

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 9 April, 2015

**Present:** Councillors, Simmance (Vice-Chair), White, Maddison and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr Chris France. Parishioner Tony Patrick

1. **Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllr Colby.
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 Vice-Chair.
4. **Matters arising**
  - a) **Elsdon Bridge repairs** – The Clerk reported he had not received any further update from County Council regarding the repairs needed on the bridges. Cllr White advised he had been told about heavily loaded lorries crossing the bridge that appeared to be exceeding the weight restrictions. He has asked for photos, time and date details so this can be reported to the Police.
  - b) **State of local roads** – The Clerk advised there had been no further update from County Council regarding the repairs required to the local roads. It was agreed he would continue to pursue for response and agreement for repairs.
  - c) **Dark Sky Discovery Site** – There had been no response from Duncan Wise regarding the correct placement of the notice board at the pinfold and it was agreed the Clerk would contact him for timescale of when the work would be undertaken.
  - d) **Community Asset transfer** – There was discussion about the latest information received on the ownership of the Rectors School and potential action that could be taken. It was agreed the matter would also be discussed at the next EPIC meeting to consider how the community wish to proceed.
  - e) **Broadband in Elsdon – Update** – The Clerk advised that a meeting for John Cooper (iNorthumberland) to update on the progress of superfast broadband in the Redesdale Valley would be either 23, 24 or 27 April and that when the date is confirmed it would be communicated via the Town Crier.
  - f) **Defibrillator and first aid training:** The Clerk advised he had heard from the committee that arranged the Promise Evening at the RTC to raise funds for a defibrillator. It had apparently been a great success with almost £10,000 expected to be raised. A further update was expected next month when the final figure was known and plans for purchasing defibrillators across Redesdale were confirmed.
  - g) **Winter's Gibbet:** The Clerk advised he has not as yet received a response from Sally Richards (General Manager, Wallington Estate) regarding the 'head' on the Winter's Gibbet.
  - h) **Trees bordering Blaxter Quarry along the highway:** The Clerk confirmed had received an email advising the thin line of trees would be felled in the near future. It was believed the delay was due to the adverse weather and log wagons were getting stuck on the tracks.
  - i) **Parking at Kielder Water:** There was disappointment at the response from Kielder declining parking permits for Elsdon residents. It was agreed to write again including suggestion received from parishioner Annie Gregory.
  - j) **NCC Planning review:** The Clerk shared a letter he had received from Sir Alan Bieth MP on the matter. Cllr Simmance shared details from the County Council meeting on 1 April that he attended.
  - k) **Border Uplands Partnership session 16 March, Redesdale Arms:** Cllr Simmance advised that the Chair had received some responses and after collating had sent them on to the Partnership Scheme to be included in the funding bid.
  - l) **Quotes for various jobs about the village:** It was agreed that as the Parish Council had a limited budget it unfortunately could not agree to the entire quote received. It was suggested a volunteer working party may be able to undertake a number of jobs and the Clerk was asked to obtain a revised quote.

**5. Finance:**

- a) The Clerk's salary and expenses were agreed for the six months to April 2015.
- b) The Clerk provided details of the VAT return credited to the Parish Council bank account for £502.90.

**6. Planning:**

- a) There were no planning applications this month.

**7. New business:**

- a) *Garden waste collection:* - There was discussion regarding the recent email received from NCC attempting to justify why garden waste collection could not be introduced to Elsdon. There was agreement that the email appeared to be poorly constructed and provided no logical reason to the decision. It was agreed the Clerk would share the email with Cllr Bridget seeking support for the garden waste bins.
- b) *Ray Wind Farm:* – Cllr Simmance provided details of the discharge of condition 25. This was despite other records not appearing to be available for public access. All were in agreement for Cllr Simmance to make contact with NCC in attempt to access the more recent bird breeding reports.
- c) *Village agents* – The Clerk provided details received from CAN. There was discussion and agreement that the matter will be raised at the next EPIC meeting.
- d) *Parish Group meetings in May* – The Clerk provided dates and locations of the meetings

**9. Any other business:**

- a) The Clerk provided details of the CAN Spring conference on 28 April.

**10. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 14 May, 2015 starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon  
Meeting closed at 8.45pm