

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12 March, 2015

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), White, Simmance, Maddison and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllrs Sue Bolam and Chris France. Parishioners Tony Patrick, David Coles (from 7.10), Annie Gregory and Simon Etheridge. Damien Weston (until 7.25)

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. Damien Weston: The Chair welcomed Damien Weston who provided his background. He is a First Responder based in Rochester and is presently the only one in the Redesdale valley. He provided details of various defibrillators as well as first aid training. Defibrillator costs vary but one that is recommended as it has an adult / child switch costs approx £820 plus VAT. He advised that there are various charities within Northumberland as well as nationally willing to help fund the purchase. A box to store it would also need to be purchased and Damien recommended a steel type.

There was discussion on where to locate one if purchased as it would require electric supply. Consideration was given how one could be funded as it was agreed it would be good to purchase one for the village. It was agreed the topic should be raised at the next EPIC meeting.

5. Matters arising

- a) Elsdon Bridge repairs – The Clerk provided an update he had received from David Moat (NCC) who is still attempting to progress the bridge repairs. It was agreed the Clerk would also write to the Environmental Agency regarding potential dredging to the burn. It was highlighted that the metal railings on one of the bridges required attention as they were in a bad state of repair.
- b) State of local roads – The Clerk advised he had received an email from Kevin Bartlett (NCC) who promised he was still pursuing the repairs to local roads. It was highlighted that there were very bad pot holes in the A696 near Knowesgate.
- c) Dark Sky Discovery Site – It was highlighted that the rotating information board at the pinfold was pointing in the wrong direction. The Clerk was asked to contact the contractors to have this corrected.
- d) Community Asset transfer – There was discussion regarding the ownership of the Rectors School. It was highlighted that it appeared no council or business tax was being paid on the building. The Chair advised she would contact Neil Easton (NCC)
- e) Broadband in Elsdon – Update – There was discussion on activity seen in recent days by BT Openreach. It was agreed the Clerk should contact John Cooper (iNorthumberland) to arrange a meeting to clarify points. The Clerk also highlighted details he had received from Paul Cross of Openreach regarding a wayleave agreement for a pole on the village green.
- f) Consultation on future funding of subsidised bus services: It was agreed all should be encouraged to complete the survey as well as complete on behalf of organisations.

6. Finance:

- a) There was discussion regarding the quotes received from David Scott. This was for paving slabs in front of the rotating notice board at the pinfold, repair of the notice board at the pinfold and repairs to the seating in the village. As the quote total came to over £500 it was agreed further quotes should be obtained before a decision is made.

- b) It was agreed to pay the invoice for the hire of the room at the village hall for the Parish Council meetings. The total was £120 for the year.

7. Planning:

- a) There were no planning applications this month.

8. New business:

- a) *Winters Gibbet* – Cllr Tait spoke about a conversation she had with Sally Richards (General Manager of Wallington Estate). It concerned the fact there appeared to be no plan to replace the ‘head’ on Winters Gibbet. The reason was that it had been vandalised on previous occasions. There was agreement that that many visitors to the area asked for directions to the site and wanted to see the gibbet in a complete state with the ‘head’. It was agreed the Clerk should write to Ms Richards asking for the ‘head’ to be replaced and offering the possibility of Elsdon raising funds if required via EPIC.
- b) *Trees bordering Blaxter Quarry along the highway* – The Clerk advised he had made contact with the agents and that the matter was being pursued to have these trees felled before they are blown down by winds across the road.
- c) *NCC Planning Review* – There was discussion on the various communications shared about this topic from Parish and Town Councils in response to the NCC proposals. Cllr Bolam promised to share an email she had received on the topic and it was noted the matter was being discussed at the NCC meeting on 1 April.
- d) *Parking at Kielder Water* – Resident Annie Gregory raised the matter of the charges for parking for Elsdon residents when neighbouring communities were receiving free parking permits. She also expressed the disappointment of the responses and the tone of these received from Kielder. It was agreed the Clerk would write seeking clarification and ask if the catchment area could be expended to include Elsdon.
- e) *Timber wagon routes* – Cllr Bolam spoke about the routes in the local area some of which are actually impassable. Cllr France added that whilst the routes were a problem the speed the wagons passed through the villages and also many at very early hours was a further concern.
- f) *Border Uplands Partnership sessions 16 March, Redesdale Arms* – The Clerk provided details of the event.
- g) *NALC Regional event, 28 March, County Hall, Durham* – It was agreed Cllrs Colby and Tait would attend.
- h) *Damage to village Green* – It was highlighted that a St John’s Ambulance had become stuck on the village green when attempting to drive across it. Further damage had been caused when a tractor was used to retrieve the vehicle. It was agreed the Clerk would write to St John’s Ambulance regarding the matter.

9. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Maddison provided details of the ‘Inspire futures scheme’ in relation to the church. Additionally he also spoke of the new lighting in the church and that the next stage of the overall plan was to plan for heating to be installed.
- b) Cllr Bolam provided an update on NNPA finances in relation to the Sill project.
- c) The Chair provided her apologies that she could not attend the April meeting.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 9 April, 2015 starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon
Meeting closed at 9.00pm