

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 11 June, 2015

**Present:** Councillors, Colby (Chair), Simmance, White, Maddison and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Parishioner Annie Gregory (from 7.30pm), Mark Bolton (NNPA Ranger) (until 7.15pm), Andrew Douglas (NCC) (until 7.50pm)

**3. Damage to footbridge over Elsdon burn – Mark Bolton:** The Councillors initially met Mr Bolton at the footbridge shortly before the meeting to assess the damage. Mr Bolton described the elements of the damage at the meeting. There was discussion on the options for repair. It was agreed Mr Bolton would survey the bridge and provide a quote for repairs he believed NNPA could provide the labour and tools but the Parish Council would probably need to fund the repairs. It was agreed the Environmental Agency would need to be contacted regarding the proposals. The Chair thanked Mr Bolton for his time and work.

**1. Apologies:** There were no apologies.

**2. Declarations of Interest:** There were none raised

**4. Minutes of the previous Ordinary meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**8 (b) Log wagons using local roads** – The Chair welcomed Andrew Douglas (Timber Transport Liaison Officer, NCC). Mr Douglas provided background of the timber transport volunteer forum that is attended by many of the timber companies. He also provided detail of the three categories the roads are divided into for use by timber wagons. He confirmed the road through Elsdon can be used by wagons at anytime.

The issue of speeding vehicles and in particular timber wagons was raised. Mr Douglas agreed to arrange installation of speed monitor equipment at the Otterburn and Hepple ends of the village. Mr Douglas advised he would do what he could regarding the time of day the wagons came through the village after it was reported some residents are being woken at 2.30am. It was also agreed the Clerk would contact NCC regarding the placement of the 30mph signs and see if these can be moved to help the situation regarding speeding traffic. The Chair thanked Mr Douglas for his time.

## **5. Matters arising**

- a) Elsdon Bridge repairs – The Clerk advised he had not heard anything further from Mr Moat.
- b) State of local roads – The Clerk provided an update after a conversation with Mitch Young (NCC) regarding the repairs to verge damage. There had been a recent site meeting where options were discussed and agreed. Mr Young advised that the repair should be carried out in the next few weeks. It was mentioned that the idea of installing bollards had been discussed by local residents and a decision made not to have them.

Mr Young also advised it was planned to have the worse of the road surface between Elsdon and Hepple repaired in the next few weeks.

- c) Dark Sky Discovery Site – It was confirmed the information board at the pinfold had been moved to the correct position. Additionally it was reported that the community notice board at the pinfold had been repaired by Homes for Northumberland.
- d) Community Asset transfer – It was agreed that the Councillors would arrange a separate meeting to discuss this matter.
- e) Broadband in Elsdon – Update – The Clerk advised that he had not heard from John Cooper (iNorthumberland) but would chase for update and whether they could attend the village fete.

- f) Defibrillator and first aid training: There was discussion on the best location for the defibrillator. It was agreed whilst it had some drawbacks the village hall would be best location as it had an electric supply. There would be funding raising efforts to purchase a second unit to cover the rest of the 'core' of the village.
- g) Winter's Gibbet: There was disappointment expressed that the National Trust at Wallington had decided not to replace the 'head' at the Winter's Gibbet. It was agreed to write to Robin Dower asking to see if he would support a new 'head' being fitted.
- h) Parking at Kielder Water: The response from Lynn Turner of Kielder Water was discussed. There was disappointment about the decision and it was agreed to write again and provide photos of the verge damage linking to the timber business and ask again for parking permits for Elsdon residents.
- i) Quotes for various jobs about the village: It was confirmed one of the round seats was beyond repair on the village green. It was agreed it would be very expensive to replace and consideration needed to be given about not replacing at all. It was agreed to create a list of jobs needed around Elsdon and get quotes. Cllr Tait advised she would raise the matter at the next EPIC meeting.
- j) Garden waste collection: It was reported that names of residents who wished to have garden waste collected and willing to pay for the service were being collected. To date 16 names had been collected and the Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Bridgett. It was reported that lawn cuttings had been found near the burn at the treatment works and there was concern about the quality of the water in the burn.

#### **6. Finance:**

- a) National Power Grid way-leave payment: The Clerk reported he had received a cheque for £137.96.

#### **7. Planning:**

- a) There were no planning applications this month. It was reported that an application had been received just before the meeting for Raylees Farm. Given the nature and timing of the application the Clerk advised he had asked NCC for an extension before responding and the topic would be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **8. New business:**

- a) Homes for Northumberland: - The Chair provided details of the work removing asbestos from their cottages. She had been speaking to Peter Judd of Homes for Northumberland who advised the work would be completed shortly and the skip then removed.
- c) School bus contracts: – An update was provided on the school contract following response from NCC.

#### **9. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Maddison advised a complaint had been received about the long stay parking in the village car park. It was agreed that as it was a NCC car park nothing could be done about this.
- b) Cllr Maddison mentioned the logging near his house had been quiet the last 10 days or so.
- c) The Chair provided an update after speaking to NNPA about the Rector's School. A meeting was arranged for Councillors to discuss on 18 June.
- d) Cllr France provided details of the forthcoming NNPA AGM.

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

Meeting closed at 9.30pm