

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 11 September, 2014

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), Maddison, White, Simmance and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers plus eight parishioners. Duncan Wise (NNPA)

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest: There were none raised

3. Minutes of the previous Ordinary 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 received no further communication since the email received from NCC on 12 August advising the street lighting project was with National Powergrid waiting for agreement to proceed. It was advised at that stage it may take 6 – 8 weeks.
- b) The Clerk advised he had heard nothing more from David Moat (NCC) on the matter of the damaged bridges but would chase in an effort to update for the next meeting.
- c) It was agreed that despite some work locally on the roads many places were still in a bad state. Cllr Simmance provided details of the contact he had with NCC regarding the road near him. Other pot holes were identified and it was agreed to continue contacting NCC until some positive action was taken.
- d) There were thanks expressed to all those that put in a wonderful effort for the village fete. It was agreed that it had been a great event. It was noted that there was a meeting on 16 September to agree how the funds raised were going to be divided within the community. Cllr Tait advised she would chase NCC regarding the litter bin that had not as yet been emptied.

4. Finance:

- a) There was agreement to pay the following in respect of expenses for the Village Fete. Rothbury Family Butchers £150.00, First Aiders £80.00, Great North Air Ambulance £25.00. R. Simmance £129.83 (various associated expenses), H. Hill £4.18, K. Maddison £36.68 (groceries from G. Jennings) and H. Hill £330.00 (children's round about).
- b) It was agreed to pay Cllr I. White £652.85 as reimbursement for the costs of materials in respect of the drainage repairs on the village green.
- c) It was noted that a cheque had been received from NNPA for £386.40 that was funding for the exhibition posters. Cllr Maddison confirmed an invoice for the same amount had been paid to Statexcolourprint.
- d) It was noted that the invoice from Statexcolourprint had been sent to the Clerk by mistake. Cllr Maddison confirmed that the church had paid the invoice.

5. Planning:

- a) *14NP0072, Approval of details reserved by condition no. 3 of Listed Building Consent 14NP0025LBC in respect of removal of mid & late C20th internal & external additions restoration of C18th & C19th features and replacement of existing rooflights with larger size: The Bacchus, Elsdon:* It was noted that this matter whilst not on the agenda at previous meeting had been discussed and the details approved by the Cllrs.
- b) *13/028866/MRVEIA: Blaxter Quarry – NCC decision:* It was noted that this application had been agreed subject to a number of conditions.

6. New business:

- a) *Hire of digger for various jobs:* It was identified that the hire of a digger would be useful in undertaking some more of the drainage work on the village green as well as spreading the tarmac outside the church. However it was agreed to discuss the matter in more detail at the next meeting.

- b) *Location of future bonfires on village green:* It was agreed among the Councillors where the most appropriate spot on the village green was for the next bonfire. There was discussion about new rules that needed to be imposed to ensure nothing is put on the area until beginning of November, It does not exceed agreed size and only 'virgin' wood was put on the bonfire. It was agreed the area would be marked and roped.
- c) *Planting bulbs:* Following the kind donation of bulbs from Mr Hargreaves there was discussion when and where to plant them.
- d) *Review of the Risk Assessment:* The Risk Assessment was reviewed and agreed by all Councillors.

7. Any other business:

8. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 9 October, 2014 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

EPIC meeting

The Chair welcomed Duncan Wise from NNPA. Mr Wise provided the background to the Dark Sky National Park in Northumberland. He highlighted the positive steps this would have on the region including increased tourism. The NNPA were now looking to set up Dark Sky Discovery Sites within the county. Elsdon had been chosen as a potential site and Mr Wise covered the action required to proceed should the community agree. There was agreement by all attending that Elsdon should apply for the recognition and Mr Wise advised he would gladly proceed with the application with the help of local people. Mr Wise also spoke about the opportunity for local people to be trained as 'Star Makers' and be local experts for future events. He advised he would share details via the Parish Clerk.

Community Funding

Following discussion with members of the local community it was agreed that certain projects within the parish may well be eligible for funding through the EDF Energy Green Rigg Windfarm Community Benefit Fund, and interested groups can obtain information from Karen DGLISH at the Community Foundation on 0191 222 0945 or general@communityfoundation.org.uk Funding through other outlets would be highlighted across the community as and when discovered.

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