

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 9 August, 2018

**Present:** Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Maddison, Morgan, and Graham. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Christine Maddison, Nicola Tait, Cllrs S. Bolam and C. France

**1. Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllr Renton

**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 with the following inclusion suggested by Cllr Maddison in respect of agenda item 4g "*St Cuthbert's Church was developing its own website as part of the criteria of the HLF funding. The site will be structured in such a way to enable it to be eventually expanded to include each community organisation on an equal footing, i.e. village hall, EPIC, and church. Each will have its own element forming a single Elsdon Online community website. Each organisation will be able to edit its own section independently, effectively becoming one website for all*" and signed by the Chair.

## **4. Matters arising**

- a) Ray Wind update** – The Clerk advised that Vattenfall had made the payment to the CIC for the first two years funds that covers up to and including 30 June, 2019. It was confirmed that arrangements were being made for £100,000 to be transferred to Community Foundation for a second phase of Small Grant Funding for charitable concerns. It was reported that the Administrator role would be advertised very soon and the website created as well as the process for funding applications via the CIC.
- b) Update on completion of new and relocating road signage work** – The Clerk advised he was still chasing NCC for them to undertake the actions previously discussed including the road surface signage.
- c) Development of village green pinfold update** – The Chair advised the work was all complete and as requested he had confirmed matters to Rebecca Adams (NNPA). All agreed the area looked very good.
- d) Elsdon Online website** – Cllr Maddison provided the latest position and it was agreed to keep the matter on the agenda for the time being.
- e) Elsdon to Raylees (Knightside) road and its use by heavy / large vehicles** – The Clerk advised he had spoken to Neil Snowdon (NCC) following his visit to the location. He advises an engineer will visit to assess what can be done to improve the road and junction to A696.
- f) Street lighting in Elsdon** – The Clerk advises he is continuing to chase Lesley Sawyer at NCC to arrange a visit to Elsdon in order to speak and clarify the required positioning of street lights.
- g) Northumberland Local Plan, Draft plan for regulation 18 consultation** – The Chair provided a summary of his comments and visit to the consultation in Bellingham where he spoke to Kevin Tipple (NCC). The Chair spoke about the proposed change of 'delivery areas' in the plan from Hexham to Haltwhistle There was discussion regarding the implications should this be implemented including bus service. It was highlighted that Elsdon is more aligned with the communities of Redesdale than Coquetdale yet was constantly associated with the latter. There was discussion regarding the proposals about wind farms as recorded in the plan and the accompanying map. It was highlighted that there should be 'buffer zones' that took into account the boundaries of areas such as the National Park. Mrs Tait provided details from the map provided of the windfarm and the possibility of Middle Hill still being considered. The Chair agreed to share his personal comments to the plan and the Councillors agreed to consider this with a view of a Parish Council response.

## **5. Finance:**

- a) Signing authorisation on Parish Council bank account** – The Chair and Cllr Maddison signed the mandate and Cllr Graham took it away to get it to get it processed.

## **6. Planning:**

- a) 18NP0063: Construction of a steel framed agricultural building: Whiskersfield Farm, Elsdon, NE19 1BX** – There was discussion regarding the location of the proposed building as it seemed to be some way away from the existing building. There was some concern that the proposed building would not be in-keeping with the

landscape of the area and a desire to see it blend into the scenery. It was questioned as to how power would be provided to the proposed building. The Councillors agreed to make no comment regarding support or objection to NNPA regarding the application.

## **7. New business:**

- a) Local Transport Programme 2019-20: Cllr Graham advised that there would be no support from Wallington for the 'green' road side signs for the Winters Gibbet and the Councillors agreed not to pursue this matter. There was discussion of possible areas requiring attention including the resurfacing on the B6341 and attention to the A696 near Blaxter Cottages where subsidence at the side of the road was making it very uneven. The Gibbet Road was also highlighted as being very bad and needing urgent attention. It was agreed that the Councillors would consider the matter as well as speak to the community before making a decision at the September meeting.
- b) Communication with Cllr Sanderson regarding the state of B6341 – The Clerk shared the response from Cllr Sanderson. Whilst it was accepted as good news that there was to be work on the road in the new financial year there was disappointment it would have to wait further still as the state of it meant urgent immediate attention was needed. Cllr France advised that Hepple Parish Council were repeatedly highlighting to NCC the urgent need for work but so far had been unsuccessful.
- c) Grit bins in Elsdon – The Clerk advised that despite having ordered bins for the Gibbet road hill he had not received a response as yet. He advised he would continue to chase the matter.
- d) Wind turbine development & local plan consultation – This matter was covered in agenda item 4g
- e) Northumberland National Park local plan – The Councillors reported that they had been unable to get the link to work. It was noted that there would be an opportunity to discuss the plan at a drop-in session on 4 September in Elsdon. Cllr Bolam advised the main changes in this plan related to housing proposals.
- f) Fifth annual town and parish council conference – The Councillors agreed to consider if they wished to attend and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting.
- g) Parish notice board on the bus shelter – Cllr Morgan advised the present notice board was too small for requirements. There was discussion about installing a notice board at the bus shelter. Cllr Graham agreed to investigate the notice board available for suitability on the bus shelter.
- h) Revitalising Redesdale – The forthcoming events were discussed. The Clerk advised details were on the Parish Council website and would soon be shared via the Town Crier.

## **8. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Bolam highlighted a government review of the National Parks. She referred to a NNPA meeting on 21 September (10.00 at Hexham) when representation from Parish Councils were welcome.
- b) Cllr Morgan shared an email he had received from a resident with an update on the piri piri burrs that had been discovered at Cragside.
- c) Cllr Morgan asked as to whether planning permission was required for change of colour of roofing tiles as Homes for Northumberland were doing on their properties in Elsdon. Following discussion and guidance from Cllr Bolam it was believed planning permission would not be required for such matters as the building were not listed.

## **9. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 13 September, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon. Meeting closed at 8.40pm