

**Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in  
Elsdon Village Hall  
on Thursday 12 September, 2019**

**Present:** Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Maddison, Morgan, Graham (until 8.15) and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Tony Patrick, John Bell & Tony Lawson (both until 7.25)

**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.

**4. John Bell regarding forthcoming Biker's Convention:** Mr Bell and Mr Lawson provided details of the plans for the event on the weekend of 25 – 27 October. It was confirmed that permission had been given for camping on the land at Batt Hall. It was an invite only event and whilst 80 invites had been sent it was expected approximately 50 bikers would be attending. A marquee will be erected in the field at Batt Hall where registration will take place Friday afternoon and breakfast served on Saturday morning. There will be entertainment in the Bird in Bush both Friday and Saturday nights that will be open all to attend. Mr Bell advised that port-a-loos had been ordered. It was advised that this was the first time locally the event had been organised but it was hoped it would become an annual event. It was a not profit making event but any funds collected would be sent to the elected charity, Great North Air Ambulance. The Chair thanked them for their time and Mr Bell & Mr Lawson left at 7.25.

**5. Matters arising**

- a) **Ray Wind update** – The Clerk advised that the Small Grant Fund would be open again very shortly for applications with a closing date of 28 October. The Clerk additionally provided details of the new 'Small Donation Fund' that would be detailed on the Ray Windfarm CIC website. He also advised that there was due to be a B4RN meeting on 15 September that would be providing details of the next steps for roll-out of the hyper-fast broadband to those areas that had at least 50% interest take-up. Cllr Renton advised he had made arrangements for a further contractor to visit and assess the village green protection requirements and plans were made to seek an updated quote to the original received using stronger protection that could withstand the weight of log wagons.
- b) **Replacement road signage and road surface markings. Raylees road safety** – It was reported that the posts had been set for the new signs to be installed warning HGV drivers to avoid the Raylees road. The Clerk advised he had not as yet received an update on the other signage matters discussed when Neil Snowdon and David Potter visited Elsdon.
- c) **Revitalising Redesdale** – Cllr Morgan advised the next Steering Group meeting was on 18 September.
- d) **Brown Tourist signs** – The Clerk advised he had chased for a timescale on the next steps of the new signs in Elsdon but was waiting a response.
- e) **Village Green tree seat** – Cllr Renton advised that final measurements were due to be taken shortly before work on the seat started. He agreed to contact Neil to determine timescales so that Revitalising Redesdale and NNPA could be updated regarding the funding promised.
- f) **Repair of roadside fence alongside burn** – It was reported that NCC had been strimming along the verge where the fence was damaged. It was agreed to delay sending the LTP requests until the end of the month in case this work had been undertaken in the meantime.
- g) **Parish Council filing cabinets in Village Hall** – Cllr Renton advised he had a set of keys one of which may fit the cabinet but if not he would call a locksmith in Bellingham to provide a quote to replace the lock.
- h) **Liberty Hill tracks for planned forestry** – The Clerk provided details of the response from Katherine Robbie (NCC Planning) regarding the matter. The Cllrs agreed there was no further action to be taken.
- i) **Local Transport Programme 2020-21** – It was agreed to monitor the situation of the fence broken alongside the burn during September before submitting the three priorities to NCC. Assuming the repair to the fence or installation of bollards was to be included the Councillors agreed resurfacing of the Gibbet Road (C187) should also be included. Additionally the surface of the road that came off the B6341 and went round the

church in Elsdon required attention in certain areas where there were pot holes and cracks and this should also be included

Cllr Graham left the meeting at 8.15

**j) Date of 2020 Annual meeting** – It was agreed by all to hold this on 7 May, 2020.

**k) Local Crime rate and police response** – The Clerk provided details of the response received from the Crime & Police Commissioner. It was agreed that a specific meeting should be held on the matter to include residents and Councillors from neighbouring Parish Councils.

**5. Finance:**

a) The Clerk provided a summary of the Audit and accounts. All agreed to adopt the accounts of 2018-19.

**6. Planning:**

a) 19NP0069: Construction of side extension including dormer window and juliet balcony: The Croft, Elsdon, NE191BH: This application had been discussed and reviewed between meetings and the Councillors agreed to support it.

b) 19/03618/BT: Proposal to remove phone box 01830 520676: Elsdon, NE19 1AA: The Councillors agreed to decline this request on the grounds that the mobile service in the area was 'patchy' and the phone box was needed in case of an emergency.

**7. New business:**

a) Review of Elsdon Fete - All agreed the event had been successful and well attended. There was discussion regarding possible options for traffic cones for 2020 event.

b) Definitive Map Modification Order (No 6), Hillhead Cottage – Whilst there were no objections from the Councillors it was agreed to consult with the land owners for their comment before returning to NCC.

c) 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Town & Parish Council Conference – None of the Councillors were available to attend this year.

d) Smoutel Ford restoration – The Clerk shared the details he had received from Revitalising Redesdale that had also been posted on the Parish Council website.

e) Flood damage in Elsdon – Thanks were expressed to Cllr Renton for his work during the August floods. There was discussion regarding an outlet point that seemed to be blocked and it was agreed Cllr Renton would inspect this before any action was taken.

**8. Any other business:**

a) Cllr Renton highlighted that there was a large pile of soil in the pull-off area at the top of Billsmoor. No one know anything about this and the Clerk was asked to approach NCC about the matter.

**9. Date, time and place of next meeting**: The next meeting will be on 10 October, 2019 starting at 7.00pm at the Elsdon Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm