

ELMLEY CASTLE, BRICKLEHAMPTON & NETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from a meeting of Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton and Netherton Parish Council, held in the village hall on Thursday 18th January 2018 at 7.30pm

OPEN FORUM: Nothing to report

1. PRESENT: Cllr M Axtell-Powell (Acting Chair)

Cllr K Lewis	Cllr J Douglas
Cllr S Speed	Cllr G Hickey
Cllr K Mackison	Cllr G Mackison
Clerk L Yapp	
Mr S Allen	M D Thompson
+ 2 members of the public	

2. APOLOGIES were received from District Cllr M English, and Cllrs E Stephens, J Strong and A Steele.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from meetings dated 2nd and 18th November 2017 were approved and signed. Proposed Cllr G Mackison, seconded Cllr K Mackison

5. CO-OPTION - Two applications had been received to fill the vacancy left following the resignation of Denys Shaw. Mr Allen and Mr Thompson were invited to give a brief outline of their reasons for becoming a Cllr, and any information that may be useful to the parish council in making their decision. The parish council would make their decision after the meeting had closed

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – District Cllr G Mackison report had been circulated to Cllrs. No comments were raised.

7. REPORTS:

- Lengthsman – It was reported how well the stream now looked following works carried out by the LM to clear of weeds. It was requested that the stream be added as a future agenda item. The clerk was also asked to arrange for the drains to be jetted
- Youth Bus – Cllr Speed reported that numbers had dropped slightly during December but this quite common. There has been some time changes and posters would be distributed to this effect.

8. PLANNING:

- 17/02485/lb – Church Cottage, Bricklehampton – repairs to timber frame and replacement infill panels – it had been agreed that there was no need for a site visit, and that being a listed building, all works would be scrutinised by WDC. There were no objections to this application, proposed Cllr Hickey, seconded Cllr Lewis.
- 17/02367 – Apple Tree Cottage, Netherton Lane – new dwelling, part retrospective – The parish council felt very strongly that the developer had continued to build the dwelling despite there being a blatant breach of planning approval granted. This had been an ongoing issue between the developer and neighbouring properties and reported to WDC enforcements. It was noted that the developer had

submitted revised plans using the original architects 'headed paper' without his permission. It was agreed that the application be taken to full planning committee rather than decided by the delegated officer. District Cllr Mackison would arrange for this and to also request a site visit

9. FINANCE:

a) Payments made since the last meeting/to be paid:

	667	Village Hall	30.00
TF	183	M Axtell-Powell	1955.60
TF	194	L Yapp	97.78
	195	L Hendey	207.62
	196	L Yapp	10.38

- Approval was given to make the donation to Royal British Legion of £100
- Approval was also given to make the second half year payment to the PCC towards the grass cutting in the churchyard. The clerk to speak to the PCC treasurer

b) Budget/Precept – the clerk had produced an analysis of income and expenditure over the last few years, and an estimated projection to the end of the current financial year. It was noted that provision had been made in the last budget for the clerks' salary to be increased, subject to work load. It was agreed that the clerk was not being paid for the number of hours she had carried out, that her annual salary be increased to cover the agreed 48 hours per month (back dated to 1st April 2017) and that an immediate payment be made to cover the shortfall. A contract of employment to be drawn up to this effect. Proposed Cllr K Mackison, seconded Cllr G Mackison – all in favour. Further discussion took place and a proposal made that in order for the parish council to continue making adequate provision to cover maintenance, and increasing costs to the parish council, a budget request of £15,200 be made to WDC, an increase of 1.8%. Proposed Cllr Speed, seconded Cllr Lewis, 6 Cllrs in favour of the increase, with one Cllr against the increase.

10. TREES/PLAYING FIELD

- Cllr Axtell-Powell advised that some top soil was needed to level out the area just off the new entrance in readiness for turfing. He had also asked Jack Gittens (Skywalkers DTS) to carry out a Health & Safety audit on trees in the playing field and some 'tidying up' of some of the trees.

11. NEW HOMES BONUS:

- Scout Group – The clerk advised that the Scout Grout cheque (issued September 2017) had not been banked. She had been in contact with the Group and there had been some internal issues within the group, which were now in the process of being resolved. The cheque had been stopped, and a replacement would be issued in due course
- Progress Reports – the clerk advised that she would be required to provide progress reports for projects supported by the NHB. This had been made known to the Cricket Club, and Cllr Speed (defibrillator) and was in hand

12. PHONE BOX RENOVATION – Cllr Axtell-Powell would liaise with the clerk with regard options for 'sand-blasting' of the kiosk and contacts.

13. VERGE, HILL LANE – the clerk had been in contact with WCC and they had no issues with the situation

14. CRICKET CLUB

- Agreement – Cllr Hickey updated the parish council on the historical background on the relationship between the cricket club and parish council. The cricket club are requesting a formal agreement for them to be able to apply for grant funding. It was agreed that a simple agreement was all that was necessary, and that it was more of a 'formal footing'. The clerk would make enquiries with the Charity Commission and CALC for advice and guidance.
- Phone Line – it is now a legal requirement for a phone line to be installed, in case of emergency. Mr Allen advised that a survey by BT was scheduled for some time in February. The parish council had no objections to the phone line being installed and that costs would be met by the cricket club. Proposed Cllr Axtell-Powell, seconded Cllr G Mackison. All in favour

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19. CORRESPONDENCE – emails had been circulated to Cllrs

20. OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

- Community Orchard (Cllr G Mackison and Cllr K Mackison declared interests) – Cllr Speed reported on the plans for a community orchard at the rear of the village hall and advised that an application for funding would be made from the Tree Fund. Costs had worked out cheaper than originally thought. Cllr Hickey felt that there was an opportunity for the village to make money from other options for the land, but the orchard had already been approved by the Village Hall Committee
- Passwords – In case of emergency, passwords and log in details for the clerks' computer/HMRC etc were handed to Cllr Axtell-Powell

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Next meeting on Thursday 1st March 2018 at 7.30pm

Co -Option - the parish council considered both candidates, and had there been more than one vacancy, they would have both been co-opted. It was a very difficult decision to make, but one that had to be made. A vote opted in favour of Mr Thompson.