

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in Vestry, St Cuthbert's Church, Elsdon on Thursday 12 December, 2019

Present: Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Graham, Morgan and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr France

- 1. Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllr Maddison.
- 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. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update** – The Clerk provided an update following his attendance at the recent CIC meeting. He advised a process and criteria to accept and consider business grant applications was being developed. Shares in B4RN were available to purchase that provided a 5% annual return on a minimum investment of £100. The shares would need to be retained for 3 years and purchasing £1,500 would provide a free connection for the investors property.
The Clerk also provided dates that one of the potential contractors would be able to visit Elsdon to provide a quote for the village green protection. Unfortunately none of the Councillors were available these date and it was agreed to attempt to set up a site visit in the new year. A further contractor was highlighted as possibly being able to provide a quote.
The Clerk advised he had spoken to Karen Collins (Revitalising Redesdale) who had suggested she would know about March / April if there was funding for a possible survey on the village green and if it was then that could potentially happen around September 2020.
- b) Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage** – The Chair led the discussion following receipt of the latest plans from NCC on the roadside signage for Elsdon. There was agreement on the proposed brown tourist signs and it was agreed to obtain alternative quotes for these. There was also agreement to the suggested changes to the white signs and the Clerk was asked to reply to NCC.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale** – Cllr Morgan provided an update following the recent Revitalising Redesdale Steering Group meeting. He advised Chris Jones (NNPA) thought survey work had already been done on the village green but would check and report back. Cllr Morgan also advised that possible wildflowers in the church and around the village had not as yet been resolved. There was also an update on the progress of the village hub & trails, Smoutel Ford & stepping stones and Carter Bar signage for Redesdale.
- d) Village Green tree seat** – All agreed the new seat looked very good. It was agreed the Chair would approach NNPA and the Clerk, Revitalising Redesdale for the funding from the two that had been agreed towards the cost of the seat.
- e) Repair of roadside fence alongside burn** – There had been no progress on this matter.
- f) Parish Council filing cabinets in Village Hall** – Thanks were expressed to Cllr Renton for providing the cabinet and it was agreed the matter was now complete.
- g) BT phone box fault** – It was reported that the phone had been repaired and was now working again.
- h) Soil & rubble pile in Billsmoor 'lay-by'** - Whilst some soil had been removed that majority remained and it was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.
- i) 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.
- j) Climate controlled cabinet in the church** – There was discussion regarding the type of cabinet that would be required but it was agreed to discuss further at a meeting when Cllr Maddison was able to attend.
- k) Maintenance of the village defibrillator** – The Clerk provided an update advising Mr Softley of Byrness had replaced the thermostat and it was working again. Thanks were expressed to Mr Softley. It was reported EPIC had paid for that work and had some budget remaining specifically for the defibrillator but when spent it would be the Parish Council responsibility to maintain the unit.

- l) Ofgem research into mains electricity connection – The Chair advised he had provided details to Ofgem of properties in the parish that were not connected to mains electricity.
- m) Soppit arena lighting – The Clerk provided an update from an email he had received from NCC. Three recent incidents of when the flood lights had been on after 8.00pm were reported.

5. Finance:

- a) Payment of Parish Council website annual subscription – The payment of £29.95 inclusive of VAT was agreed.
- b) Payment of the invoice for the Remembrance wreath – The payment of £18.50 was agreed.

6. Planning:

- a) There were no planning applications for review.

7. New business:

- a) Pot holes and road flooding - It was acknowledged and thanks expressed to NCC for the attention given to the pot holes reported recently in the area. The flooding near Soppit junction was highlighted as being very bad and dangerous given its location on a corner in the road and in freezing conditions. It was agreed to approach NCC again regarding the matter.
- b) West Woodburn First School consultation – It was agreed that the Councillors did not have sufficient knowledge about the matter and that it was believed no children from the Parish attended the school. As such it was felt the Councillors would not comment.
- c) Roger Clark Car rally 23 November – It was highlighted that unlike previous occasions there had been no prior notice or warning of the event this year.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Renton highlighted that a low loader vehicle had almost got stuck over the bridge when delivering to East Todholes. It was agreed he would speak to the property owner to see if any future such vehicles could use a different route.
- b) The Chair highlighted that it was Village Halls week 20 – 26 January that was supported by CAN.
- c) The Chair advised that there had been an offer of an 8ft tall Horse Chestnut tree to be planted in the village green. It was agreed this could replace the old one that had got diseased and potentially could have a tree seat put round it.
- d) The Chair reported that EPIC committee were considering purchasing two new sets of Christmas lights for the trees on the village green.
- e) Cllr France provided a report on the inconsistent broadband service in Hepple and the trouble residents were having from iNorthumberland and BT in getting the problems resolved.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 9 January, 2020 starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm