

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 9 October, 2014

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), White, Simmance and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers, Sue Bolam, Simon Etheridge and Ivan Dunn (until 7.50)

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Maddison.

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) There was confirmation that all street lights had now been fitted with LED bulbs.
- b) The Clerk advised he had not received an update from NCC of the bridge repairs and it was agreed to continue to monitor the matter.
- c) Whilst some improvements had been made to the local roads there was agreement that still many areas required attention. The Chair advised of a point of contact at NCC identified when she attended the recent NCC / Parish Council conference.
- d) There was confirmation that locally all details had been completed in respect of the application for Elsdon to become a Dark Sky Discovery site. It was agreed the Clerk would contact Duncan Wise to check progress and timescales.
- e) The Clerk advised he had received contact from NCC regarding the LTP request for a flashing 30MPH sign to be installed. These features are funded by local councils and typically cost up to £3,000.
- f) There was agreement that there appeared to be no more tasks for the digger over and above those previously identified. Cllr White advised he would check to see when the digger was available. He also mentioned if anyone had any 'spare' soil that could be used to back-fill the drainage work. Cllr Simmance provided a map for the records showing the drainage over the whole of the Village Green.
- g) It was believed Chris Armstrong had agreed to coordinate the annual firework event. It was agreed the designated area would be cordoned off so material is not be left until a couple of days before the event. Additionally it was agreed there would be a communication via the Town Crier for volunteers as well as advising acceptable materials for the fire. A meeting was arranged for 25 October to take matters forward. The Clerk was asked to advise the Parish Insurers as well as the Police and Fire.

5. Finance:

- a) There were currently no outstanding invoices in respect of the village fete. At the EPIC meeting on 6 October there was agreement that part of the proceeds from the fete should go to Elsdon St Cuthbert church - £2,000 and donation to firework display - £100. It was also agree £1,300 would be put towards the fete in 2015 and the rest left would go towards local community projects. The Clerk was asked to review the finances and provide an update at the next meeting. It was acknowledged with thanks that a £25.00 donation had been to the fete from the Dunns.
- b) There were no remaining payments to be made in respect of the drainage repairs on the village green.
- c) The Clerk's salary for six months to October 2014 was agreed.
- d) It was agreed to make a donation of £50.00 to Great North Air Ambulance.
- e) It was agreed the Parish Council would make a £50.00 donation towards the village firework display. It was not known however who the cheque should be made to so it would be confirmed next meeting.

6. Planning:

There were no planning applications this month.

7. New business:

- a) *Stones at Red Hall / village green:* Mr Ivan Dunn was invited to address the Parish Council. Mr Dunn provided details of his property and access for it as well as Rigg Cottage across the village green. The Councillors agreed to investigate the matter of access being granted across the village green but suggested Mr Dunn may wish to seek legal representation for most of the questions raised as these were outside the remit of the Parish Council.
- b) *Dog Fouling notices on the village green:* The Chair advised of a conversation she had had with NCC regarding dog fouling notices and rubbish bins for disposal. She advised she had been informed that there would be cost to the Parish Council for a new bin to be fitted as well as a then an ongoing cost for emptying. However NCC has informed that if 'ordinary' bins have the appropriate stickers on them the bagged dog mess can be placed in it. Arrangements were going to be made for stickers to be placed on bins.
- c) *Feedback from the Town & Parish Council Conference:* The Chair and Cllr Tait attended the recent conference. Both advised it was an excellent event and provided valuable contacts and information. There was a discussion as to whether Elsdon should be part of the local cluster group of Parishes, located in Rothbury.
- d) *Elsdon Social Enterprise project:* The Chair provided details of her meeting with Anne Lawson, NCC Social Enterprise that day. Anne has agreed to attend a meeting in Elsdon on 17 November to provide advice on how EPIC can become effective as part of Social Enterprise project. There was agreement EPIC need to develop a constitution before opening its own bank account.

7. Any other business:

- a) Cllr White highlighted that BT had been conducting a survey in Elsdon recently. It would appear this is in connection with high speed broadband that potentially could be available locally by 2015.
- b) The Chair advised BT had been in touch to say there is a possibility an inspection hole and cover may need to be placed on the village green next to the telephone box. They would however write confirming details before taking any action.
- c) Cllr Simmance advised of two planning applications for wind turbines near Belford had recently been rejected.
- d) There had been a complaint made about the condition of the notice board on the Crown. It was not known who owns it but it was agreed to ask Robert Arthur before any action would be considered.
- e) It was noted that in the Hexham Courant the filling station in Wark had been registered as a community asset. There was discussion as to whether the same could be done for the Rector's School and it was agreed the matter should be on the agenda at next month's meeting.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 13 November, 2014 starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

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