

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 8 December, 2016

**Present:** Councillors, Colby (Chair), Simmance, White, Maddison and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Chris France and Sue Bolam (from 7.20)

**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 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## **4. Matters arising**

- a) Relocation of 30mph sign location – The Clerk advised he had been in touch with Neil Snowdon (NCC). Mr Snowdon confirmed he was preparing a report following the recent meeting with the Chair and Cllr Tait and that he would send through soon. Mr Snowdon also reported he had not as yet but would be contacting Cllr Bridgett to determine what possible funding may be available from him. The Clerk advised he had also attempted to contact Cllr Bridgett but had not received any reply.
- b) Winter's gibbet – The Chair confirmed she and Cllr Tait were due to meet Sam Sprowat from the Hexham Courant shortly.
- c) Ray Wind update – The Clerk shared a paper received from the Chair of the Ray Wind steering group on the up-to-date position of developments. There was discussion of the possible projects that any possible funding from Ray Wind could help with and the Clerk was asked to reply with these suggestions.

## **5. Finance:**

- a) 2017-18 precept: Following review of the finances and discussion it was agreed to leave the precept at the current level of £1,500.
- b) Payment of the annual website subscription: The payment of £24.96 plus VAT was agreed.
- c) Payment of the Remembrance wreath: The payment of £18.00 was agreed.
- d) Payment of invoice for Village Hall hire: The payment of £120.00 was agreed. This included room hire for the year up to and including September 2016.

## **6. Planning:**

- a) 16NP0109: Construction of single storey extension to rear of dwelling at Whitehall, Elsdon, NE19 1AA – There were no objections to this planning application.

## **7. New business:**

- a) Condition of Raylees road – The Clerk reported on the conversation he had had with Michael Rowe (NCC). It was reported that NCC had within last two weeks had workmen clearing ditches along the road. Mr Rowe however advised that the ongoing responsibility for ensuring water does not run off on to road is with the landowners of land adjoining the road. There was discussion of this latest information. It was questioned whose responsibility it is of water flowing from one field to another on to a road. The work undertaken by an individual with a digger from Alnwick was highlighted and questioned as to who had authorised this. It was agreed the Clerk would email Mr Rowe seeking further clarification on the matter.
- b) Green Rigg funding deadline and funding fair: The Chair spoke of a very productive meeting at the funding fair she and Cllr Tait had attended. She advised that there were a good number of potential funders who gave encouragement for Elsdon to apply. It was agreed that there needed to be 'joined-up' thinking across the various committees in the Parish to work together in order to achieve the best way forward and most productive use of resources.

- c) BT telephone box on village green: Cllr Simmance reported he had identified that the report provided had registered the wrong telephone number for the box in Elsdon. It was highlighted that mobile signal was not that strong in a number of locations across the parish and as such the Councillors agreed to object to the removal of the telephone box. Cllr France also highlighted that phone cards were phased out from 2002. It was agreed the Clerk would contact NNPA to object to the proposal to remove the BT telephone on the village green.
- d) Elsdon East Bridge engineering works: The Clerk provided details of his conversation with NCC. It was assured that road closure would be kept to a minimum and only when the resurfacing was being undertaken. There was an offer to attend a future meeting so that the matter could be discussed in more detailed. This was agreed by the Councillors.
- e) Woodland Trust tree whips: The Chair provided background to the application of the whips and late notice objection to the planting these at the previously agreed location. Different locations were discussed including the broad road verge on the road to Otterburn. Cllr Bolam mentioned the possibility of planting some of the whips in the field alongside verge which is owned by the Rothbury Education Trust.
- f) Clearance of bonfire site on village green: There was agreement that on this occasion volunteers would be sought to clear the debris of the bonfire. It was agreed a date in January would be identified. It was noted that in recent years it was the same volunteers who were clearing the debris. It was agreed that in future the 'committee' that arranged the bonfire and fireworks event must also include the clear-up operation with the project.
- g) A1 proposed improvements: The Clerk provided details of the consultation and advised that a link had been added to the Parish Council website.

**8. Any other business:**

- a) Thanks were expressed to Deb and Gary Hudson for putting up the Christmas lights on trees on the Village Green.

**9. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 12 January, 2017, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 9.50pm