Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of Ellington Parish Council Meeting
Held 9th January 2018 at 7.30 at the Village Hall, Ellington

Present:

Councillors: Cllrs Chapman, Elliott, King, Lumbers, Porter, Walters and Woods.

Clerk: Darren Tysoe

Public: 3

Open Forum

Cllr Porter asked whether the Parish Council would consider cutting the grass using volunteers, rather than paying a contractor, and requesting grant monies to purchase grass cutting equipment. It was agreed to look into the feasibility of this during the new financial year, including storage, insurance, maintenance, public liability, etc. The existing contract has two further years to run. Cllr Chapman agreed to talk to the existing contractor about the quality of their cut and the start time. The Treasurer for the Playing Field requested greater clarity on the contribution to be paid for their element of grass cutting. It was agreed to limit the amount to the equivalent of 10 cuts, even though 14 cuts are typically carried out, hence the cost will be a fixed amount of £500 each year for the remaining two years of this contract.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Chapman.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Authority to request that the road surface on the flyover was repaired.

Action: Clerk.

1154. County Cllr Gardner sent his apologies.
1155. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th November 2017 were approved as a correct record, with one minor change in Minute 1150e (Opposite St Peters Way, not St Mary's). The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 12 December 2017 were approved.
1156. No Matters arising.
1157. Cllr King declared a non pecuniary interest in item 1160 a.
1158. There were no updates from County or District Councillors.
1159. Finances
    a) The Cashbook and Bank Reconciliation as of 30th November was approved.
    b) The following cheques were approved for payment: £502.04 for Clerks Salary (Oct, Nov and Dec) and expenses, £290.09 PAYE. The following payments were noted: £418.50 for Hawkeye Ltd in respect of lighting outside the village hall

    The Clerk was asked to add the Shelter to the insurance and also to the Asset Register. **Action: Clerk.**

1160. a) Planning Application: Land Adjacent to 2 Church Lane, Ellington, 17/01466/FUL.

The application was recommended for APPROVAL for the following reasons:

- Good use of waste land
- Good design
- In-Keeping with the ancient church
- Not over-bearing for the size of the plot

It was noted that some changes had been made to the layout (position of door for example) since the previous application, as requested by the planning officer.

1161. Other Matters to consider/updates

a) There were no further enforcement updates.

b) Cllr Lumbers summarised the further action he had taken in respect of the felling of the Woodland Felling off Grove Lane. Cllr Lumbers had received a response from his letter to the local MP, who stated that he raised the matter with the Secretary of State. Cllr Lumbers discussed the possibility of using Freedom of Information legislation in an attempt to understand the rationale behind the decision not to pursue the illegal felling, but expected any response to be heavily redacted.

c) The Clerk reminded Councillors that there would be District Council and Parish Council Elections on May 3rd. The Clerk expected to have nomination packs ready for the March Meeting.

d) The Clerk explained that he was chasing Cambridgeshire Communities Fund to find out why the grant for the new Village Sign/Millstone had been delayed. A small sub-group needs to meet to sketch out rough plans. It was agreed that this would be Cllrs Chapman and Lumbers, Cllr Woods and Mrs Woods.

e) Update on Speedwatch. Cllr Lumbers explained that Speedwatch training was being organised in the village on Sunday 25th and asked that the Clerk email neighbouring Parish Councils, and a message is placed on the village Facebook page.

f) Village Hall Update – no update.

g) Playing Field Committee Update – There has been approximately £400 raised for the recent house to house collection and more members had joined the committee.

h) Neighbourhood Watch Update – Cllr King stated that there had been distraction burglaries in the area,

1162. Correspondence - all correspondence had been distributed.

1163. Items for discussion at next meeting – Grant update and Elections in May 2018.

1164. Date of next Meeting – March 5th 2018.