

ELSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Methodist Church on October 25, 2011, at 7.30pm

Couns. Sam Rabjohn (Chairman)

Sue Dyer (A)

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 Coun. Mrs Sue Saddington (Notts County Council).

1. **Apologies for absence** There were none.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** held on September 13, 2011, were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman after it was pointed out that it was Coun. Green who had said the comments in item 5 and not Coun. Walker.

3. **Declarations of interest** There were no declarations.

4. **Casual vacancies**

The chairman introduced Mr Jim Archer, of 11 The Paddocks, Elston, NG23 5PH who was willing to be co-opted to the council. Members unanimously approved his co-option.

5. **Update on items from previous meetings**

a. Parish Paths Partnership: Coun. Green said he was disappointed that promised action to remove overgrowth affecting footpaths had not materialised. He said there had been some spraying action aimed at tackling the weeds but that had not had the desired effect. And a promise to sweep the areas had also not been carried out. Coun. Green expressed concerns that moss was being allowed to form on footpaths and said how dangerous that could be in wet weather.

It was agreed the clerk write to both Newark and Sherwood District Council and Notts County Council to seek action to deal with the problems and Couns. Mrs Saddington and Walker were asked to take the matter up with their councils as well.

Concerns were also expressed on the number of instances where gravel and dirt was spreading from private driveways on to pavements, causing difficulties for pedestrians. The chairman said he would write a topic for Octave, the village magazine.

b. Neighbourhood / Community Speed Watch: Mr Andy Curson was not present to report but emailed a message to say there was recently a Speed Watch session but no speeders were caught, a reflection of the quiet period at present.

6. **Chairman's report**

The chairman reported he had ordered a Royal British Legion poppy for remembrance day. He also said he understood there would be a service for Remembrance Day in Elston.

He also reported that the lease for the playing field had now been signed. He was to obtain a copy for the council records.

The meeting was told the Garden Club had suggested that it was interested in organising a shrub and bulb planting exercise in the village. The chairman said that he had reminded the club any shrub planting must not create any growth overhanging situation on pavements causing pedestrians to be affected and could not be planted where they were likely to impede the sight lines of motorists. The question of who would maintain such planting was raised.

7. **Playing Field**

Signing of Lease for Sport Field: The chairman confirmed he had signed the lease.

Coun. Mrs Sue Saddington arrived during discussion on the item and informed the meeting that Notts County Council was making progress on the Local Improvement Scheme project to improve footpaths and pavements in the village. She said she understood the work planned would cost £40,000.

Coun. Saddington said work on the A46 was progressing well and work was now expected to finish in April 2012. By Christmas it was expected the entire length of the road from Farndon to Widmerpool would be in use, as a single lane highway.

The County Councillor said she had allocated £450 to the Allotment Society in the village. She would be taking part in a planned Planting Day by the Society in November.

Coun. Mrs Saddington said she would raise the matter of the condition of pavements in the village and the amount of overgrowth of weeds to the appropriate department. The clerk was asked to write to the Highways Agency in regard to signage difficulties at Low Street, Elston Lane and The Pinfold and would also raise the concerns being expressed by members in regard to what would be happening in regard to the work it would carry out on the local roads when the A46 work was complete.

A letter from Spencer Bell regarding funding arrangements was received. The clerk was to respond by saying the council would agree to its name being used for grant applications but wished to point out to Mr Bell such a move could prohibit some grants being available, as they were only available to voluntary groups and not parish councils.

8. **Village Hall**

The refurbishment scheme for the hall was underway. It was suggested the building would be out of use until December.

9. Correspondence

Nottinghamshire County Council acknowledged the parish council's request for funding for the creation of a footpath from The Pinfold to The Spinney as part of the Local Improvement Scheme for the 2012/2013 programme and said the matter would be dealt with in April or May next year. Coun. Mrs Susan Saddington commented on the fact she had had to meet a County Council representative in regard to the current year's LIS work by the County Council on her own because no parish councillor had been present.

Nottinghamshire County Council confirmed the request by the council for five free bags of salt, saying they would be delivered to outside the village shop. Notts County Council wrote in respect of Developing a Nottinghamshire Approach to Localism, saying it was expected the Bill would be passed before the end of the year.

Newark and Sherwood District Council wrote to advise there were four litter bins in the village itself and four on the parish playing field. There were also four doggy bins in various locations. It was agreed to order a further litter bin for the playing field. Newark and Sherwood District Council advised of its annual Parish Conference on Monday November 7 at Kelham Hall, Newark. The chairman said he would attend if at all possible.

The clerk said he had put forward the name of Mrs Kate Blair to Newark and Sherwood District Council in respect of its annual Citizen of the Year 2011 scheme.

10. Planning applications

Planning Applications

11/01185/CAC Nottinghamshire County Council; Demolition of part of 1.2m high front boundary wall; Chapel Farm, Low Street. No decision was taken.

Decisions from Newark and Sherwood District Council

11/00897/ADV Mr S Joynes; A 4.5m x 3m freestanding aluminium sign advertising Eden Hall Day Spa; Land at Eden Hall, Lodge Lane. Application Permitted Advertisement Consent

11. Environmental items

The question of snow wardens for Notts County Council was discussed but no decision was taken on an appointment. The clerk was to investigate the provision of 'No dogs on the playing field' signs and report back to the next meeting on the costs. Comment was made on the growing number of instances of dogs being allowed to foul the playing fields.

12. Finance Members authorised payment of accounts as per the schedule presented and payment of chairman's allowance.

Total expenditure for the meeting	£2,336.40	£17.88	£2,354.28
Total expenditure to date in the current financial year	£47,053.96	£417.14	£47,471.10

13. Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The council agreed that some events should be held next year to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Couns. Mrs Julie Fulton, Mrs Lisa Smith and Peter Clark said they would be willing to serve on a committee. It was hoped that Coun. Ivor Walker would also assist and it was agreed to call on each organisation in the village to appoint someone to a committee. Coun. Walker said he would be happy to allow his field to be used for the site of a bonfire as he had done for the silver jubilee in 1977.

14. Items for discussion

a] For placing on the agenda for the following meeting on December 13 would include the possibility of a new village footpath from somewhere in the region of the new A46 bridge.

b] Items of report and that did not require a decision: Couns. Mrs Julie Fulton and Colin Green would attend a new councillors training session at Epperstone Village Hall organised by NALC.

15. Public question time

No questions were asked. It was agreed to introduce the item at the start of the meeting instead of at the end.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.