

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in Village Hall, Elsdon on Thursday 13 February, 2020

**Present:** Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Graham, Morgan and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr France.  
Duncan Wise (NNPA) (until 7.45)

**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. Duncan Wise (NNPA) – Possible funding for Dark Skies approved external lighting:** The Chair welcomed Mr Wise who provided the background to the International Dark Sky Park. He went on to provide example of the different type of 'light pollution' certain lights had to the environment.

Mr Wise then gave details of the funding available to assist with retro-fitting of Dark Sky friendly lights. The scheme was only open to end of March, 2020 but anyone wishing to enquire how potentially they could benefit from the funding should contact Mr Wise directly at [duncan.wise@nnpa.org.uk](mailto:duncan.wise@nnpa.org.uk) He will make arrangements to visit the property and assist with initially a plan and advise where he may be able to help with funding. For more details please read see <https://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/last-call-for-dark-skies-grant/> There was discussion regarding the brightness of the street lights and whether these can be altered to be a warmer light. Mr Wise advised that the brighter, 'harsher' light was more energy efficient and this was why NCC had the street lights at this setting.

## **5. Matters arising**

g) **Soppit Arena lighting** – Mr Wise provided his comments on behalf of the National Park regarding the lighting at the arena and recommendations NNPA would wish to see implemented. He advised the location was outside the National Park but by only 250m. The Clerk reported he had received an email from NCC Planning advising that it was likely the application for discharge of condition 3 would likely be granted in the next few days. The Clerk was asked to return to NCC seeking the details of the matter and highlighting the impact the lighting at the current levels and the angle of the lights was having on the local area.

Mr Wise left the meeting at 7.45

- a) **Ray Wind update** – The Clerk highlighted the Community Network meeting that was on Thursday 5 March, starting at 7.00pm at Corsenside Parish Hall and open to all. The Chair provided an update following meetings with two separate contractors to provide a quote for village green protection. Quotes were expected in the next few days.
- b) **Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage** – The Clerk provided high level details of quotes that had been received just before the meeting. It was agreed the Councillors would take time to examine the quotes and discuss options at a later date.
- c) **Revitalising Redesdale** – Cllr Morgan provided details of the sculpture options received from Maria Hardy. It was proposed the sculpture would be located at the source of the River Rede near Carter Bar. It was agreed the Councillors would look at the options and report back to the Clerk with comments and preferred choice.
- d) **Repair of roadside fence alongside burn** – There had been no progress on this matter. Cllr Renton advised that there had been an accident recently at this location and that a vehicle had been very close to going through the broken fence.
- e) **Route of footpath south from Liberty Hill Farm** – The Clerk referred to an email from Tony Derbyshire (NCC) that he had shared with the Councillors. The action taken by Mr Derbyshire was welcomed by the Councillors to ensure people could continue to use the footpath.
- f) **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 Lane road flooding** – The Chair reported that he had met the workmen who had attended to resolve the flooding. It appeared however that the proposal of flushing the drain did not work as it was blocked by concrete. It was not known what the revised timescales were for the problem to be fixed and it was agreed

that the Clerk would contact Mr Brannen (NCC) for an update. It was noted that there had been a road traffic accident at this location apparently as a result of the flood water freezing on the road.

- l) Potential new village green tree – The Chair reported that he had been advised the tree that had been earmarked for the village green was too big to move. The Chair advised that EPIC had offered to investigate the possibility of purchasing a tree for the site.

**6. Finance:**

- a) There were no finance matters for consideration.

**7. Planning:**

- a) There were no planning applications for review.

**8. New business:**

- a) NCC library consultation - The Clerk provided details of the consultation and advised that hardcopies of the questionnaire would be left in the village hall and possibly the pub.
- b) Bailiffgate Museum request for a grant – Following discussion between the Councillors it was agreed not to provide a grant on this occasion.
- c) Bridleway U5065 / u4068 from B6341 to Monkridge – Cllr Graham reported on an incident where a gate along the bridleway had been padlocked preventing access. He advised he had reported the incident but had as yet not had a response.
- d) Northumberland Day 2020, flag relay – The Chair shared the details of the event. After discussion it was agreed not to take part this year.
- e) Police & Crime Commissioner meeting – The Chair provided an update following the meeting on 6 February. He spoke of the restructure in the Police Force to provide more rural Officers and that they were looking to recruit more. There was a promise that there would be more communication from the Police with a greater presence at Parish Council meetings to provide updates and assistance on crime awareness.
- f) Seating on village green – The Chair advised he had been asked by EPIC what was planned at the tree on the village green that used to have a tree seat. There was a possibility EPIC could fund a seat that looked out towards the green. The proposal was agreed by the Councillors and the Chair advised he would update the EPIC committee and report back.

**9. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Morgan questioned how potentially the Parish Council could better share communications with the Parishioners. There was discussion on possible options including Facebook and it was agreed to give this more consideration as to the best way forward.
- b) The Chair highlighted that at the last meeting following discussion it had been agreed not to support Lord Devonport's appeal regarding the Elizabeth monument application. It was questioned as to whether the Parish Council wished for it to be recorded that it actually objected the appeal and this was agreed by all.
- c) The Chair provided his apologies that he could not attend the next Parish Council meeting.

**10. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 12 March, 2020 starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm