

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14 August, 2014

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), Maddison, White, Simmance and Tait. Clerk Martin Chilvers. Sgt Graham Vickers (until 8.20pm) and David Coles (from 7.35pm)

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

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

3. Matters arising

- a) The Clerk reported he had received an email from NCC advising that the final four street lights require a connection from the electricity board. The order had been placed with Northern Powergrid and that it generally takes six to eight weeks to actually be carried out.
- b) Concern had been expressed about the weight of some of the vehicles crossing the bridges. Sgt Vickers advised that if video / photo evidence could be obtained of lorries approaching, crossing and on the other side of the bridge then the police take action. The Clerk advised that a programme date had not yet been set by NCC for the repairs.
- c) There was discussion regarding the number of spots on the local roads that that required repairs. Additionally there were areas identified with overgrown verges and hedges as well as dirty signs hidden by undergrowth. It was agreed the Clerk would continue to contact NCC in an effort to get the matters addressed.
- d) The Chair expressed the Parish Councils and communities thanks for all those that helped with the drainage repairs on the village green. It was agreed the area was already looking better for the work. Whilst Mr Les Young had not asked for any payment for his time and use of machinery / fuel the Councillors agreed a figure of £300 to compensate him. Cllr White advised of a couple of patches in the village green that still required attention. It was agreed to discuss future work and possible hire of a digger at another meeting.

Sgt Vickers provided an update on Policing in the local area. Fortunately crime level is very low however Sgt Vickers recommended everyone should ensure property is locked and secure when away. He also reminded people that they should call the Police immediately when they see something suspicious to increase the chances of a successful outcome.

- e) The Clerk confirmed details regarding the road closure for the fete. Thanks were expressed to Rothbury Family Butchers who were providing the meat for the BBQ free of charge. Also thanks were expressed to George Jennings for donating coconuts.
- f) It was reported that an article from Abi Mansley was in the latest Rede Valley Newsletter. It was agreed the Clerk would provide a copy so it could also be circulated via the Town Crier.
- g) The Clerk provided details of the Local Transport Plan 2015-16. After discussion it was agreed to request the repositioning of the 30mph signs on both the Otterburn and Rothbury sides of the village. This would recognise and include the building of new houses beyond the present location of the signs. Additionally it was agreed a flashing 30mph sign would be beneficial. Whilst no additional footpaths were required it was agreed 'Be Aware' signs for drivers of possible pedestrians in the road would improve safety. Particular locations noted were at sharp corners of Bird in Bush, Crown Farm and Town Foot corner.

4. Finance:

- a) There was agreement to pay the following in respect of expenses for the Village Fete. David Coles - £39.98 – Tug of War rope, David Coles £488.08 various fete expenses inc. (£260 lurcher lure machine,

£46.14 megaphones x 2, £118.51 Town Crier outfit), Dizzy Birds - £200 – Town Crier uniform, John Tait - £30.36 – signs.

- b) It was agreed to pay the invoice for £295 plus VAT to EM & A Dodd – Bagraw Ltd in respect of costs for the drainage repairs on village green. Additionally it was agreed to pay an invoice for £170.00 to David Country Skills for his time working on the repairs. It was also agreed to reimburse the Chair £15.00 for grass seed.
- c) It was agreed to reimburse the Clerk £6.36 for a book of 2nd class stamps.
- d) It was agreed to pay £18.00 to Corsenside PCC for the wreath for the commemoration of outbreak of WW1.

5. Planning:

- a) There were no planning applications received at the time of posting the agenda.
- b) The Clerk advised he had received on 13 August from NNPA, the Planning Application Consultation 14NP0072, The Bacchus, Elsdon. Mr Coles was invited to provide details of the application. It was, he advised, effectively a requirement to advise how two aspects of the work were going to be undertaken. There was discussion among the Councillors who were all in agreement to support the application.

6. New business:

- a) *Spirit Bus Service from 1 September:* The Clerk provided details of the new service. There will be five routes initially including Elsdon to Rothbury each Wednesday. Details can be found at www.spiritbuses.co.uk It was questioned why the service to Rothbury will be on the day of early closing.
- b) The Clerk provided details of the Elsdon Village Hall annual report that he had received.
- c) It had been reported that Cllr S Bridgett had posted on Facebook details of a free Vodafone 3G service. Upon investigation Mr Coles advised that there is a minimum broadband speed of 4Mbps required and as such Elsdon would not be eligible for the service.

7. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Maddison advised he had read about St James Park becoming a community asset and he wondered whether the Parish Council could nominate the school as one also. If successful then the owners would be obliged to notify any changes in circumstances including selling the property.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 11 September, 2014 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 10.10pm