

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

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), White, Simmance, Maddison and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers, Chris France

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 read out an email received from David Moat (NCC) stating that repairs for the bridges are still planned but budget had not yet been set. Cllr White reported he had seen water flowing through the stonework of the parapets.
- b) It was reported that there had been no further developments on the conditions of the roads by NCC. It was also highlighted that there were many blocked gullies across the village and in particular on the road to Raylees.
- c) The Chair advised that Alistair from Border Signs had been in contact. Elsdon will receive two information signs in respect of Dark Sky Discovery site. There is due to be a plaque on the Village Hall as well as a rotational board outside the Pinfold.
- d) The Chair read out a letter received from Mr Ivan Dunn covering the matters of CCTV camera and access across the village green. Following discussion between the Councillors it was agreed the Clerk would write a response with the Parish Council comments.
- e) Cllr Simmance provided details of the Community Asset transfer and how it may possibly be applied to the Rector's School. After discussion it was agreed he would contact Kirsten Francis of NCC about completion of an application.
- f) There was discussion regarding proposal by Northumberland 4 Homes to lay protection for grass at the area adjacent to Crawford Crescent. There was some concern that by agreeing to the proposals this may encourage parking on the village green. However it was agreed protection to the grass was required with a notable boundary at the edge of the protection. This was highlighted following a van that became stuck in the soft ground recently. The Councillors agreed they would not wish to see a kick-rail installed. It was suggested that perhaps a length of concrete distinguishing the end of the grass protection and the rest of the village green could be installed. There was a request for the grass protection to be created for the whole length of the area and the Clerk was asked to contact Hannah Simpson with the proposals discussed. The Chair also highlighted the corner of the village green near her property has been significantly eroded over time by vehicles cutting the corner.
- g) The Clerk reported that those nominated for Northumberland Local Heroes received a certificate and a small memento. It was agreed there was no further action required at this time.

5. Finance:

- a) The Clerk provided details of the current financial position and anticipated spend to the end of the financial year. Following discussion it was agreed by all Councillors to leave the precept at £1,500.
- b) It was agreed the North Tynies Child Care provided a valuable service and a donation of £50.00 agreed.
- c) The Chair provided invoices from Deb Hudson in respect of the Christmas lights totalling £86.51. It was agreed by all to pay this.
- d) It was agreed to pay the invoice for £18.00 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in respect of the Remembrance wreath.
- e) It was agreed to pay the invoice of £24.95 inc. VAT to Spanglefish for the annual website subscription. The Clerk reported that the invoice to SB Signs for £187.20 paid last month had already been paid by Hollywell Joinery. As such a new cheque was issued to Hollywell Joinery.

6. Planning:

There were no planning applications this month.

7. New business:

- a) *EPIC meeting with Ann Lawson*: The Chair provided details of meetings with Ann that had been constructive. It was reported that there was a good group of local people involved who were due to meet again on 15 December when it was hoped individual responsibilities would be agreed.
- b) *Ray Wind farm – discharge of conditions*: Cllr Simmance provided details of the discharge of conditions and his letter to Sarah Seabury (NCC) on the matter. There was disappointment that NCC had not been in contact with the Parish Council regarding developments of the application. The Clerk was asked to contact NCC asking that Elsdon Parish Council is kept up-to-date with future developments. Additionally he was asked to contact both Kirkwhelpington and Corsenside Parish Councils to determine whether they had received any correspondence.
- c) *Woodland Trust offer of free trees*: It was noted that this matter was raised a year ago. Following discussion it was agreed to accept Mrs Carol Lewins offer to complete an application for a small pack of trees. There was suggestion that some trees could be located near the car park as well as on the village green near Crawford Crescent.
- d) *Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy*: There was discussion about the strategy and the drop in session on 9 January in Rothbury was noted.
- e) *Schedule of Town and Parish Council meetings in 2015*: Details were shared with the Councillors.
- f) *Parish Clerk's salary*: The Chair shared details received from NALC. It was agreed no action was required at this time.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr France provided details about the timber trade route map. He asked whether Elsdon Parish Council had been consulted about this matter. It was confirmed there had been no correspondence received. Cllr France advised this was the same answer as all other parishes and he would contact NNPA.
- b) The Clerk shared details of winter highways plans received from NCC.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 8 January, 2015 starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

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