact the relevant Highways officer about potholes.

9. To consider any planning applications.

(a) No applications had been received this month.

(b) Enforcement - Toilet hire firm. Planning had visited the site and confirmed there was no evidence that the Pessall Lane premises were being used so there was no breach of planning control at present.

(c) Enforcement - Black Horse - an appeal was expected to be made against the refusal of planning permission for change of use. No action would be taken by enforcement until this was resolved.

(d) Notice had been received of an appeal against the planning refusal for the erection of two wind turbines at Hogs Hill, Haunton.

RESOLVED to send a letter to the Planning Inspectorate confirming the Parish Council's objection to this development. *Action:Clerk*

10. To consider a report and proposal by the Black Horse Action Group.

The group had confirmed that it wanted to purchase rather than lease the pub, that various options were being considered, and that the survey of residents had given encouraging responses. They had proposed that the Parish Council fund a structural valuation if one proved necessary. It would be necessary to enter into meaningful discussions with the owner first, to ensure that he was prepared to sell the property. The Parish Council agreed in principle to set aside a sum for this purpose in the next budget.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would pay for a structural survey if required for the purchase of the asset for the community.

11. To consider quotation for repairs to playground equipment.

The Village Hall Committee had sent details of repairs needed to the play equipment and requested that the Parish Council pay for these. Quotes were being obtained, and it was essential to do the work for safety reasons. It was felt that the proceeds of the capital fund could be spent on this.

RESOLVED to pay for the repairs.

12. To consider registration of Village Hall land.

The Village Hall Committee had discussed correspondence from the Land Registry regarding Severn Trent's claim to a small area of the land. As the land had been originally given to the village by local farmers for recreation and open space it was felt that an objection should be raised.

RESOLVED to write to the solicitor raising an objection. *Action:Clerk*

13. To consider potholes around Edingale.

This had been discussed during open forum.

14. To consider planting of Woodland Trust saplings.

The saplings would be delivered shortly and Les would be asked to plant some on the Rowley Close open space. It was also suggested that the Jubilee Oak tree be planted in Blakeways Close. Plaques for 2 commemorative trees should be on the next agenda.

RESOLVED that planting be organised.

15. To receive the Financial Report

(a) The Cooperative Bank account was in funds; news had emerged of a restructuring of the bank; the Parish Council's funds were within the guaranteed amount. A 12 month fixed rate account for part of the capital fund had been arranged.

(b) The bank reconciliation was received.

(c) A draft budget would be prepared for the December meeting. A sum of £1000 for a possible valuation fee would be included. The precept would remain as last year. The District Council had consulted on proposed changes to the allocation of the Council Tax support grant, but had advised that the precept request should be made as previously.

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

Approved payments to Mrs M Jones, salary and expenses;
Lichfield Web Design, annual fee; Mr A. Smith, Village Hall mowing;
Grant Thornton UK LLP, audit fee

17. Date of next meeting.

Monday 2nd December at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed Chair