

**Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in
Elsdon Village Hall
on Thursday 10 October, 2019**

Present: Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Maddison, Morgan and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Nicola Tait, Tony Patrick (both until 7.10), Cllr Bolam and Cllr France

- 1. Apologies:** There were apologies Cllr 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.
- 4. Nicola Tait – closing funds of Middle Hill Action Group:** Mrs Tait provided details of the background to the group and that there was approximately £700 in the bank account that was due to be closed down shortly. She was seeking the thoughts of the parish Council as to how the closing balance could be used. A public seat had been suggested and this received the support of the Councillors. There was discussion over the most suitable location for the seat on the Village Green. Mrs Tait advised she would take the comments to the Group and update when a decision had been made. The Chair thanked her for her time. Mrs Tait & Mr Patrick left at 7.10pm.
- 5. Matters arising**
 - a) Ray Wind update –** The Clerk provided an update following the most recent Ray Windfarm CIC meeting. The recent estimates received with the potential costs for the village green protection were discussed that included the protection that could withstand the weight of heavy vehicles. It was unknown whether the quotes included traffic management aspects of the project and it was agreed that a site visit was required by those providing a quote and this would be arranged. Cllr Maddison suggested that the edges of the village green should be surveyed prior to any work being undertaken and it was agreed to contact Karen Collins of Revitalising Redesdale to see if this could be arranged as part of the ongoing project.
 - b) Replacement road signage and road surface markings, Raylees road safety –** The new warning signs recently installed for the Raylees road were acknowledged. The costs provided by NCC for the tourist signs were provided by the Clerk however he advised he had not as yet received a breakdown showing the creation of the signs and the installation. It was agreed to wait for these details before taking further action.
 - c) Revitalising Redesdale –** Cllr Morgan advised that there had been nothing significant come from the most recent Steering Group meeting. He provided details of the three applications received for the Community Heritage Funding.
 - d) Brown Tourist signs –** This matter was discussed under agenda item 5b.
 - e) Village Green tree seat –** Cllr Renton advised that this work had been slightly delayed but he would seek an update on timescales and share the details.
 - f) Repair of roadside fence alongside burn –** It was reported that apart from some grass cutting undertaken by NCC at the location there had been no further work on the broken fence or installation of bollards.
 - g) Parish Council filing cabinets in Village Hall –** Cllr Renton advised he would contact a locksmith in Bellingham to quote for a replacement lock for the cabinet.
 - h) Local Transport Programme 2020-21 –** The Clerk confirmed the three priorities submitted to NCC were 1) The repair of fence and/or installation of bollards on the road alongside the burn passed the bridge towards Billsmoor 2) Resurfacing of the Gibbet Road (C187) 3) Resurfacing or repairs to the cracks and pot holes in the road that came off the B6341 and went round the church in Elsdon.
 - i) Definitive Map Modification Order (No 6), Hillhead Cottage –** The Clerk provided an update after speaking to the landowners about this matter.
 - j) Phone box not working –** The Clerk advised he had not yet but would report the fault to BT. Cllr Bolam reported that NNPA had objected to BT's plan to remove phone boxes within the National Park.
 - k) Drainage outlet –** Cllr Renton advised he had not yet had chance to investigate the outlet.
 - l) Soil & rubble pile in Billsmoor 'lay-by' -** The Clerk provided details of an email from Cllr Bridgett advising the source of the soil and that it would be removed soon.

5. Finance:

- a) Clerk's salary and expenses - The Clerk's salary for the half year to October 2019 of £401.00 was agreed plus expenses for a book of second class stamps.
- b) Donation request from Great North Air ambulance – A donation of £100.00 was agreed
- c) Donation request from Community Action Northumberland – A donation of £50.00 was agreed.

6. Planning:

- a) There were no planning applications for review.

7. New business:

- a) Elsdon bonfire & fireworks - The Risk Assessment and Check List were reviewed and agreed. Cllr Renton confirmed he would take these to get them signed by those helping to run the event. It was reported that a fence had been put around the area for the fire. Cllr Renton agreed to provide his mobile number in case of need by the emergency services. The Clerk advised he would contact the Parish Council insurers and the emergency services.
- b) Route of footpath south from Liberty Hill Farm – The Clerk advised that Tony Derbyshire (NCC) would be investigating the area where it had appeared trees had been planted over the route of the footpath.
- c) Tribute to the Fallen 1914-1920 – The Clerk provided the book that had been received that day. It was proposed the book would either be placed in the church or at the 'community hub' within the Bird in Bush pub.

8. Any other business:

- a) The Chair provided an update on the proposed Bikers event on the weekend 25 – 27 October.
- b) Cllr France reminded attendees of the work planned on the road between Thropton and Rothbury.
- c) Cllr Morgan asked that with the darker nights now whether it was known what had been agreed and carried out in regards to the lighting at Soppit Riding Centre.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 14 November, 2019 starting at 7.00pm at the Elsdon Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm