

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 7 February, 2013

Present: Councillors Maddison (Chairman), Graham and White. Clerk Martin Chilvers. Duncan Wise (NNPA), Kevin Bartlett & Neil Johnson (NCC), Richard Simmance, John Tait, David Renton.

1. Apologies: Were received from Cllr Armstrong and Hall.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising:

- a) The Chairman advised it had proven difficult to get a Parish Plan meeting arranged due largely to weather. However a date of 20 February has now been set and it is hoped Ruth Dickinson from NNPA (Iain Hedley's replacement) would also attend.
- b) Kevin Bartlett confirmed that most of the drainage and ditch clearance work in the county is now carried out 'in house'. The Chair corrected the wording on a recent email suggesting the Green is prone to flooding when it is not just water logging due to the poor and lack of work undertaken on the drainage. It was agreed that someone from the Parish Council needed to meet the Engineers when they visited Elsdon highlighting the specific problems and the Clerk would write to Terry Garnick asking for the time and date of their visit
- c) The matter of the burn erosion had gone quiet recently and Kevin Bartlett offered to send a few emails to provoke a reaction for someone to contact David Renton regarding the timescale for the repairs.
- d) It is believed that Elsdon has successfully achieved its 50%+ registration for the superfast broadband but a further update would be provided next month including the next stage of the process.
- e) The Clerk reported he had spoken to Paul Aldsworth of Morrison Utility Services who has agreed to be present at the March meeting to update the community on the next stage of the underground cabling.
- f) The Clerk reported he had spoken to Bill Batey who had been dealing with the TV system agreement between the Council and Elsdon. Bill had confirmed the thinking of the Parish Council and that his recommendation was that a consultation should have been undertaken before a decision made on the future. He advised he would email the Clerk confirming his thoughts. Kevin Bartlett was invited to comment on the matter. He confirmed that the matter should have been consulted and the service not just stopped although felt there was very little chance in getting it resumed. He advised the Parish Council could raise the matter with Steve Bridgett and Kevin would discuss the matter with a colleague regarding the possibility of a possible grant to improve the system but said he was not that confident.

4. Finance:

There were no finance matters this month.

5. Planning:

- a) 13NP0002/Construction of agricultural barn at Land south of Elsdon, Newcastle upon Tyne
There was concern that the proposed location for the barn would be in a position prone to flooding. To move it further south however would impact on the visibility of drivers along the adjacent road. It was also believed the location would impact on the public footpath. The Clerk was asked to report these comments to the NNPA.

6. New business:

- a) Both Duncan Wise and Neil Johnson provided background to the 'Dark sky' initiative and NCC work over the next three years to introduce the new lighting across the County. Due the underground cabling project in Elsdon it has been agreed this is an opportunity to introduce the new lighting in line

with the second stage of that project. Discussion continued covering type of posts as well as the location and potential number allowed. It was agreed the Councillors would consult with the residents over the next couple of weeks to determine where the new poles should be located in line with the underground cabling. A meeting between the Parish Council and Neil Johnson would be arranged for the end of February to agree the locations.

- b) There was interest among those present for the session covering Renewable Energy on 11 March in Choppington would be one they would like to attend. The Clerk would make arrangements for names to be registered. Meantime it was agreed that attending a large Core Strategy consultation as a small community was not a useful exercise. Experience showed that topics covered were those that favoured the larger communities. Kevin Bartlett suggested that should other neighbouring local parishes feel the same then it is a possibility a specific session could be held, say, in Rothbury. The Clerk would contact Cllr Bridgett and local councils for support.

7. Any other business:

There was no 'other business'

- 8. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 7 March, 2013 starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon