

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 8 March, 2018

**Present:** Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Maddison, Morgan, Graham (from 7.20pm) and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. S. Kellie and C. Maddison

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. **Sam Kellie regarding First & Last Brewery planning and progress as well as plans:** Mr Kellie provided an update on the progress of the brewery being built behind the Bird in Bush. He reported that the road was due to be closed for a short time whilst Northern Powergrid install the electric connections. There was discussion regarding the reported length of time the road was reported to be closed and it was agreed the Clerk would seek confirmation of timescales. Mr Kellie advised that this work would be virtually the last element before the brewery would be operational. He and his wife hoped to be able to employ people locally and also wished to provide brewing experiences.

## 5. Matters arising

- a) **Ray Wind update / Parish Council representative decision** – The Clerk provided details of contact he had received from Paul Cowie wishing to represent the Parish Council on the Ray Windfarm CIC. The Councillors agreed to ask Mr Cowie to fill the role. The Clerk provided further details of the Community Foundation element of funding and that the first deadline for applications was 16 April, 2018.
- b) **New and relocating road signage in Elsdon** – The Clerk advised he had been in contact with NCC regarding the outstanding matters of the new signage. NCC had acknowledged the note however due to the recent poor weather and further damage to the road surfaces all resources were being deployed to the ‘urgent’ matters at the present time.
- c) **Street name signposting** – Cllr Morgan confirmed the sign had arrived. He advised that it had come with steel ‘legs’ that would need to be removed before fixing to the previously identified fence.
- d) **Action required regarding Data protection regulations** – The Clerk advised details had arrived from Stephen Rickitt but any action the Parish Council needed to take had still to be confirmed.
- e) **Development of village green pinfold update** – The Chair advised there was no update at this time.
- f) **Elsdon (Knightside) bridge** – The Clerk reported that he had received an email advising that there was due to be an inspection of the bridge very soon.
- g) **Gibbet road drainage problems** – There was discussion following receipt of a document from NCC regarding the responsibility for repairs to the damage that is causing surface water to flow across the road. This would suggest the land owner is responsible as what is known as a ‘Riparian Owner’. The Councillors questioned the apparent inconsistency across the local area however agreed that NCC and the landowner needed to make arrangements to undertake repairs as soon as possible. The Clerk was asked to return to NCC with this request.
- h) **State of roads around Elsdon (potholes, flooding on damaged surfaces)** – There was discussion regarding the state of local roads and Cllr Maddison highlighted the state of the road near Elsdon Tower where the village green was being eroded as a result of large vehicles attempting to negotiate the tight corner. It was suggested this required hogging put down.
- i) **Request for additional grit bins within Elsdon** – The Clerk advised that he had submitted a request but as yet had not received a response from NCC.
- j) **Car park resurfacing update** – It was reported that there had been no progress as yet due to the recent poor weather

## **6. Finance:**

- a) Consideration for Parish Council online banking - The Clerk provided an update on progress and it was agreed by all that Cllrs Simmance and Maddison as well as the Clerk would apply for the online banking.
- b) Reimbursement to the Clerk for 'clearing up dog mess' signs – There was agreement to reimburse the Clerk £9.90 including VAT.
- c) Payment for replacement defibrillator pads – The Clerk advised that the pads needed to be replaced after two years. He had not as yet received the invoice but the cost would be £58.90. The Chair believed that there were funds for defibrillator maintenance kept with EPIC and that he would check.

## **7. Planning:**

- a) There were no planning applications to consider this month.

## **8. New business:**

- a) 808 bus service – Review of latest information and consideration for response: The Clerk provided an update on the new operator taking over from 19 March. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to passengers if NCC were to arrange return tickets that could be used on both the Peter Hogg service as well as the new operator, Phoenix Taxis.
- b) Rothbury BDO report – consideration of any proposals you wish to introduce – There was discussion on the areas that potentially the Parish Council could introduce to improve management of the Parish Council although it was agreed many points were already being implemented or did not apply.
- c) Consultation about education in the West of Northumberland response: There was discussion regarding the consultation and concern over the possibility of the closure of West Woodburn first school as well as the possible travel time for young children.
- d) Post 16 transport policy consultation response: The Councillors were in agreement for the removal of the transport costs.
- e) Hadrian Learning Trust consultation response: The Councillors discussed this matter at the same time as agenda item 8c.
- f) Update on the Getabout service in Rede Valley: The Clerk advised that the meeting he was due to attend had been cancelled. He provided details of the Getabout service and how both volunteer drivers and people wishing to use the service could apply.
- g) Consideration of nay action to be taken regarding dog mess problem in Elsdon: It was agreed to put up the recently purchased signs and then monitor the situation. It was agreed the Chair and Cllr Graham would meet on 9 March to do this.
- h) Update on replacement of damaged road sign near the Pinfold: The Clerk advised the matter had been reported to NCC however due to the recent poor weather no action had as yet been taken.
- i) Information on Kielder Water & Forest Park local parking permit: The Clerk provided details of the offer of 50% discount for the parking permit and that details were on the Parish Council website.
- j) Planting bulbs near new road signs: The Chair confirmed he had many bulbs that could be used but suggested that it would be best to plant these later in the year.

## **9. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Graham highlighted the recent fly-tipping incident. He advised that this had been reported and the rubbish was due to be collected soon.
- b) Cllr Morgan highlighted the local news from Cllr Stephen Bridgett regarding road conditions during the recent snow. Thanks were expressed as well to local and NCC resources for snow clearance.

## **10. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 12 April, 2018, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm