

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 4 April, 2013

Present: Councillors Maddison (Chairman), Graham and White. Clerk Martin Chilvers. Richard Simmance & Sue Bolam (until 9.00pm).

1. Apologies: Were received from Cllr Armstrong.

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

3. Matters arising:

- a) The Chairman reported that he had heard Engineers contracted to NCC had been on site assessing the damage at the burn. They would need to produce a report with recommendations before any action taken.
- b) The Chairman advised he had received an email from David Coles regarding the Superfast broadband. Apparently the position is presently somewhat unclear. There have been meetings between iNorthumberland and BT as well as some wireless broadband providers however it is unknown at this time what options are available and practical for Elsdon.
- c) It was agreed that the Parish Council would not want to adopt any of the poles that would become redundant following the completion of the underground electric cabling project. The Chairman advised the Parish Council were still waiting for Chris Bolt to confirm when the new lights would be available to fit and it was agreed the Clerk would write for an update.
- d) The Clerk reported conversation he had recently with Margaret Ward, Chair at Alwinton Parish Council. Alwinton wished to pursue the matter with NCC regarding the TV signal relay. There was discussion as to what action Elsdon wished to take. It was agreed that the Parish Council did not want the responsibility of adopting the poles after the underground cabling was complete. Additionally it was believed that there were very few, if any, residents in Elsdon that fully relied on the TV signal relay. Cllr Graham's suggestion was agreed by all to post a letter to residents advising that the system would cease in a couple of months and alternative arrangements would have to be made. It was further agreed that the Clerk would write to NCC expressing disappointment in the manner in which NCC conducted themselves in this matter via their decision making and lack of communication. The Parish Council would also seek confirmation of Steven Stewart's comments in his letter of 15 January that NCC does not recognise the system as being a NCC asset.
- e) The Clerk provided an update on next stages of the election process. It was believed there would be five minimum but possibly six known candidates standing at the Parish Council election on May 2.

4. Finance:

- a) The Clerk's salary and expenses were agreed at the March however there were insufficient Cllrs present with signatory authorisation to sign the cheque. The cheque was signed.
- b) It was agreed to provide a cheque for £20.00 as a donation towards Iain Hedley's leaving present.
- c) There was discussion regarding the request for a donation from CAN however on this occasion it was agreed not to provide a payment.

5. Planning:

There were no planning applications this month.

6. New business:

- a) The Clerk highlighted the 'patchwork' repairs that were going to undertaken on the B6341 during April that would lead to the road being closed during the day for a couple of days.

- b) A speed awareness sign had been placed in the village by the Police that would remain there for approximately one month.
- c) The Clerk explained the positioning regarding the Definitive Map Modification Order (No 8) 2012. There were no comments or objections raised.
- d) The Clerk advised that a Police Community van would be located in Elsdon on 10 April and would be open to any resident could visit.

7. Any other business:

- a) Sue Bolam spoke of the NNPA council elections that would follow immediately after the council elections on 2 May. There was speculation that a good number of members would not be standing again and a lot of experience would be lost. Discussion turned to the tourist leaflets. These advised that there were public toilets available in Elsdon however with no funding provided unfortunately the toilets were not presently available to the public. Additionally it was agreed that other information such as the nearest petrol station should be included in the leaflets when reprinted.
- b) A letter was received from Elsdon Community Heritage Group providing an update following the survey undertaken in 2012. Results of the survey revealed the presence of significant features. It was requested that test pits would now be dug on targeted areas and have a community event allowing residents to share the experience. It was agreed to provide permission for these test pits to be dug on the village green.
- c) The Chairman highlighted he had received details of a planning application regarding the repair of Winter Gibbet.
- d) It was reported that the application for the construction of an agricultural barn on land south of Elsdon had been refused.
- e) The Chairman thanked Cllr Graham for his time, effort and contribution during his years as a Cllr on Elsdon Parish Council

8. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 9 May, 2013 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon