

**Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in  
Village Hall, Elsdon  
on Thursday 9 January, 2020**

**Present:** Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Morgan and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr Bolam (from 7.10)

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

- a) Ray Wind update – The Clerk advised that there had been no CIC meeting in December and consequently nothing to update this month. In respect of the village green protection the Clerk advised he had been attempting to contact two further contractors to visit Elsdon and provide a quote.
- b) Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage – The Clerk advised he was corresponding with two companies to provide quotes for the identified tourist signs and so that a comparison could be made with the quote from NCC.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale – Cllr Morgan advised there was nothing new to update this month apart from that the two applications received for Heritage Community Funding had both been declined subject to further information.
- d) Repair of roadside fence alongside burn – There had been no progress on this matter.
- e) Soil & rubble pile in Billsmoor 'lay-by' - It was noted that this had all been removed from the 'lay-by' now.
- f) Route of footpath south from Liberty Hill Farm – The Clerk advised that Tony Derbyshire (NCC) had confirmed he would definitely visit the site before the February Parish Council meeting.
- g) Climate controlled cabinet in the church – In the absence of Cllr Maddison it was agreed to push this item back to the next meeting.
- h) Soppit arena lighting – The Clerk advised he had not had any update from NCC Planning on this matter.
- i) Soppit lane road flooding – The Chair reported that he had met an engineer (Mr Brannen) from NCC who had visited the site. It was agreed that repair work was required but Mr Brannen had advised it may be not until the next financial year before the work was carried out. It was agreed to write to Cllr Glen Sanderson making a request for this work to be high priority given the potential dangerous conditions the flooding causes.
- j) Potential new village green tree – The Chair advised he had been corresponding with Mr White and it was agreed the tree would be planted as soon as possible.

**5. Finance:**

- a) Parish Council finances and 2020-21 precept – The Clerk provided details of the expenditure and income to date for 2019-20 financial year and a forecast for the rest of the year. There was discussion regarding potential work and projects over the next couple of years. It was agreed by all to keep the precept at the current level of £1,525.
- b) Payment of the invoice to Ochiltree for tree seat – The payment of £2,750.40 including VAT was agreed.

**6. Planning:**

- a) There were no planning applications for review.

**7. New business:**

- a) NCC library consultation - The Clerk provided details of the consultation and how people could access and complete it. It was agreed the mobile and home library was a vital service in the rural areas such as Elsdon and people needed to be encourage to complete the survey.

b) Elizabeth landmark – The details received from Lord Devonport’s Assistant were considered by the Councillors. It was agreed that there was nothing new to change the minds of the Councillors and they felt unable to support the application.

**8. Any other business:**

- a) The Clerk advised he had been approached by a resident concerned over the damage to the village green by the contractors working at Bacchus. It was believed that arrangements would no doubt be made to repair the damaged but it was agreed the Clerk would contact the owner for confirmation and timescales.
- b) The Chair highlighted that there was an opportunity to enter a draw to win tickets for the Royal Garden Party. There was no interest from the Councillors.
- c) Cllr Morgan advised that the tree seat required some ‘tweaking’ and it was agreed Cllr Renton would contact Ochiltree to arrange this.
- d) Cllr Morgan highlighted details of Dark Sky funding for replacing non compliant external lighting for residents. It was agreed the Clerk would contact Duncan Wise (NNPA) to determine more details.
- e) Cllr Renton highlighted the excellent work that Billy Lewins and Archie Wright had done to clear the village green of the bonfire debris and thanks were expressed by all.

**9. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 13 February, 2020 starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm