

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 10th January 2019 at 7.30pm

1. PRESENT: Chairman M Axtell-Powell	Cllr K Lewis	Cllr G Hickey
Vice Chairman K Mackison	Cllr G Mackison (District Cllr)	Cllr S Speed
Cllr J Douglas	Cllr J Strong	
Clerk L Yapp	County Cllr A Hardman	4 Members of the public

2. APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs E Stephens and D Thompson

OPEN FORUM:

- An email had been received from a member of the public with regard the escalating situation with regard the targeted crime in Elmley Castle and neighbouring villages. The concerns raised were echoed by another resident in attendance. Cllr Axtell-Powell reminded those present of the visit we had back in the Autumn of 2018 from John Campion (Police and Crime Commissioner) and the decision to have a second meeting in the New Year. The clerk had emailed Mr Campion's secretary asking for possible dates for the return visit when the problems locally could be discussed at length.
- Neighbourhood Watch / Smartwater – taking on board the increased crime, a request was made to initiate a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and to investigate the successfulness of Smartwater. It was agreed that both of these could be discussed at the meeting
- A new resident to the village introduced himself, and at the same time pointed out an issue with overgrown trees and root damage. This had previously been brought to the parish council's attention and would be addressed again later in the meeting

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr J Strong – The Queens Public House

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from meetings 1st November and 12th December 2018 were approved and signed

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Available from the clerk

6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – County Cllr A Hardman reported that:

- Trees in Millend – The large leylandii is scheduled to be removed on 19th January and replaced with something more suitable. Any further works on the other trees would be considered after this had been carried out. Cllr Hardman would speak to neighbouring residents
- The Riddings – the future of The Riddings is still under review. It had been considered that it was in the best interest of the child in residence to stay where they are for the time being, with additional children expected. Cllr Hardman is scheduled to have a meeting with a cabinet member the week after this meeting and would do all in his power to rectify the situation with a positive outcome. He advised he was not at all happy with the way the project had been handled from the start. Cllr Axtell-Powell asked Cllr Hardman for feedback after his meeting
- Footway – Cllr Hardman advised that the footway outside the village hall had not been forgotten but he was unable to provide any timescale at this stage

7. REPORTS

- Lengthsman – A request was made for the LM to attend to the clearing of leaves from the stream to enable continued, unobstructed water flow. Also for him to attend to grips in Bricklehampton
- Youth Bus – Cllr Speed reported that although the YB was now back on the road following repairs there had been an evident lack of visits. On discussion with the YB organisers, the reason for the lack of scheduled visits was because the number of children attending had dwindled significantly. After discussion with parents, it became apparent that this was due, in the main, to after school clubs etc taking preference. It had been suggested that an alternative day of the week would be a better option but this had not been taken into account on the latest schedule of visits. Cllr Speed would liaise with the organisers, advising that funds had been made available in the budget and that we would be prepared to make a further donation if we could see regular visits re-instated

9. PLANNING:

- 18/02557 – Gladwins Barn, Elmley Castle – Application for prior notification of a proposed agricultural building – cattle barn – it was reported that permission is not required on this type of application but Cllr G Mackison would clarify the situation

10. FINANCE:

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

SO		Clerks Expenses	15.00
SO		Clerks Salary	539.40
712		Hard Drive	12.00
713		Lengthsman	209.00
714		Church yard mowing (half year)	750.00
715		BHCG Admin Costs	30.00
716		Grasscutting	144.00
717		Clerks PAYE	37.20
SO		Clerks Expenses	15.00
SO		Clerks Salary	539.40

b) Account balances:

Current Account	£5630.56
(less u/p cheques)	
Deposit Account	£28,315.24
Playground Account	£2.80

Accounts had been circulated to Cllrs for approval, proposed Cllr K Mackison, seconded Cllr Lewis – all in favour

c) Budget/Precept – the clerk presented Income and Expenditure to date and a forecast to year end and a proposal for the forthcoming years budget. Taking on board the ever-increasing running costs of the parish council, to include clerks salary and office expenses, insurance, audit and subscription costs, we also make financial contributions to the grass cutting costs at the church yards in Elmley Castle / Bricklehampton and the Youth Bus, and are responsible for the upkeep of the Recreation Ground i.e. grass cutting and tree maintenance. Taking all these factors on board it was agreed that the precept be increase by 5%, from £14,431 to £15,200. This was agreed by all present, proposed Cllr Axtell-Powell, seconded Cllr Speed.

10. TREES/PLAYING FIELD

- Trees, Millend – covered under County Councillors report above
- Trees, Recreation Ground – following an inspection of trees on the recreation ground, and the issues raised by the resident during *Open Forum*, a quote had been received for £243 for the necessary tree works. It was agreed that this quote was acceptable and that the work should go ahead. Proposed Cllr Axtell-Powell, seconded Cllr Speed- all in favour
- Car Parking on Recreation Ground Grass – a complaint had been received by the Parish Council with regard the parking of vehicles on the grass. This happens on a regular basis. The Parish Council were against a No

Parking signs as suggested by the complainant at this time, but it was agreed we write to the near homeowners asking them to ensure that neither they, or visitors to their home used the field as a car park

11. QUEENS PUBLIC HOUSE – Cllrs Thompson, Strong and Douglas had met a second time with a Mr Lavender-Jones from The Queens. The following were discussed:

- Additional CCTV Camera(s) to be sited at the pub – the pub would be prepared to provide siting locations for additional cameras to allow coverage into The Hole in The Wall, Parkwood and Hill Lane, and in return have support from the parish council to install subtle outside lighting – to be discussed further
- More activities and events in and around Elmley Castle, with a view to increasing trade. A suggestion was made that the parish council could organise an annual event – Cllrs were asked to give thought as to possible suggestions and it was agreed that an events subcommittee for formed. A representative from WDC Tourism is to meet with Mr Lavendar -Jones to help promote the pub further afield and to discuss marketing.
- Rear garden – a longer term project to make the rear garden more of a community garden using New Homes Bonus – Cllr Speed asked the question as to whether this could be considered as the Pub is leased and not owned by the management committee – the clerk would make enquiries

12. CRIME – Clerk to chase John Campion for dates for a follow-up meeting. It was agreed that in light of the massive problem Elmley castle and surrounding villages are experiencing, we should invite residents from neighbouring villages. A suggestion had been made for community CCTV cameras to be installed at various locations in the village – this raised the question of the legal position with regard Data Protection and would need further investigation

13. CRICKET CLUB – The clerk was asked to contact the Chairman of the Cricket Club so that we could move forward with the agreement between them and the parish council

14. THE RIDDINGS – Covered in County Cllrs Report above

15. DEFIBRILLATOR, BRICKLEHAMPTON - Cllr Douglas reported that as a result of a number of fund raising events in Bricklehampton, they had raised enough funds to cover the cost of a defibrillator (with the help of funding from the British Heart Foundation), electrical installation and a housing unit. There was a short fall of approx. £260 which he explained they were hoping to raise from further events. Cllr Hickey responded that he found it very commendable that the community had rallied and found the funds to finance this themselves, and a suggestion was made that the parish council should fund the shortfall. This proposed by Cllr Axtell-Powell, seconded by Cllr Speed – all in favour. Thanks were paid to Cllr Douglas and his 'team' for their hard work. The clerk would make the necessary arrangements for the unit to be registered with the West Midlands Ambulance Service

18. CORRESPONDENCE – emails had been circulated to Cllrs

19. OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION:

- Winterfell, Bricklehampton – Cllr Axtell-Powell advised that the residents at Winterfell were making arrangements to give up the residential status at the site

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The clerk asked if there was any objection to meetings starting at 7pm – this was agreed by all. Date of the next meeting Thursday 7th March at 7pm