

EDINGALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 6th March 2017
at 7.30 pm at Edingale Village Hall.

Members present:

Cllr M Cliffe
Cllr N Mason
Cllr S Dhillon (Acting Chair)
Cllr J Lacey
Cllr J Startin
Cllr I Van Arkadie

Mrs M Jones, Clerk, and approximately 25 members of the public.
Cllr Dhillon declared the meeting open and welcomed everyone.

1. **To receive apologies**
Cllr C Wesley had apologised as he was on holiday. The apology was accepted.
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest**
None received.
3. **To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 6th February 2017**
The Minutes were approved as a true record, and signed by the Chair.
4. **To adjourn the meeting, hold the public session, and reconvene the meeting**
Most of the residents had attended to discuss the future of the Black Horse pub. The following points were made: it was a priority that the pub reopened, it would not succeed without a change of landlord, local people were willing to purchase it but the current landlord did not wish to sell the property, nothing had changed since the Planning Appeal decision on the change of use, the Parish Council would apply to renew the Asset of Community Value in July 2018, residents believed that the building was currently in use as a residential dwelling with tenants living upstairs.
Local people had tried to support the pub, but had found this difficult as the opening days had been shortened to the weekends to fit in round the landlord's other work, opening hours changed, and successful events had not been followed up or food arrangements maintained. For example, 20 people had attended a Wednesday quiz night which after some weeks had been moved to the weekend, people had attended events to find them cancelled or no drink available.



Edingale could support both a pub and the Village Hall; since the pub closed the Village Hall had put on a few occasional licensed community evenings but they did not intend this to replace the pub, only to fill the gap until it reopened.

The Chair suggested that residents needed to form a group to discuss a business plan and how to raise the finances so that they could offer to buy the pub. The group would need a leader. They would need to produce evidence to show why there should not be a future change of use. They could also explore the terms and conditions of a lease by meeting the current owner to discuss options. He had attended the last but one meeting of the Parish Council to ask people interested in leasing the pub to come forward, so he was open to discussion.

The Parish Council would support the residents in their efforts to save the pub. They would apply for the renewal of the Asset of Community Value next year. They would object to any attempt to change the use of the property to residential, and they would contact the Enforcement Team at the Planning Department to report local concerns that it was being used only as a dwelling, in contravention of the Planning Appeal decision. The Chair asked those present to form a committee and to keep the Parish Council informed.

The following topics were also raised by residents:

Poor broadband and mobile connection; this was being addressed by Chris Pincher MP who was in discussion with providers.

Problems for lorries trying to turn into the junction at Pessall Lane; the Parish Council had raised this with County Highways and been told it would cost several thousand pounds to solve, but as many people as possible should complain to Highways and emphasise the risk to children's safety near the school.

Proposal for an annual charge of £36 for garden waste bin collections by the District Council, the District Councillor would be informed of local concerns that this would lead to fly-tipping, and asked for consultation to take place before a decision was made.

5. To receive the Clerk's Report

SCC/SPCA workshop - The Clerk and Cllr Wesley had attended this meeting which outlined how the County Council hoped to devolve aspects of environmental maintenance such as sign cleaning and verge mowing to Parish Councils. Edingale was already undertaking some of this work. The County Council needed to make considerable savings due to budget cuts and increased spending on social care.

Highways - The debris in Pessall Lane had been reported, and the bent sign near the junction. The query about why Edingale was not on the gritting route had received the response that there were limited resources, Highways would be asked again to clarify this decision.

Defibrillator - This had not yet been installed, but should be connected by the end of the month. Further training would be arranged then, and information would be sent to residents in the parish magazine, the website and Facebook. Cllr Lacey said that he checked the device at the Village Hall monthly.

6. **To receive correspondence**
SCPA - bulletins
Staffordshire County Council -Big Fat Chat health initiative information
Police & Crime Commissioner - consultation on future policing strategy
National Forest - Mease Meadows Forest access
7. **To receive Councillor's Reports**
Cllr Mason asked for funding for plants and compost for the tubs.
Cllr Startin said that Croxall Church would have work done on the roof and had received a grant for this.
Cllr Lacey reported that since Storm Doris there was a large bush overhanging Croxall Road, Les would be asked to remove this.
8. **To consider any planning matters**
There had been no applications.
9. **To consider broadband and mobile phone connection issues**
The Parish Council had been contacted by a resident expressing concerns about poor broadband speeds. Christopher Pincher MP would be meeting representatives of BT to attempt to resolve this. It was agreed that it was important to keep reporting any issues to BT. Mobile phone connections remained a problem, but the BT phone kiosk remained in operation to provide for emergencies. It was hoped that improvements in technology would soon address these difficulties.
10. **To consider the Black Horse**
This had been discussed at length earlier. The Clerk would contact the planning enforcement department at Lichfield District Council to inform them the pub had closed and was being used as a dwelling.
11. **To consider the Village Hall**
The Committee had reported that quotes for refurbishments were expected shortly. The Parish Council had received legal advice which confirmed that under the legislation Local Government Act 1976 S19 they could make a donation to the Village Hall or any other capital expenditure. The Parish Council could reclaim VAT on this expenditure but would have no continuing liability for the Village Hall. Cllr Dhillon asked that this be recorded in the minutes.
12. **To receive the Financial Report**
(a) Information had been received on the May 2015 election recharges; although an election was not required, there were administrative, staffing and stationery costs. Representation of the People Act 1983 s. 36 provided for the Returning Officer of the principal local authority to recharge expenses reasonably incurred by the District Council.



(c) The bank reconciliation was given. There would be approximately £2300 in the bank at the end of March. Payment had been received for the Lengthman's agreement.

13. **To approve the payments on the payment schedule.**

Mrs M Jones, salary, expenses, £254.36;
Lichfield District Council, election recharge, £148.91.

RESOLVED to approve the payments

14. **Date of next meeting:**

Monday 3rd April 2017

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.