

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 16 March, 2017

Present: Councillors, Colby (Chair), Simmance, White and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr France, David Renton, Glen Graham, Peter Morgan, Katie Bland (until 7.50), Steve Shaw (until 7.50), Robert Arthur (from 7.05). Jemma Reay (NCC – until 7.20).

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

4. Guest speaker – Jemma Reay, NCC Engineer regarding Elsdon bridge repairs: The Chair welcomed Jemma who provided a background to her role. Jemma initially spoke about the East Bridge (locally known as Starmyres). She confirmed that this and the Mill bridge were both listed and would have lime mortar used on them. The work will be in two parts. There would be first the reappointment of the masonry walls and arch underside both spans. Then the burn will be realigned to send the main flow through the South span with the North span acting as a flood relief. Jemma advised that it is expected that the road will need to be closed for a two week period while part of the work is being undertaken. Following discussion it was agreed it would be best for the work to start w/c 3 June after lambing so the impact on farmers would be less. It was highlighted that part of the problem with the burn flow was further downstream at the South bridge. Jemma agreed that work is needed there however the hydrogeomorphologist specialist will determine whether this is required. Turning to the Mill bridge Jemma provided details of the options that were being considered. It was highlighted that the bridge is used for access to the cemetery overflow. Additionally it was highlighted that as traffic lights would be required on the main road sufficient space would need to be provided for larger vehicles with reference made to log wagons. The Chair thanked Jemma for her time.

5. Matters arising

- a) Relocation of 30mph sign location –** The Chair referred to the meeting with Neil Snowdon (NCC) on 15 April that was very positive. Neil has promised to prepare a report with solutions and present to the Parish Council. This would include the 30mph signs on all sides of the village being relocated further out. Additionally new signage would be included for drivers warning 'no footpaths' in the village and Neil would also look at the car park being resurfaced. It was agreed that there would be no rumble strips in or around the village.
- b) Ray Wind update –** Cllr Simmance provided an update from the meeting held on 13 March when Community Foundation gave examples of where funding could and could not be potentially be provided. He also highlighted the 'drop-in' events on 4 and 6 April, the latter of which would be in the Elsdon Village Hall.
- c) Condition of Raylees Road –** The Chair advised she had directed Neil Snowdon along the Raylees road after the meeting to 'experience' the problems on the road. The Clerk reported on the conversation he had with Michael Rowe (NCC). It was agreed that to add signs for priority of drivers in one direction would help as well as the building of passing places along the road. Cllr White highlighted an area where there was a blockage of a ditch into a culvert near Haining that was leading to water flowing across the road. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the landowner asking for it to be cleared.
- d) May local elections:** The Clerk provided an update on the process.
- e) Rothbury Community Hospital:** The consultation was highlighted and that residents could access this via the Parish Council website. Cllr Simmance referred to the Council Leader, Grant Davey's comments on the matter, suggesting the proposal should be reconsidered.

6. Finance:

There were no finance matters on the agenda this month.

7. Planning:

- a) 17NP0009LBC: Strengthening & maintenance comprising the introduction of a reinforced concrete saddle and re-appointing of joints: Elsdon Mill Bridge, Elsdon: – Further to the early agenda item when this matter was discussed the Councillors were all in agreement to support the application.

8. New business:

- a) Proposed Bellingham Pharmacy service from Otterburn Memorial Hall: The Clerk provided details of the proposal. All agreed it was a good idea.
- b) Northumberland Residents Festival: The Clerk provided details and a small number of leaflets. He advised details were also on the Parish Council website.
- c) Parliamentary boundary changes: Cllr Simmance provided details that he had learnt of the proposed changes. This would include Rothbury moving within the Hexham area. He advised that further details were on the website www.bce2018.org.uk.
- d) NCC Planning Enforcement team: The Clerk provided details.

9. Any other business:

- a) The Chair highlighted that there was a FOI course on 30 March starting at 2.00pm at County Hall for those interested.
- b) Peter Morgan made reference to parking at Kielder. He had been in contact with Lynn Turner at Kielder and had received a letter confirming that Elsdon residents would receive a 50% discount on the Discovery Pass, reducing the cost to £20.00.
- c) Cllr Simmance advised he had the opportunity to receive a lockable 3ft x 3ft notice board and wondered if there was anywhere in the village that would benefit to have this. The end of the bus stop was considered as well as possible the pub. Cllr France asked if the glass or plastic met the safety requirements.
- d) Cllr Simmance highlighted that the Middle Hill Action Group were holding their AGM in the Village hall on 27 March.
- e) The Chair expressed thanks to those who had helped clear the bonfire debris. This included Dave Scott (for use of trailer), Chris Tait, Ian White as well as John & Kay Patten for allowing their skip to be used.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 13 April, 2017, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 8.25pm