

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 11 February, 2016

Present: Councillors, Colby (Chair), Simmance (from 7.30), White, Maddison and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Megan Randall (until 8.15), Kevin Bartlett (NCC)

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. Guest – Kevin Bartlett (NCC Locality Development Officer): - The Chair welcomed Mr Bartlett. He covered a number of items including – 1) Garden Waste – He was certain a solution could be found so that garden waste could be collected from residents in Elsdon. 2) Ditches on road to Raylees – The Chair explained the problem along the road. Cllr White advised the digger was being driven all the way from Alnwick each day to do the work. Mr Bartlett believed this digger had nothing to do with NCC and that technically preventing run-off from fields was the farmer's responsibility. It was however highlighted that the problem has been caused by a poor job undertaken by the contractor in his digger. Mr Bartlett advised he would investigate. 3) 30 MPH sign – The request to move the sign further out of the village beyond the houses on the Otterburn side of Elsdon would cost a lot advised Mr Bartlett. It was confirmed that it had been requested via LTP for the last few years but not yet been signed-off. 4) Bridge safety – Cllr White explained the problem with the bridge. Mr Bartlett provided details of funding and advised he would look into the matter including the weight limit signage. 5) Blocked gully alongside the church – Mr Bartlett advised it had been noted and that Mr Hodgson would make arrangements to resolve the problem. 6) Speeding vehicles through Elsdon – Mr Bartlett suggested speaking to Sgt Vickers about the matter. 7) Grass cutting – Mr Bartlett advised that had been issues with contractors and grass cutting last year but this should have been resolved. He suggested however that the matter is discussed with Mr Hodgson when a meeting is arranged. 8) Overhanging trees – It was highlighted to Mr Bartlett that the 'Elsdon' sign on the A696 junction at Raylees was hidden by trees. He advised who would investigate the matter.

5. Guest – Bob Hodgson (Area Manager, NCC Neighbourhood Services): - Due to other commitments Mr Hodgson was unable to attend the meeting. It was agreed to arrange another time to meet him.

National Park Artist in residence

Megan Randall explained that she was the Northumberland National Park Artist in residence for two months until end of March. She spoke of the workshops and projects she was involved in working with children in local area. One such project was to create clay birds and fix them to the top of the Pinfold wall for a short while. Whilst it was agreed there was a request that future plans that included the village green were first shared with the Parish Council to seek agreement. There was an invite to Megan to attend the Fete on August Bank Holiday Monday.

6. Matters arising

- a) Broadband in Elsdon: The latest email from iNorthumberland was discussed. There was still confusion as to what were the actual plans and timescales for the broadband roll-out and it was agreed to contact John Cooper as well as BT Openreach to invite to a future meeting.
- b) Log wagons using local roads – This matter including the speeding vehicles was covered in the item with Mr Bartlett.

- c) Collection of garden waste from Elsdon – This matter including the speeding vehicles was covered in the item with Mr Bartlett.

7. Finance:

- a) There were no Finance agenda items this month.

8. Planning:

- a) There were no planning applications to consider this month.
b) The Clerk referred to an email received from Mr Glen Graham updating in respect of his planning application. It highlighted the problems he was having regarding aspects of the Section 106 and the NNPA Planning / Legal departments. There was concern as to whether such aspects of S106 had always been included and that others in the Elsdon area may also be impacted. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact NNPA Planning for clarification.

9. New business:

- a) The Rector's School: - The Chair shared the details of emails she had received from Ruth Dickinson (NNPA) on the matter. Ruth had established ownership of the property however this was currently a matter of probate. Hence the future of the property could not be determined until this was completed. There was speculation of interest from potential parties possibly wishing to purchase the building.
b) Alnwick 1915. An Armed Camp DVD – The Clerk shared correspondence he had received and the accompanying DVD.
c) Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme – The Chair advised Elsdon had not been successful on this occasion which was disappointing especially as Tesco had strongly recommended that an application was made.
d) Ray Wind Farm Community Liaison Meeting update – Cllr Simmance provided details from the last meeting (10 February). There would be an average of 37 lorries arriving at the site each day during development, turbines should begin to arrive in June and the site should be operational from February 2017. In August 2017 the first distribution of the funding would begin. There was discussion regarding the questionnaire that residents had received although it appeared there was no capacity for bodies such as the Parish Council and EPIC to respond. Additionally it was believed the questionnaire was structure to be leading in certain areas and it was felt it did not provide sufficient time for a considered response.

10. Any other business:

- a) The Chair highlighted that the next HLF Revitalising Redesdale meeting was on 19 February that she would be attending.
b) The Clerk highlighted a letter received from Anne-Marie Trevelyan asking about details of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that the matter would be dealt with via EPIC.
c) Mr Bartlett highlighted that Locality team at NCC was going to be restructured and that it would be reducing in size in the next few months. It was unsure at this time who would remain in position or the impact on Parishes.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 10 March, 2016, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 9.15pm