

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12 June, 2014

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), Maddison, White, Tait and Simmance. Clerk Martin Chilvers. Christine Maddison, Sue Bolam, Abi Mansley

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. Landscape Partnership Scheme in the Rede Valley – Abi Mansley, Border Uplands Project Co-ordinator, NNPA: The Chair welcomed Abi Mansley to the Parish Council. Abi provided details of the project and advised that at this stage she was looking to visit local people and businesses to gain an insight into what people within the Rede Valley would like.

In April 2015 NNPA will be submitting an application for funding and 6 months later it is hoped that funding for the projects identified will be granted that could potentially be up to £1.5m or £2m.

There was discussion about the Elsdon Past, Present & Future activities in the past year and the how perhaps the Landscape Partnership Scheme can help towards achieving the future plans identified.

It was agreed the Clerk would provide details of the Rede Valley Newsletter so that Abi could provide an article in the next edition

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

4. Matters arising

- a) The Clerk reported he had heard from Gavin Barlow at NCC who advised that the remaining four street lights should be converted to LED by the end of June.
- b) There was a discussion about the state of repairs that have been undertaken on the bridge. It is believed the concrete used will freeze and shatter. Additionally there is evidence that the foundation stones are moving away from the bridge. It was also highlighted that lorries over the weight limit of the bridge have been seen crossing it. It was agreed the Clerk would contact NCC about the matter.
- c) Whilst it was acknowledged that there had been some repairs to local roads there were still areas that required attention. The Chair advised that the Hepple Parish Council Chair had written to NCC on behalf of both Parishes regarding the state of roads between the two villages. The Clerk was asked to contact NCC regarding the hedges and trees overgrown across the road to Raylees.
- d) There was discussion about the poor quality of the grass cutting of the village green. Concern was raised that if the amount of grass cuttings as seen presently were on the green at the time of the village fete it would reflect badly on the village. The Clerk reported he had not heard from Northern Power Grid as yet regarding the possible compensation payment to meet the cost of repairing the drainage on the village green. It was however noted that this work would need to start soon to be completed in time for the fete.
- e) The Clerk provided the application received from NCC to have a road closed during the fete. Time was spent on completing the form so that the Clerk can submit to NCC.

4. Finance:

- a) *Wayleave payment:* The Clerk reported he had received a cheque for £133.50 from Northernpower Grid.
- b) *Payment of invoice for mole catcher:* It was agreed to pay the invoice for £20.00
- c) *Village fete donation:* Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would make a donation of £100 towards the Village Fete costs.

5. Planning:

There were no planning applications this month.

6. New business:

- a) *Village fete – preparations, funding and insurance:* Much of this topic had been discussed earlier in the meeting. The Clerk confirmed matters regarding the insurance cover that the Parish Council had for the event.
- b) *TV signal equipment – Alwinton Parish Council:* The Clerk confirmed he had received a letter from the Chair of Alwinton PC advising that they would not be requiring the equipment however thanking Elsdon for the kind offer.
- c) *Reporting litter thrown from vehicles:* The Clerk advised he had received details from NCC of an initiative where people can report incidents where they see litter being thrown from vehicles. It was agreed the Clerk would make the form available on the website and via the Town Crier.
- d) *Local bus services: West Area tender outcomes:* The Clerk provided details he had received from NCC regarding a number of changes that were due to be made to a few local bus services from September. It was agreed these would be made available via the Town Crier.

7. Any other business:

- a) It was highlighted that the two seats around the trees on the village green required some repairs. It was agreed to contact David Scott in this respect.
- b) There was acknowledgement and thanks for the grass cutting in the church yard by Cllr White. There was discussion that there was a need for a team of volunteers to all do their 'little bit' of green perhaps in front of their property to help ensure the green looked much better than it presently does. It was discussed whether to take pictures of the state the green after being cut and contacting NCC.
- c) Cllr Simmance provided details of a seminar he had been made aware regarding renewable energy on 3 July that would apparently included a visit to Green Rigg wind farm.
- d) The Chair highlighted a letter received from NFU Mutual regarding Crime Fighter awards. There was discussion as to whether to send an application regarding the fight against litter in the Parish.
- e) Cllr Maddison asked as to whether anyone knew if the Governors of the Otterburn First School should officially include a Parish Council representative. Cllr Tait advised she was one of the Governors, said she would enquire.
- f) There was disappointment that Cllr Bridgett had not made any commitment to attend meetings and that it appeared he still believed the meetings were on the first Thursday of the month that clashed with another commitment. It was highlighted that there had been at least three major issues over the past year but there had been no contact from Cllr Bridgett.
- g) The Chair and Cllr Tait raised the matter of a recent incident when armed police were in the village at 11.45pm. It was highlighted how professional and considerate the police had been to local residents and the Clerk was asked to write and thank them.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 10 July, 2014 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 9.30pm