

EDINGALE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 4th September 2017
at 7.30 pm at Edingale Village Hall.

Members present:
Cllr Wesley (Chair)
Cllr Cliffe
Cllr Dhillon
Cllr Startin

Mrs M Jones, Clerk, and 8 members of the public.

- 1. To receive apologies**
Cllrs Lacey and Van Arkadie had apologised, the apologies were accepted.
- 2. To co-opt a new Councillor and to receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office**
Mr Anthony Mason was co-opted and the Declaration was signed.
- 3. To receive any Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Wesley declared an interest regarding payments for the Village Hall.
Cllr Cliffe declared an interest regarding item 13, but the Clerk confirmed this was not a pecuniary interest and she could participate in the discussion.
- 4. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 3rd July 2017**
The Minutes were approved as a true record, and signed by the Chair.
- 5. To adjourn the meeting, hold the public session, and reconvene the meeting**
A further query was made about drainage in School Lane. The Chair said that the Parish Council had taken this issue as far as possible and as the lane was un-adopted Highways would not clear the drains which were the land owners' responsibility. A resident said that he would do so but asked whether the pipework near the school could be jetted to remove the silt. The drains on the hill on Croxall Road would be reported once again to Highways who had not cleared them since the previous report. This was otherwise likely to cause a danger to road users when icy weather occurred. The land adjacent to the Village Hall would soon be cleared and levelled by Cllr Startin. It was suggested that Les could maintain it and the Parish Council pay for this; this could be considered at a future meeting.
All the refurbishment work had now been completed, including complete rewiring, roof lowering and insulation, LED lighting, new heating controls, energy saving measures and security cameras. The floor had been varnished and some of the redecorating done, with more to be completed.

The Summer Show would take place on 9th September, and the Committee were working very hard to arrange this. It was hoped to raise funds for the next improvements including WIFI, drainage and car park improvements. It was hoped to receive a grant for youth activities. Cllr Wesley thanked everyone who had been involved, a splendid job had been done and it was a pleasure to see the hall saved for the future.

6. To receive the Clerk's Report

Edingale had been awarded second place in the Best Kept Village competition, congratulations had been sent to Mr Pilgrim and his team. Information about dog fouling had been sent to the Mease Valley News. CPR training would take place on 16th October at the Village Hall.

The danger from grit at the car park of the Black Horse had been reported, and had been checked by Highways.

The Armistice Day Service would be held on Saturday 11th November at Tamworth Hall of Memory, Cllr Wesley would attend to represent the Parish Council, and a wreath would be ordered.

The Annual Return audit had been completed and information published according to the audit regulations.

The Clerk would be on holiday from September 16th to 27th.

7. To receive correspondence

Lichfield District Council Parish Forum report; Electoral Registration Annual Canvass; Code of Conduct/Equalities Training; Proposed Changes to Local Council Tax Support Grant; Consultation on Whittington and Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plan; Rugeley Power Station Development Staffordshire County Council bus review consultation Community Foundation; People Power fund, Safer Roads Partnership grants, High Sheriff's grant alerts.

8. To receive Councillor's Reports

Cllr Dhillon asked whether anything further had been heard from enforcement about the Black Horse. The Clerk would contact Planning, and inform District Cllr Yeates of the lack of progress.

Cllr Startin reported on a damaged sign at the junction of Croxall Road with Catton Lane. A van had hit a tractor at the Mease bridge, he asked for Highways to be contacted to ask whether the junction could be made safer, and the priority made clearer.

Cllr Wesley asked that Cllrs bring to the next meeting ideas for an appropriate memorial to Cllr Norah Mason; this would be considered on the next agenda.

9. To consider any planning matters

Applications had been made at Glebefields, Mill Lane, change of use from agricultural building to residential, no objection; Mease Meadows, Lullington Road, excavate large pond with reed bed, no objection; White Knights Cottage, detached garage, no objection. RESOLVED.

10. To consider any maintenance required

Les would be asked to trim the hedge in Rowley Close which had previously been layered and to remove the brash. Cllr Startin offered to arrange for the hedge along the land to the left of Croxall Road to be trimmed every year, as this remained untidy. Cllr Mason offered to find out if the owners of the hedge opposite would agree to it being trimmed.

11. To receive an update on the Village Hall

This had been covered during the public session.

12. To consider bus consultation and possible closure of 82 bus service

Councillors agreed that the loss of the 82 Solus bus service would seriously affect many residents, some of who would have no means of leaving the village if subsidies were removed and the service had to close. Although the bus often ran with very few passengers, and the County Council subsidy was expensive, it was an essential service for those who did not drive. None of the 4 options in the consultation survey would ensure the retention of the service. RESOLVED that the Clerk would complete the survey and make representations to the County Council about the impact on residents.

13. To consider proposal for the Parish Council to be responsible for the maintenance of the play area

The Village Hall Management Committee had asked that the Parish Council take over maintenance costs of the play park as it was a community facility and most other local councils were responsible for these. It was agreed to find out the possible costs as it was likely to mean an increase in the precept. The play site inspector would be asked to assess the condition of the equipment during his forthcoming visit; RESOLVED that a decision would be made at the next meeting.

14. To consider suggestions for traffic calming

Information on possible traffic calming solutions had been provided by a resident with expertise in this area; his contribution was welcomed and it was suggested that he was invited to the next meeting to advise in more detail. RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact him to invite him.

15. To consider capital fund investments.

Cllrs discussed the option that funds maturing in the Cooperative fixed rate account in October be invested in the Local Councils Property Fund. Cllr Dhillon advised that it was appropriate for a long-term investment for a proportion of the capital fund. It was not covered by the financial services guarantee but earned a higher rate of interest than sums in the bank or building society. It was agreed to decide on this at the next meeting when Councillors had considered the matter further.

16. To receive the Financial Report

The bank reconciliation was given, the account stood at £9,601. The capital fund would be reduced to £72,521 after the payments for Village Hall repairs. A second invoice had been received from the contractors and it was discussed whether to pay this after the notice period. It was agreed to request funds from the building society and forego the interest, the

invoice would be paid when the funds had cleared in the current account. A letter had been received from Lichfield District Council explaining a proposal to end payment of the Council Tax Support Grant from 2018. At least one local council had queried this decision. If passed it would mean that council tax payers would be requested to pay an additional amount towards the precept.

RESOLVED to approve the financial report.

17. To approve the payments on the payment schedule

Mrs M Jones, salary and expenses, £240.89;

Mr L Watkins, maintenance, July and August £1126.00;

Falcon Construction, Village Hall works interim payment £25,648.00, final payment £12,000.

RESOLVED to approve the payments

18. Date of next meeting;

Monday 2nd October 2017

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

DRAFT