

**Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in
Village Hall, Elsdon
on Thursday 12 March, 2020**

Present: Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Graham, Morgan, Maddison and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllrs France and Bolam, Paul Cowie (until 7.45)

1. Apologies: There were no apologies

2. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Renton declared an interest in item 7a.

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 – Paul Cowie highlighted the Small Funds Grant would be open again from 17 March to 28 April for applications via Community Foundation. He also advised that there was a job vacancy at the CIC and anyone interested could find details on the Parish Council and Ray Windfunds websites. It was proposed that a trial service run by Adapt would be introduced to Morpeth funded by Ray Windfunds. This would be a dial-a-ride service one day a week going from the communities in Redesdale. The Chair provided a report of his thoughts having attended the Community Network meeting on 5 March. Mr Cowie advised that there was ongoing work to create a process for businesses to apply for funding via the CIC and how these would be assessed. It was hoped he would be able to get some local expertise to assist with this work. He also advised due to work pressures he may have step down from his position on the CIC but would give as much notice as possible for a replacement to be found to represent the Parish Council.
- b) Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage – There was discussion reviewing the three quotes received for the tourist signs and installation of these. It was believed the best value for money, as well as easiest to manage as it included creation of the signs and installation, was the quote received from Northumberland County Council. The Chair agreed to approach Ray Windfarm for possible funding towards to work.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale – Cllr Morgan provided details following his attendance at the Steering Group meeting the previous day. He advised that there had been work at the meeting to attempt to attract more volunteers to some of the events and projects. He also provided an update on the most recent applications received as part of the Community Heritage Funding.
- d) Repair of roadside fence alongside burn – There had been no progress on this matter.
- e) Climate controlled cabinet in the church – Cllr Maddison advised he no longer had any authority within the local church council. There was discussion as to whether a climate controlled cabinet would be required for the book and it was felt just a sealed cabinet would be sufficient. Further discussion provided possible ideas for printing the map while the charter just required a frame for it. There was general agreement that the printing, purchase of a frame and a cabinet could be collected together as one funding request. The Chair agreed he would contact Rev Ryder to speak about ideas suggested and the next steps.
- f) Soppit arena lighting – An email from NCC Planning was shared advising that the angle of the lights was being negotiated with the applicant and should be adjusted. It was agreed to keep a watching brief on the matter.
- h) Soppit Lane road flooding – The Chair highlighted that pot holes were developing where the flooding was bad at this location. It was agreed to chase NCC again for timescales for the work and that would need to include repairs to road surface to remove the pot holes. Another bad pot hole was highlighted near the Larkes and the Clerk advised he had already reported this to NCC.

6. Finance:

- a) There were no finance matters for consideration.
Mr Cowie left the meeting at 7.45

7. Planning:

- a) Pre-consultation details for a proposed installation of a smart metre mast: Elsdon Village Hall – Cllr Renton took no part in this agenda item because he is a member of the Village Hall committee. The Clerk shared the comments received from the Village Hall committee. There was support within the committee for the mast and it was noted that a way-leave of £1,500 had been promised from the applicant for each of the first three years after installation. Whilst there was a little concern on how high above the village hall the mast would extend it was agreed to wait until receiving an application via NNPA before make a decision whether to support or object.

8. New business:

- a) Damaged notice board near Pinfold - Cllr Morgan reported on the damage to the notice board and provided details of possible replacements if it was felt the existing one could not be repaired. There was discussion on the benefits of an aluminium board. Cllr Morgan advised he had seen one for £1,500 plus VAT and this could possibly be partly funded by the Community Heritage Fund with the Parish Council using some reserves also.
- b) Parking discount at Kielder Water & Forest Park – The Clerk provided details that he said were also on the Parish Council website.

9. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Morgan highlighted that Maria Hardy and Nick Lightfoot (Revitalising Redesdale) were keen to attend a Parish Council meeting to provide an update. It was agreed that any meeting would be good although perhaps best to miss May as that month would include the Annual Parish Meeting.
- b) Cllr Morgan raised the topic of how to possibly improve communications around the Parish. A facebook page for the Parish Council was mentioned as a possible idea but it was noted there was a need to communicate with those residents that had no internet. It was agreed to include the topic at the next meeting.
- c) The Chair suggested the Clerk's pay should be reviewed with the possibility of a raise from April and it was agreed to include this at the next meeting.

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

Meeting closed at 8.20pm