

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 13 February, 2014

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), Maddison, White, Simmance and Tait. Clerk Martin Chilvers. Cllr Chris France, Robert Arthur. Simon Webb representing Kielder PC, Sue Chapman, Sue Moorhouse and Kate Thompson representing Rochester & Byrness PC, Peter Thompson and Jack Thompson

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Tom Burston (NNPA &

The Chair welcomed guests from neighbouring Parishes who had attended to hear Mr Burston speak about funding opportunities. Mr Burston initially provided details of two local funding schemes. 1) Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). Approximately £125,000 is paid out annually from this fund with an average size of £9,000 for each grant. Payments are made to applications that meet the National Park objectives. 2) Action Area Fund. This fund is available to those who live and work within as well as on the Park boundaries. The average grant provided is £1,500. Projects applying for a grant must meet five aims.

Mr Burston then spoke about his role with Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group. £0.5m is allocated each year in seven year cycles which fits with European budget cycle. Whilst there will be no funding available in 2014 there will be from 2015. The average grant payment is £25,000.

Mr Burston took questions and confirmed he was considering a regular newsletter like his predecessor. He confirmed Parish Councils can apply for funding. He advised that the SDF panel meet every 3 – 4 months depending on the number of applications received whilst the smaller Action Area Fund applications are reviewed as and when received.

The Chair thanked Mr Burston and guests for attending.

4. Matters arising

- a) It was confirmed that the change of light bulbs had been made to the street lights but there were still four lights that required changing to LED and the Clerk was asked to contact NCC again on this matter. Additionally it was highlighted that some of the new LED lights needed to have the direction of light altered.
- b) The Clerk advised he had contacted Northern Powergrid to seek confirmation that the compensation referred to at the meeting with the company representatives on 19 September, 2013 was still going to be provided by NPG. He had not as yet received a response.
- c) All Cllrs confirmed that they agreed with the content of Cllr Simmance's paper in respect of the Elsdon Past, Present and Future event on 17 March. It was agreed to invite Ruth Dickenson (NNPA) to a meeting on 18 February to discuss the event.
- d) It was agreed to consider possible future meetings with NNPA representatives after the meeting on 18 February.

4. Finance: There were no matters of finance on the agenda this month.

5. Planning:

- a) The Clerk advised that a site visit had been arranged by NCC at Blaxter Quarry on 28 February in relation to application 13/02866/MRVEIA. All Councillors advised they would like to attend the visit.

6. New business:

- a) Cllr Tait advised she had seen an engineer examining the two bridges that had been reported as requiring attention to repair damage. The Clerk was asked to contact NCC for an update.
- b) The Clerk advised that a new local telephone number had been provided to contact NCC. This is 01830 570085. Details have been posted on the Parish Council website.
- c) The Chair advised she had been in contact with Hannah Simpson of Homes for Northumberland regarding possible temporary location of a storage container on the Village Green. The area near the pinfold was mentioned. It was suggested they undertake a letter drop to residents to advise what they were going to be doing and for how long

7. Any other business:

Condition of local road – Cllr White raised the matter of the poor condition of local roads. Six stretches of local road were identified as requiring urgent attention including the Gibbet road that would be part of the route of the Cyclone race in the summer. It was considered in its present state to be too dangerous for cyclists. It was agreed the Clerk would contact NCC regarding the matter.

Condition of Village Green – The Chair advised her husband had written to NCC with photographs showing the damaged caused to the Village Green where County Council vehicles had been cutting the corner and driving up onto the Green.

Credit Union – Cllr Tait provided details of the operations of a Credit Union after seeing an article in the Church magazine. She advised she will investigate further but was keen to get involved locally and possibly set up one.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 13 March, 2014 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

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