

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 9 June, 2016

**Present:** Councillors, Colby (Chair), Simmance, White, Maddison and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Tom Forrester, Tony Patrick (until 8.10), Stephen Shaw (from 7.20 until 8.10.)

**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 as well as Annual Parish Council meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## **Tom Forrester**

The Chair welcomed Mr Tom Forrester, Chief of Staff to Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP. After providing details of his background Mr Forrester covered points previously highlighted by the Councillors as areas of concern locally. BT Openreach wayleaves – Mr Forrester provided contact point of someone in his office dealing with wayleaves. It was agreed the Clerk would email details of the outstanding matters.

Garden waste collection, 30mph sign relocation and state of local roads – Mr Forrester advised the Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP had written to the Chief Executive of NCC about these matters however had not as yet received a response. Mr Forrester reported he and Anne-Marie had a meeting on the following Monday when these matters would be covered.

Mr Forrester spoke of the state of the local roads including the A1 consultation and A697

## **4. Matters arising**

- a) Broadband in Elsdon: It was reported that vast majority of residents now had opportunity to access the superfast broadband.
- b) Log wagons using local roads – This topic was covered by Mr Forrester.
- c) Collection of garden waste from Elsdon – It was reported that the letters coming from NCC had not arrived and the Clerk was asked to contact Adam Keen for update. The topic was also covered by Mr Forrester.
- d) Registration of the village green – The Clerk advised he had not as yet had chance to prepare the statement providing evidence of the ownership of the village green. He advised he had not been able to find the article online that Mr Rickelton referred to and would contact him for details.
- e) Grass protection on the village green: The Chair advised that there had been no further contact with the person recommended by Cllr Bolam as yet but it was agreed to continue down this route. It was confirmed that Michael Dodd, who was going to do the village green damage repairs would not wish to quote for this job.
- f) Bellingham surgery – Otterburn Memorial Hall service: The Clerk advised that there was to be a Partner's meeting on 9 June when the topics causing the postponement of the service were to be discussed.

**Bird in Bush – update:** The Chair welcomed Stephen Shaw. Mr Shaw advised he wished to complete the licence application allowing people to drink on the edge of the village green near the pub however wished for permission from the Parish Council. There was discussion about adding seating in that location and Mr Shaw advised if agreed he would cut the grass around the tables. The Councillors agreed to the request subject to the seating being available to all and not just customers of the pub. Mr Shaw provided an update on progress including windows, difficulties with planning applications due to the listed status of the building and application for a micro-brewery in the garage. Mr Shaw advised his plan was to be open in time for the village fete in August.

**6. Finance:**

- a) NALC annual subscription: The payment of £67.00 was agreed.

**7. Planning:**

- a) 16/0186/PREAPP: Change of use of existing building from light industrial (meat cutting plant) to a single residential unit: Monkridge Hill Far, West Woodburn, NE48 2TU: Following discussion it was agreed to register an interest for details of further development plans.

**7. New business:**

- a) Ray Wind Steering Group – Cllr Simmance provided an update on developments. Following recent interviews he provided names of all successful applicants and full list of those representing the Steering Group. He spoke about the objectives of the next meeting on 15 June.
- b) Damage to the village green: It was confirmed the Andrew Dodd would be undertaking the repairs. There was concern that the Parish Council had to make the necessary arrangements when ideally Otterburn Camp would do this. The Clerk was asked to contact Chris Livsey in this respect.
- c) BT Openreach wayleaves: This topic was covered by Mr Forrester. The Clerk added that he had heard from a Lee Lawless at BT Openreach who was going to arrange for a site visit to discuss a more appropriate location for a pole that that being suggested by them.
- d) Winter's Gibbet: The Chair provided an update of a conversation she had had with Lydia Speakman. Lydia had met Paul Hewitt who had advised that it was proposed not to replace the 'head' as it was a family burial ground. It was agreed to write to the Director General of National Trust, Dame Helen Ghosh regarding the matter.
- e) EPIC funding applications: Cllr Simmance spoke of the application completed with the help of David Coles and submitted to the Green Rigg Development fund. The request for funding was for the purchase of 500m of barrier mesh and 4 marquees. A further application (with the help of Jo Scott) has been made in respect of the Pinfold.

**8. Any other business:**

- a) The Chair spoke of a conversation she had with Lydia Speakman regarding the possibility of pollinators being introduced in the village. Following discussion the Chair advised she would return to Lydia.
- b) The Chair highlighted the 'Big Lunch' that would be on 12 June.
- c) Cllr Simmance highlighted the Church Flower festival at the weekend of 24 June and the concert on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- d) Cllr Maddison referred to a meeting he had with Lydia Speakman regarding a possible project to add display lighting on the horse skull in the church as well as carbon dating the skull. Additionally there was discussion regarding the possibility of excavation of the mass grave site. Cllr Maddison advised that the Battlefield Trust had shown an interest to be involved.

- 9. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 14 July, 2016, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 9.15pm