

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 9 April, 2020

Due to the Coronavirus emergency and social distancing imposed the meeting was conducted via email between the recorded attendees.

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

1. Apologies: There were no apologies

2. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Renton declared an interest in item 6a

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 interviews were taking place for the role of Community Development Officer with the CIC. The Chair advised that he had made a start on funding applications for both the village green protection and brown tourist signs (agenda item 4b) but due to the coronavirus crisis this has been put on hold for the time being.
- b) Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage – This topic was covered in agenda item 4a.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale – Cllr Morgan advised the existing applications for Community Heritage Funding were on hold.
- d) Repair of roadside fence alongside burn – There had been no progress on this matter.
- e) Climate controlled cabinet in the church – The Chair reported that he had raised the topic with Rev Elaine Ryder. He advised that she had appeared amenable to the idea to display a copy of the Charter and the 1840 Thomas Arkle parish map on the wall in St Cuthbert's church as well as hosting the Great War commemorative book in a cabinet. Rev Ryder had suggested he raised the matter at the AGM of the PCC but it was not known when this would be able to take place.
- f) Soppit arena lighting – The Clerk advised he was waiting for an update from NCC Planning on this matter.
- g) Soppit Lane road flooding – The Clerk advised he was due to contact NCC for an update on progress on this matter.
- h) Replacement of notice board near Pinfold – Cllr Morgan advised there needed to be agreement of the type of notice board the Parish Council would wish to purchase. He highlighted that if there was a desire to approach Revitalising Redesdale for funding then the matter would need to be put on hold for the time being

5. Finance:

- a) Payment of salary (October 2019 – April 2020 & expenses to Clerk – The Councillors agreed to the payment of £401.00 for the six months to April 2020.
- b) Review of Parish Council finances and plans for 2020-21 – The Clerk provided a summary of the 2019-20 financial spend and income. He also provided a projection of finances for 2020-21 recording estimated income and expenditure showing the forecast available budget at this time.
- c) Review of the Parish Clerk's salary – The Councillors agreed a 3% pay rise for the Clerk increasing the annual salary to £826. The Clerk thanked the Councillors for the salary increase.

6. Planning:

- a) 20NP0015: Installation of 12.3 metre street works pole & associated infrastructure, including omni antenna, GPS antenna & 3g antenna to total height of 13.8 metres: Elsdon Village Hall, NE19 1AB – With help from the supportive comments from the Village Hall committee the Councillors after reviewing the application details agreed to support the proposal. Cllr Renton took no part in this agenda item because he is a member of the Village Hall committee.
- b) 20/00698/FUL: Construction of a publicly accessible landmark, commissioned to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II & commonwealth: Land at Cold Law, Kirkwhelpington – The Clerk confirmed that following the comments from the Councillors he had advised NCC that Elsdon Parish Council strongly objected the application.

7. New business:

- a) Parish Council activities during coronavirus crisis - The Clerk reported on the activity that had been undertaken and advised that details for advice and guidance can be found on the Parish Council website and would soon also be posted on the newly created Facebook.
- b) Collection of green waste during coronavirus crisis – At the request of enquires from residents the Clerk had contacted Cllr Glen Sanderson to determine if green waste could be collected from Elsdon as the County Council recycle sites were closed. Cllr Sanderson has advised that it is not possible at this time due to increase on pressure on the refuse collection personnel to complete their usual routes.
- c) Improving communications from Parish Council across the community - Cllr Morgan advised he was communicating with neighbouring Parish Councils as well as Revitalising Redesdale for their guidance on how to improve communications. Meantime Cllr Graham advised he had created an Elsdon Parish Council Facebook page.

8. Any other business:

- a) There was no other business reported.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 14 May 2020 starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon. Whilst confirmation would be provided nearer the time it is likely this meeting will take place by video link. The Ordinary meeting would follow the Annual Parish meeting that would start at 7.00pm