

ELSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Methodist Church on December 13, 2011, at 7.30pm

Couns. Sam Rabjohn (Chairman)

Sue Dyer

Lisa Smith

Colin Green

Peter Clark

Julie Fulton

Jim Archer

Also present: The clerk Mike Elliott, Coun. Ivor Walker (Newark and Sherwood District Council) and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** There were none.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on October 25, 2011**, were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman.
3. **Declarations of interest** There were none.
4. **Casual vacancies** All vacancies were now filled and confirmed.
5. **Public question time**
Standing Orders were suspended.
Coun. Ivor Walker updated members on the progress on the A46 road scheme and spoke also on footpaths and traffic.
Standing Orders were reinstated.
6. **Update on items from previous meetings**
 - a. **Parish Paths Partnership**
Coun. Walker said he had contacted Notts County Council in regard to footpath matters and was awaiting a response. Coun. Jim Archer said he had successfully dealt with the situation of overgrowth of nettles and shrubs in the Little Scutchell after speaking to the resident concerned.
 - b. **Neighbourhood Watch** Mr Curson was not present and no matters were raised.
7. **Chairman's report**
Coun. Rabjohn said he had included the usual festive message in The Octave and had also laid a wreath at the annual Remembrance Day service. He asked the clerk to write to the Methodist Church to thank it for the hospitality during the period the village hall was not available for use. He said the copy lease they awaited in regard to the playing field land had not been received yet.
8. **Playing Field**
Concerns were expressed over the continuing appearance of dogs on the playing field. The council was divided on whether or not action was needed to deter dog owners taking their animals on to the field. It was agreed that Coun. Clark should raise the matter with the Playing Field Committee and report back to the council. The clerk was to write to Newark and Sherwood District Council to seek information on dog control orders.
9. **Village Hall**
Mr Michael Turney presented a report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee and said work had started on the renovation scheme towards the end of September and was scheduled for 13 weeks. There had been a delay in obtaining some of the materials and the completion date was now expected to be January 13 at the earliest. An event was planned to mark the finish of the work and it was expected to take the form of an Open Day with other activities as well.
The council complimented the village hall officers for their work and for seeing the project through in the way they had.
10. **Correspondence**
British Trust of Conservation Volunteers wrote to explain its scheme of undertaking work and said it would be willing to accept enquiries from the council if any opportunities arose. Newark and Sherwood District Council wrote to remind the council on the need for the precept requirement for 2012/2013.
The clerk had ordered the additional Newark and Sherwood District Council litter bin and given the address of the playing field for its emptying. It was being delivered to the D A Smith Motors site on Low Street. Newark and Sherwood District Council wrote regarding the Citizen of the Year award submitted by the parish council for Mrs Kate Blair to advise the nomination had been received. A certificate would be presented at an appropriate time.
A letter from Directa gave prices as requested for play area signs. An email from Coun. Mrs Sue Saddington said she had reported the traffic signage problem at the Elston Lane and Pinfold Lane junction and understood the matter was being dealt with.
Balfour Beatty responded to a question raised by Coun. Colin Green regarding a footpath and asked for further information as to the exact location of the problem. It was agreed the path was in fact footpath no. 5 and not no. 6 as stated in the letter and that was to be conveyed to Balfour Beatty.

An email from Coun. Mrs Saddington said she had taken up on behalf of the sports field group the question of the six month termination term imposed by the County Council and had asked if that could be removed. A reply was awaited. She had attended a ceremony at the allotments when trees had been planted purchased with cash she had been able to give from her budget.

11. Planning applications

Planning Applications

11/01730/FUL Mr and Mrs John Cadogan; Householder application for the erection of rear extension to existing dwelling; The Old School Chapel, Top Street. No objection

Newark and Sherwood District Council Decisions

11/01363/FUL David Cook; Householder application to mount 8 photo-voltaic panels on the flat roof of dwelling; 6 Elston Hall, Top Street. Permitted Full Planning permission

11/01372/LBC David Cook; Householder application to mount 8 photo-voltaic panels on the flat roof of dwelling; 6 Elston Hall, Top Street. Permitted Full Listed Building Consent

12. Environmental items

The chairman said concerns had been expressed at the condition of the dyke leading from The Spinney, with it being overgrown and in need of attention. The clerk was asked to write to Notts County Council to point out the situation and to ask for attention to be given to it. Coun. Rabjohn said there had been problems in the past and when the parish council had sought action it had been cleared and although currently it was not as bad as previously, some attention was needed.

13. New Village Footpath from New A46 Bridge

Coun. Walker said there was nothing further to report at the moment.

14. Finance members authorised payment of accounts as per the schedule presented.

<u>Total expenditure for the meeting</u>	<u>£5,222.99</u>	<u>£41.07</u>	<u>£5,264.06</u>
<u>Total expenditure to date in the current financial year</u>	<u>£52,276.95</u>	<u>£458.21</u>	<u>£52,735.16</u>

The council considered a report on the budget requirements for 2012/2013 and agreed a precept in the sum of £12,000 which would be raised on Newark and Sherwood District Council, proposed by Coun. Mrs Sue Dyer, seconded by Coun. Colin Green and approved unanimously.

The meeting agreed that Couns. Mrs Sue Dyer and Mrs Lisa Smith should continue to act on behalf of the parish council in connection with the Poores Close Charity and to distribute the available funds, involving the £71 rent received from the allotments society and the £200 awaited from the same society now it was in possession of the whole field.

15. Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Coun. Mrs Julie Fulton gave a report on progress for activities for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and said a meeting was being held later in the week to discuss the matter further. There had been good interest expressed and a number of events were being suggested.

16. Items for discussion

- a) For placing on the agenda for the next meeting – nothing was put forward.
- b) Items of report and that did not require a decision – nothing was discussed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm with the chairman extending best wishes to all members for the Christmas period.