

EDINGALE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 2nd February 2015
at 7.30pm at Edingale Village Hall.

Members present:
Cllr Wesley (Chair)
Cllr N Mason M.B.E.
Cllr Cliffe
Cllr Dhillon
Cllr J Lacey
Cllr Startin
Cllr Van Arkadie

In Attendance: Mrs M Jones, Clerk to the Parish Council, 14 members of the public

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 5th January.** The Minutes were approved and were signed by the Chair.
4. **To adjourn the meeting, to hold the Public Session, and to reconvene the meeting**

Mr Ellis asked for feedback on his proposal for the future of the Black Horse which had been sent to the Council and Action Group. The Chair said that the Parish Council had said at the last meeting that they had done as much as legally possible in promoting the business to the community. The Action Group had met and put forward their comments; they felt the pub was vital to the community, the status of Asset of Community Value should be retained, any change to residential use in future should be opposed, and various paragraphs of the planning appeal report supported this view. The pub was struggling but needed a change of ownership, the group were prepared to negotiate, they hoped that the Parish Council could consider some form of community ownership, with a cap on funding and no increase in the precept.

A member of the public asked whether the proposal was public knowledge; the Chair said that it had not been circulated yet until agreement was reached between the Action Group and Mr Ellis.

Those present felt that not enough local people were using the pub, residents had been disappointed when it had first closed, and should use the pub to keep it open. Various reasons for the lack of profitability of the pub were discussed,

and why people were not supporting it, it was said that the owner had tried hard this time to run the business. He was now making a loss and could only open from Thursday to Saturday evenings. Residents should support it to keep it open.

The Parish Council hoped for a way to resolve the problem and was fully behind the Action Group in a search for a viable solution. The views of residents would then be sought in order to make it community led. The Asset of Community Value status would be applied for again after 5 years.

Mr Ellis said that if the Action Group did not want to rent the pub he would try to find other tenants. He wanted to continue to live in his home and did not intend to sell the property.

Cllr Van Arkadie asked if an independent expert had been called in to report on the business. The Action Group would organise this if they felt there was a realistic chance of a viable solution; local examples indicated that it could be made profitable.

Options for the future were for Mr Ellis to continue to run it, although he was currently losing money, for the Action Group to come up with a plan to run it, or for a new tenant to be found.

The Chair concluded by saying that agreement needed to be found through discussions and the Parish Council wished them well in this.

Mr Wells mentioned funding for the Village Hall, the Committee had a wish list for projects to undertake and wished for a grant from the Parish Council. The Chair said that this would be discussed at the next meeting if an application form and quotes were provided.

Mr Wells asked for as many people as possible to come to help clean up the Village Hall on a spring clean day of painting and tidying on Saturday 7th February between 10 and 2.

5. To receive the Clerk's Report

Parking - the School had been asked to write to parents about the parking problem but had done so previously with little effect. PC Allsopp would be asked to look at the issue of parking around the Pessall Lane junction.

Election information - posters about standing as Councillors and voting at the May 7th election had been received from the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association. A briefing for prospective candidates would be held on Tuesday 3rd March 6pm, at Lichfield District Council.

Bus service - no response had been received from the County Council so far on a request for a service to the Aboretum.

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 13th May.

6. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins

Lichfield District Council - Candidate briefing for elections

Staffordshire County Council - Superfast Broadband - offer to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

Oil buying Club - not required

7. To receive Councillor's Reports

Cllr

Mason enquired whether a request could be made for the filling of the grit box near Blakeways Close.

All

Councillors were pleased with the new footbridge which had now been completed. The County Council team would be thanked for the good work which had been done on this project.

8. To consider any planning matters

i) Application at 16 Blakeways Close (ref. 14/00724) single storey rear, first floor side extension, loft conversion to form kitchen, breakfast area and two bedrooms with en-suite. The Parish Council had no objection.

ii) Lichfield Local Plan Inspector's Report - this had been found sound.

9. To consider proposal regarding the Black Horse

The Council felt that the proposal did not make a strong business case for spending public. RESOLVED to await the result of discussions between the Action Group and the owner and to discuss matters further then.

10. To consider applications for Parish Council grants

Holy Trinity Church had applied for a grant for churchyard and clock upkeep. It was proposed by Cllr Van Arkadie, seconded by Cllr Lacey and RESOLVED to donate £850 to the Church.

11. To receive the Financial Report

Bank reconciliation - This was noted.

Capital Fund - Details of investments were given.

Performance against budget - One category was high due to an unforeseen payment.

Pay award - the Clerk had received a 2% increase.

RESOLVED to approve the Financial Report.

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

Mrs M Jones, salary and expenses;

Mr Z Cook, repair of lights, £175

Society of Local Council Clerks, membership fee, £40

Holy Trinity Church, donation for churchyard upkeep, £850

RESOLVED to approve the payments

13. Date of next meeting: Monday 2nd March 2015

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Signed Chair