

**Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in
Elsdon Village Hall
on Thursday 14 November, 2019**

Present: Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Maddison, Morgan and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr Bolam, Paul Cowie, Wendy Hutchinson and Jason Hutchinson (both until 7.15), D. Coles (from 7.45)

- 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.

7e – Dog mess in Elsdon: The Chair welcomed Mr & Mrs Hutchinson who advised they had attended specifically regarding a perceived problem regarding dog mess in the village. With agreement this agenda item was brought forward. Mrs Hutchinson spoke about their business as dog sitters. She advised they do not walk any dogs in the village, instead they go straight into the field near their house. They were worried that rumours are being spread around the village about them not clearing up after the dogs. The Councillors were all in agreement that recently, and especially since the installation of the two dog poo bag dispensers and dog waste bin the whole village was looking much cleaner. Whilst they agreed to continue to monitor the situation it was agreed that there did not seem to be a problem of dog waste in the village at this time. The Chair thanked Mr & Mrs Hutchinson for taking the time to address the Parish Council. Mr & Mrs Hutchinson left the meeting at 7.15.

4. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update –** Mr Cowie provided details of the Small Donation Fund that has recently been launched. He spoke also of the criteria / process being developed for business applications and external expertise being used to develop this. He highlighted that the CIC Annual Report was now available on the Ray Windfund website. Mr Cowie reported on the progress of the 1 gigabit broadband work by B4RN and the chance to purchase shares in the company. He advised that presently insufficient Elsdon residents had registered an interest to be connected however it may not be too late. If Elsdon residents wished for the service then it would likely be in the second phase when more details and the success of Phase 1 will be known.

There was discussion regarding the village green protection and agreement that those who had provided 'desk-top' estimates needed to visit the location to provide a more detailed quote before this matter could be taken forward. Mr Cowie explained that the CIC understood getting companies to give estimates in this area was a problem and that the CIC would look favourably at one estimate if it were shown that every attempt was made to get more.

The Clerk shared the details of an email from Karen Collins (Revitalising Redesdale) regarding the surveying of the village green edges. Cllr Bolam advised she would contact Chris Jones (NNPA) to ask what can be done to help.

The Chair highlighted a recent email received from Ofgem regarding properties not connected to mains electricity. Six properties were identified and it was agreed to attempt and contact the occupiers / owners to highlight the matter.

- 7d – Climate controlled cabinet in the church:** There was discussion as to whether a cabinet could be purchased as part of the Small Donation Fund by the CIC and it was agreed to investigate what would be required and how much it would cost.

- b) Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage –** The Clerk advised he was still waiting for Richard McKenzie to provide the update plans for the proposed tourist signs before the next steps could be taken.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale –** Cllr Morgan advised that the next Steering group meeting was in December. Meantime there was a 'Dark Sky / Spooky Stories' event on 30 November in Rochester.
- d) Village Green tree seat –** Cllr Morgan advised that it was planned that the seat should be installed early December.
- e) Repair of roadside fence alongside burn –** It was reported that there had been no progress in this matter.

- f) Parish Council filing cabinets in Village Hall – Cllr Renton advised the Bellingham locksmith would be assessing the cabinet in the next day or so to determine whether the lock can be replaced.
- g) Phone box not working – The Clerk advised he had received an email from BT reporting that the matter was being progressed.
- h) Drainage outlet – Cllr Renton advised the outlet had been cleared and appeared to working well again.
- i) Soil & rubble pile in Billsmoor 'lay-by' - It was highlighted that soil was still in the lay-by and it was agreed to discuss any action needed if it were still there at the December meeting.
- j) Elsdon bonfire and fireworks – It was agreed by all who had attended that the event was a great success. Whilst the amount was not known at this stage it was believed a good sum had been raised for local initiatives and next year's event. It was agreed to thank Billy Lewins for his assistance in both building the fire as well as clearing after the event. Mr Coles highlighted that he had not noticed any communications seeking donations towards the fireworks this year.
- k) Route of footpath south from Liberty Hill Farm – The Clerk advised that Tony Derbyshire (NCC) had not as yet been able to visit the location. It was agreed to raise the matter at the next meeting.

5. Finance:

- a) Payment of invoice to Elsdon Village Hall – The Clerk advised he had received an invoice for £120 that was for six months arrears and six months pre-payment. It was highlighted that due to the General Election the December meeting would not be held at the Village Hall however there was agreement to pay the full sum.

6. Planning:

- a) There were no planning applications for review.

7. New business:

- a) Date and venue of the December Parish Council meeting - Following the advice received from County Council not to hold the Parish Council meeting in the same building at the Polling Station it was agreed and confirmation received from Rev Ryder that the meeting would be held in the Vestry of St Cuthbert's Church on 12 December.
- b) Feeding Families Charity Christmas box – The Clerk provided details of the charity and advised the Gemma Cook at Otterburn Coach House was taking in goods for the cause.
- c) Maintenance of the village defibrillator – The Clerk reported that it appeared the thermostat had failed in the defibrillator. Fortunately the replacement was relatively cheap and someone at Byrness would be able to purchase and fit it. It was highlighted that EPIC presently had some funds to pay for replacement items and it was agreed to approach them regarding the matter.

8. Any other business:

- a) The Clerk reported he had received notification from NCC on the confirmed new route of the footpath at Smoutel Ford that recognised the new location of the ford.
- b) The Clerk advised he would provide updated budget details and forecast before the next meeting to assist the Councillors to determine the precept level for 2020-21.
- c) Cllr Morgan advised that there had been reports of the floodlights being on after 8.00pm at Soppit Riding Centre and asked if the matter can be investigated.
- d) It was highlighted that a TV company had approached the Parish Council to film at Winter's Gibbet. They had been directed to National Trust at Wallington to seek permission.
- e) The Chair highlighted the email received from NCC regarding the consultation of the Local Plan Chapter 13 – Managing Natural Resources and the dates of the Public Hearing Sessions – 5 & 6 February in Morpeth.
- f) The Clerk confirmed a meeting had been arranged with the Police & Crime Commissioner on 6 February in Otterburn Memorial Hall, starting 7.00pm

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 12 December, 2019 starting at 7.00pm at the Vestry, St Cuthbert's Church, Elsdon.
Meeting closed at 8.45pm