

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 10 August, 2017

**Present:** Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Maddison, Morgan, Graham and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers.

**1. Apologies:** There were no apologies.

**2. Declarations of Interest:** There were none raised

## **Roger Bolam**

The passing of previous Clerk, Roger Bolam was mentioned by Cllr Maddison. Roger's long service on the Parish Council and selfless work within the community was highlighted by all. The Chair called for a minutes silence in tribute to Roger who will be greatly missed by the whole community.

**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) Ray Wind update – The Chair reported on the recent meeting of the Steering Group. The fund was not yet active and was being dealt with by the legal representatives of the CIC, Vattenfall and Community Foundation.
- b) Preparations for Elsdon 2017 bonfire & fireworks – There was a review of the risk assessment and checklist. It was agreed some aspects would not be applicable to the Elsdon event. The Clerk was asked to amend the paperwork and share with the Councillors.
- c) New and relocating road signage in Elsdon – The Chair provided an update following a meeting on 3 August with Neil Snowdon, NCC. It was agreed there would be no road markings in the centre of the road but there would be a junction road marking for the car park. The Chair spoke of the proposed relocation of the Elsdon 30mph signs agreed with Mr Snowdon as well as warning sign of pedestrians in the road on roads into the village.
- d) Repairs to Starmyres bridges – The Clerk confirmed he had received no new update from NCC on the ongoing repairs to the bridge. The Clerk confirmed that NCC would ensure the bridge is open for the Tour of Britain.
- e) Tour of Britain 4 September – The Clerk reported he had received confirmation that the route would be turning sharply at the Bird in Bush and that Mr Shaw had been advised.

## **5. Finance:**

- a) Reimbursement to Clerk for a book of stamps: The payment of £6.72 was agreed.
- b) Online banking proposal: The Clerk provide details of the options for online banking and authorising payments. Following discussion it was agreed to allow the Clerk to set up the system for one signature with supporting paperwork and audit trail to be signed at each meeting where payments are recorded on the agenda. The Clerk confirmed this option had the support of Stephen Rickett, retired NCC lawyer working now with NALC. It was agreed the Clerk would work to progress matters.

## **6. Planning:**

- a) 17NP0079/LBC: Strengthening and maintenance of bridge comprising the introduction of a reinforced concrete saddle and repointing of joints: Elsdon Mill Bridge, Elsdon – All Councillors supported the application although it was noted that the road recorded on the paperwork should be B6341, not B6342.
- b) 17NP0084: Construction of garden room to rear elevation: Town Head, Elsdon, NE19 1AA – Following discussion all Councillors supported the application.

**7. New business:**

- a) Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme 2018-19: Following discussion three areas were identified requiring attention. 1) Car park resurfacing including improved drainage (the Chair advised he had received a letter from Cllr Bridgett that he would support an application for this work). 2) a 'brown' sign pointing towards Winters Gibbet from the cross roads at the Bird in Bush and at Stamyres bridge and 3) a sign at the A696 junction with Raylees indicating the attractions at Elsdon including refreshments, pub and the church. It was agreed further consideration would be given before submitting the LTP to NCC
- b) Elsdon School building – Cllr Graham provided details of the sale of the property. There was concern over the potential that historical aspects of the property may be lost if sold to a developer. Additionally it was noted that the land in front of the property was the village green. Given the concern it was agreed that the Parish Council should arrange a meeting with Rebecca Adams of the National Park Planning.
- c) Fire & Rescue Plan 2017-21 consultation: It was agreed by all that it was good news that it was proposed to keep Rothbury and Bellingham stations.
- d) Elsdon Village Fete: It was reported that everything was under control for the fete.

**8. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Morgan made reference to property in the village that has selling conditions that included the requirement to sell to someone within Northumberland. There was discussion and Cllr Graham highlighted the conditions on his own property and others he knew about within the village.
- b) The Clerk made mention of the transport survey that needs to be completed and returned to CAN by 25 August. All agreed that residents needed to be encouraged to complete and return the survey.
- c) The Chair made mention of a request for possible children's play equipment to be installed on the village green. Reference was made to a matter in Prudhoe where the County Council have removed the equipment. It appears the local council could not afford the maintenance costs. At the present time the Chair advised Elsdon would also not be able to meet the ongoing costs of play area on the village green.
- d) The Chair spoke of the visit to the Sill for the pre-opening event. He advised it was interesting however was concerned that there did not seem to be the 'sign-posting' to other parts of the park that was promised. Additionally the Chair advised that the maps being sold in the shop had no mention of Elsdon.

**9. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 14 September, 2017, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm