

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12 May, 2016

**Present:** Councillors, Colby (Chair), Simmance, White, and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr Bolam (until 9.00), Cllr France, Lydia Speakman, Geoff Rickelton (from 7.30)

**1. Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllr Maddison.

**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. Lydia Speakman – HLF Project Delivery Manager Revitalising Redesdale:** The Chair welcomed Lydia who provided her background to her appointment as the Project Manager. She spoke about her plans to visit and find out about the requirements of various groups across the valley. This will include speaking to local businesses about what can attract people to the area. Lydia spoke also about the feasibility studies that were beginning now and advised that if Elsdon wished to suggest an area for funding this should be submitted by autumn 2016. The Chair thanked Lydia for her time.

## **5. Matters arising**

- a) Broadband in Elsdon: Mixed fortunes were reported on the broadband connection in Elsdon. Wayleave papers were provided in respect of access across the village green for The Old School. The Chair signed the form and the Clerk was asked to return this to BT Openreach.
- b) Log wagons using local roads – The Clerk reported he had not been able to make contact with Sgt Brian Foley. Cllr Tait advised she had raised the matter at the recent Joint Parish Meeting. There was discussion regarding the speeding vehicles including motorbikes and cars as well as larger vehicles and log wagons. Whilst all Councillors were in agreement that they did not want to adversely impact on the logging industry they did wish for some respect from the drivers going through the village and using local roads. Cllr Bolam provided an example of the code of conduct agreement with the drivers from Harden Quarry. Lydia Speakman spoke about potential funding from the project and links with activities such as cycling, walkers.
- c) Collection of garden waste from Elsdon – The Clerk advised he had spoken to Adam Keen (NCC) who had reported that that the letters to residents regarding the potential collection of garden waste from 2017 would be sent to residents in the next 3 – 4 weeks.
- d) Registration of the village green – The Chair thanked Geoff Rickelton for his time. He provided details behind the registration of the village green as a village green back in 1977. He provided paperwork that indicated that the village green was owned by the Parish Council. It was agreed this should help as evidence to present to the Land Registry together with a statement of evidence of ownership.
- e) Dog fouling in the village: It was reported that there would be an article in the next edition of the Rede Valley Newsletter about the matter.
- f) Grass protection on the village green: The Chair explained that the person who she had approached for a quote had been ill. Cllr Bolam suggested contact could be made with his son, Richard. There was discussion regarding the likely cost of the project and options for funding. It was reported that Ruth Dickinson (NNPA) was investigating the matter.
- g) Various outstanding jobs in the village: The Clerk advised he had reported the potholes and poor road surfaces across around Elsdon. It was noted that some had been repaired in recent weeks. However it was also noted nothing had as yet been done regarding the trees overhanging the roads.
- h) Bonfire clearance on village green: The area had been cleared and special thanks were given to Archie for his assistance. Cllr White advised he had some spare grass seed that could be used on the area.

- i) Bellingham surgery – Otterburn Memorial Hall service: The Clerk provided an update following an email received from Helen Patterson, Bellingham Practice Manager.
- j) The Sill – Public meeting: The Chair provided a summary of the meeting. She advised there was an impression that residents local to the Sill were not happy with the amount of traffic along the road as well as the dangerous corner that had not been made any safer so far.

**6. Finance:**

- a) Parish Insurance renewal: The premium of £273.75 as part of three year premium plan was agreed.

**7. Planning:**

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

**7. New business:**

- a) Ray Wind Community Liaison Meeting update – Cllr Simmance provided details from the meeting on 20 April. He advised the turbines were due to be delivered to site from June and that most of the foundations were now complete. A second Community update is scheduled to be run in Kirkwhelpington week commencing 23 May. He also provided details of the Steering Group and interviews for the ‘lay’ positions that were being arranged for 17, 18 and 24 May. Cllr Simmance had a copy of the recent CAN survey summary that he shared details.
- b) Tynedale Community Bank: Cllr Tait provided details she had received and that she had volunteered her time to help with getting the initiative up and running locally.

**8. Any other business:**

- a) Geoff Rickelton asked about the ‘head’ on Winters Gibbet. He referred to an agreement several years ago that there would always be a ‘head’ there. He reported that he understood a ‘cast’ had been made so that it would be easy to replace in case of need.

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

Meeting closed at 9.35pm