

**Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in
Elsdon Village Hall
on Thursday 18 April, 2019**

Present: Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Maddison, Morgan and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr France & M. Tait (until 7.25)

- 1. Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllrs Graham
- 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.

The Chair welcomed Margaret Tait who following sight of the March meeting minutes referring to the River Rede School Federation consultation wished to provide an update on matters. Mrs Tait reported that the proposal had been approved and that the new Governor board had been agreed with her as Chair. Mrs Tait advised that the Otterburn First School will become a Primary School from September 2019 and that it had been agreed for approximately £340,000 spend on building improvements and extension to take place over the coming months.

Mrs Tait advised that as a result of the Federation the short-term future of West Woodburn School had been secured however there was still some confusion on the movement of children when leaving that school. This was in part due to Bellingham First School becoming a Primary School but the Bellingham Middle School remaining open for, at least, the time being. Mrs Tait advised that due to the uncertainty of the future of West Woodburn School many parents had moved their children to a different school. Consequently there were only eight pupils attending but it was hoped this would now increase given the adoption of the Federation. Mrs Tait provided details of the structure of the Board of Governors and her understanding on the school transport agreement in place presently.

The Chair thanked Mrs Tait for her time.

4. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update** – The Clerk provided an update on progress. He reported that B4RN would be holding ‘open information’ meetings in May. The nearest meeting would be at Otterburn Memorial Hall on 13 May at 7.30pm. The details of the other meetings could be found on the website www.B4NTR.com. The Clerk advised that the Small Grants Fund was still open for applications until 30 April. Additionally he reported that the Ray Windfarm CIC Open meeting was scheduled for 6 June at Kirkwhelpinton Village Hall.
- b) Replacement road signage and road surface markings, Raylees road safety** – The Clerk reported that he was still chasing Lee Dundass (NCC) for the replacement sign.
- c) Street lighting in Elsdon** – The Clerk advised he had not received an update on progress of the new street light. Cllr Maddison advised that the lantern at the Church gate was due to be installed in the next couple of weeks.
- d) Revitalising Redesdale** – Cllr Morgan advised that whilst there had been a good turn out and positive feedback for the Afternoon Tea on 13 April the ‘Time Bandits’ earlier that afternoon had not been so well received by the small number who attended. It was believed that as it had been mostly a verbal presentation rather than demonstration it would have been better suited inside especially on such a cold day.
- e) Brown Redesdale signs** – The Chair provided details from a meeting he and Cllr Morgan had had with Richard McKenzie (NCC). Mr McKenzie had promised to provide a quote for the proposals discussed at the meeting but the Clerk advised to date he had not received anything.
- f) Location of additional litter bin and dog poo dispensers** – It was agreed the Clerk should contact Chris Mowatt and invite him to quote for the small job of installing the post for the new litter bin as well as fixing a template to the bus shelter wall facing the Bird in Bush pub for a dog poo bag dispenser to be fitted.
- g) Village Green tree seat** – The Chair advised he had not as yet heard back from NNPA re possible funding. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Northumberland Joinery to determine details to a couple of queries

whilst in the meantime Cllr Renton would speak to Neil at Ochiltree. Cllr Maddison suggested that the sign in front of the tree where the seat would be fitted was in need of a 'tidy-up' It was agreed to approach John Clarke of Elsdon Memorials for a quote.

- h) Poor condition of roadside fence alongside burn** – The Clerk advised that had received an email from Mitch Young (NCC) confirming he would arrange for an inspector to assess the fence in the next couple of weeks.

5. Finance:

- a) Payment of dog poo bag dispensers (two) from Slate & Nature – The Clerk confirmed that the payment of £89.00 for the two dispensers had been made online following agreement of the Councillors by email.
- b) Payment of litter bin with pole from Glasdon – The payment of £207.75 plus VAT was agreed by all.
- c) Review of the Parish Council finances and plans for 2019-20 – The Clerk provided details of the finances from the last financial year. It was agreed to review the new financial year finances in more detail at the next meeting.
- d) Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2018-19 – The Clerk provided details of the statement and all agreed to approve.
- e) Approve the draft Annual Account for 2018-19 – All approved the accounts provided by the Clerk.
- f) Approve the Accounting Statement & Explanation of variances for 2018-19 – All approved the details provided.
- g) Confirm and approve the Certification of Exemption for 2018-19 – This was agreed by all and signed by the Chair and Clerk.
- h) Payment of the Clerk's salary and expenses for October 2018 – April 2019 – The payment of £401.00 plus £7.32 for a book of second class stamps was agreed by all.

6. Planning:

- a) There were no planning matters this month.

7. New business:

- a) B6341 road closures: - The Chair provided details as know at this time.
- b) Benshaw Moor – The Clerk provided details received from Duncan Hutt and it was agreed to invite him to the next meeting.
- c) Review & agreement of updated risk register – This was agreed by all and signed by the Chair & Clerk.
- d) Out of Town museum launch event 27 April – The Clerk provided details that were also posted on website
- e) Community Chest Scheme – The Clerk provided details that were also posted on the website.
- f) Public Bridleway (No2 & No6) Diversion Order (Monnkridge Hill Farm / Smoutel Ford – The Clerk provided details received from NCC.
- g) Barbed wire on Mote Hills – The Chair provided details that he had received. It was agreed Cllr Renton would assess the situation and suggest appropriate action.

8. Any other business:

- a) It was reported that a line of stone 'pyramids' had been installed on one side of the access route across the village green to Rose Cottage. There was concern that with these being on Parish Council owned land what would be the implication should these be damaged or a person or a persons property be damaged by these. It was agreed to approach Dr Wollaston to discuss the matter.
- b) The Clerk advised of tickets available for Exhibition at St Cuthbert's Church on Friday 3 May.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 9 May, 2019 starting at 7.00pm at the Elsdon Village Hall. This would begin with the Annual Parish Meeting
Meeting closed at 9.10pm