

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14 April, 2016

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

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) Broadband in Elsdon: It was noted that the majority of residents were now connected. The Clerk read an email received from John Cooper (iNorthumberland) regarding the few properties that were not presently connected.
- b) Log wagons using local roads – The Clerk advised he had not as yet received response from Sgt Brian Foley regarding a visit to discuss speeding vehicles and the position of the 30mph sign. Reference was made to the large vehicles that travelled through Elsdon and where passing the road was being damaged at the edges.
- c) Collection of garden waste from Elsdon – There was discussion following recent email from Adam Keen. It was agreed there was a need to highlight to residents that a letter would be received from NCC regarding possible garden waste collection from next year.
- d) Registration of the village green – The Chair spoke of her contact with the Duke of Northumberland's office. She advised that she had received no response as yet to her request asking for a new agreement

5. Finance:

- a) Clerk's salary & expenses - The Clerk's salary for the period October 2015 to April 2016 was agreed.
- b) The Clerk provided an update on the Parish Council finances. Opening balance on 1 April, 2015 was £3,425 and closing balance on 31 March, 2016 was £3,404. Income was £1,798 that included £1,500 precept as well as £160 wayleave from BT Openreach and £138 wayleave from Northern Powergrid. Expenditure during the year totalled £1,819 including £650 Clerk salary, £120 room hire, £265 Insurance, £181 for footbridge repairs. The statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statements were agreed for 2015-16.
- c) It was agreed to pay the invoice for £15.00 to P. Grieves for mole catching in churchyard and village green.

6. Planning:

- a) There were no planning items on the agenda this month.

7. New business:

- a) Dog fouling in the village – The concern of increased dog mess around the village and in particular on the village green was discussed. It was agreed at this time a gentle approach would be appropriate and a message would be posted on Town Crier as well as in the next issue of the Rede Valley Newsletter.
- b) Grass protection on the village green: The Chair advised she had emailed the point of contact provided by Cllr Bolam. So far there had been no response. On a different topic it was noted that a meeting had been arranged with Chris Livsey (Otterburn Camp) for 27 April regarding the damage to the village green.
- c) Various outstanding jobs in the village: It was reported that the streetlight had been repaired. Also the gully outside the church had been fixed. It was agreed that attention was required on the road to Raylees including overhanging trees and pot holes on the Gibbet Road. The Clerk was asked to invite Iain Hedley to a future Parish Council meeting.
- d) Bonfire clearance on village green: Time had been set for 10.00am on 16 April for volunteers to help clear the area.

- e) Bellingham surgery – Otterburn Memorial Hall service: Cllr Simmance and the Clerk provided details and an up-to-date position.
- f) Review of the Risk Assessment: Details were discussed and the assessment signed by the Chair and Clerk.
- g) Consultation on proposal for Ponteland School Partnership: There was discussion regarding the consultation. Cllr Tait express concern over the impact this potentially would have on Otterburn First School. Cllr Tait also reported that a new Executive Head had been appointed for the First School. This was shared resource with West Woodburn (one day a week each) and the other three days paid for and utilised by NCC.
- h) The Sill – Public meeting 20 April at Barden Mill Village Hall: It was agreed Cllrs Colby, White and Tait would attend
- i) Road closure for Elsdon fete: It was agreed the Clerk would make arrangements for the road to be closed.
- j) State of road surface on B6341 towards Otterburn: Cllr Simmance reported the bad road surface and pot holes on the road and it was agreed to contact NCC.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr White mentioned that the adjacent room in the village hall needs to be cleared before the floor is treated. This means the Parish Council cabinets need to be moved. It was agreed to move them into back room.
- b) It was reported that Damien Weston had agreed to be the First Aider at the August Bank Holiday fete. He does not have his own insurance but it was believed he would be covered by the Parish Insurance. The Clerk was asked to check.
- c) The latest details of the Green Rigg funding applications were shared. Possible ideas were discussed including village green ‘tidy-up’.
- d) Cllr White highlighted the number of pot holes including the one near the street light outside 10 Crawford Crescent. The car park surface was also highlighted as needing attention. As it is the responsibility of NCC the Clerk was asked to contact Iain Hedley regarding the matter.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 12 May, 2016, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 8.50pm