

EDINGALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 2nd October 2017
at 7.30 pm at Edingale Village Hall.

Members present:

Cllr Cliffe

Cllr Dhillon (Acting Chair)

Cllr Lacey

Cllr Mason

Mrs M Jones, Clerk, and 6 members of the public.

1. To receive apologies

Cllrs Wesley, Startin and Van Arkadie had apologised, due to holidays and family commitments; the apologies were accepted.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no pecuniary interests to declare.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 4th September 2017

Cllr Dhillon asked for item 15 to be amended. It now read 'It was not covered by the financial services guarantee and the returns could go up and down with no guarantees'. The Minutes were approved as amended, and signed by the Chair.

4. To adjourn the meeting, hold the public session, and reconvene the meeting

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee gave a report. There was currently over £7,000 in the bank, although some of this was required for planned expenditure. It was hoped that CCTV would be in operation shortly when the land line had been arranged and a policy agreed with the school regarding children using the hall. There were currently three applications being prepared for funding for work required, including an outdoor gym and drainage. New quotes would be obtained for the car park so that fund raising could begin. Community volunteers would assist next month with tasks around the building such as tree trimming. Thanks were due to Cllr Startin for assisting with the clearance of the land behind the hall. The inspection report was expected soon for the park. There had been a very good response to the community survey, indicating local people's ideas for the hall.

A good range of events was planned for the next few months, including the bazaar and party on 9th December. The Summer Show had been very successful and raised over £2,000, with over 150 entries. Cllr Dhillon congratulated the Chair who said that there was a very good committee and she was pleased that the hall was being so well supported.



A resident said that he would plant and maintain the tubs at the end of Pessall Lane. Cllr Mason said that he would plant up the other village tubs. Another resident reported that the pavement near the bungalows near Woodyard Drive was uneven and was dangerous for nearby residents. The Clerk would report this.

A resident said that there had been complaints about the police cadets at the Summer Fair charging children to enter the park. The Chair of the Village Hall said that a charge had been made for everyone entering the grounds to raise funds for the hall, and that other attractions were available for the children, such as a bouncy castle, so it was not unreasonable to ask for a contribution of only £1 for this, on just one day of the year.

5. To receive the Clerk's Report

Bus consultation - following the Staffordshire County Council consultation on removal of bus subsidies, which had now closed, a meeting had been held recently of councillors from local Parish Councils to consider how they could act to prevent the closure of the only bus service in the locality. Cllr Wesley had attended and Edingale Parish Council would support initiatives to retain this service.

Christmas lights - It had been agreed last December not to replace the damaged lights at the island, leaving only one set to install there. The next meeting would discuss whether to order a replacement for this year. PC Allsopp - PCSO Costas Karpi had passed on the sad news of PC Allsopp's recent death. The Parish Council would send condolences.

A local councillor training course would take place in Stafford, and a booking would be made for Cllr Mason to attend this.

CPR training would take place at the Village Hall on 16th October.

Mr Alan Toplis would meet the Clerk shortly to carry out the internal audit. RESOLVED to accept the Clerk's report.

6. To receive correspondence

SPCA bulletins

National Forest, grow a tree from seed scheme

County Cllr Alan White, EnviroGrant scheme

Trent Rivers Trust, volunteer scheme, and Trent Valley landscape scheme

7. To receive Councillor's Reports

Cllr Cliffe enquired about the Senior Citizen's Christmas lunch; this would take place in early December as previously.

Cllr Dhillon asked about the footways in Pessall Lane; Highways had agreed to deal with this matter.

He referred to the Best Kept Village judges' report; this would be on the next agenda, so that preparations could be made for next year.

Cllr Dhillon also said that there had been a lot of activity over the weekend at the toilet hire firm and asked if the Clerk could find out if toilets were now being stored at the site.

8. To consider any planning matters

There had been no applications. Councillors asked whether the application at Ivanhoe Cottage in Lullington Road had been permitted, the Clerk would find out this information.

The Black Horse - Planning enforcement had been informed by the owner that the property was no longer being rented out, enforcement had said there was no breach of the planning permission, they could not require it to be used as a pub, and would close the case. Councillors asked that this be challenged as local people still believed it was being rented; there should be a site visit to confirm what had been said. The Clerk would contact the Enforcement Officer.

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

The Village Hall Management Committee had requested the Parish Council to take over maintenance costs of the play park, and said that a cap of £2,000 could be put in place. It was agreed that clarification needed to be sought as to who would be responsible for the assets and who was therefore liable under the insurance in case of any accidents. Cllr Mason said that he would draw up an agreement if required. Cllr Cliffe would speak to the Committee to find out what had been intended, and whether they merely wished the Parish Council to donate sums for repairs as previously.

The inspection report should be available shortly which would give an indication of when the equipment would need replacing or repairing.

This matter was deferred for a decision to be made at the next meeting.

10. To consider suggestions for traffic calming

A resident had offered to share his professional expertise but was unable to attend a meeting until next month. He had asked the Council to consider what was the issue they wished to solve, and when and where there was a problem. The Clerk said that Highways data indicated most traffic travelled at between 30 and 36mph on Croxall Road. Cllr Lacey said that a chicane had been previously ruled out due to its effect on large vehicles. The concern was currently with the speed of vehicles entering the village by the school. This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

11. To consider a memorial for Cllr Norah Mason

Cllr Mason put forward a proposal from the Mason family that a suitable memorial would be some play equipment for local children to enjoy, as young children had been important to his mother. Further consideration would be given to an appropriate item at a future meeting.

12. To consider a request for funding for rent from the Playgroup

Any future donations would be reviewed as few of the children who attended were from Edingale; the organisers would be asked to come to a future meeting to discuss the way forward for Let's Play. It was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded by Cllr Cliffe and RESOLVED to donate a term's rent to the group.



13. To consider capital fund investments.

Cllrs discussed the options for funds maturing in the Cooperative fixed rate account, which would close on 13th October. The Local Authorities' Property Fund had performed well previously but there was no guarantee that it would do so in future. It was agreed to consider the options after the Bank of England had confirmed whether a rate increase was to be implemented. A form was signed to transfer the funds to the Council's Cooperative 14-day notice account, where it would earn some interest.

14. To receive the Financial Report

(a) The bank reconciliation was given. £2,000 had been spent out of the current account on the Village Hall works, this would be replaced when the VAT was reclaimed. The rest of the VAT claimed would be repaid into the capital fund.

(b) It was agreed to remove Mrs Norah Mason from the list of Cooperative Bank signatories.

(c) It was agreed to pay £500 in November as a donation for the Seniors Christmas Party at the Village Hall; this had been included in the budget. RESOLVED to approve the financial report.

15. To approve the payments on the payment schedule

Mrs M Jones, salary and expenses, £217.04;

Mr L Watkins, maintenance, £643.75;

Grant Thornton, audit fee £120.

RESOLVED to approve the payments

16. Date of next meeting;

Monday 6th November 2017

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

