

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 14 May, 2020

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

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

**1. Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllr Renton

**2. Declarations of Interest:** None were declared.

**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 – Mr Cowie provided an update on activities including the Hardship Fund that had been set up to assist local businesses where required during the Covid19 crisis. He also provided an update on the development progress of the application process for local businesses to apply for grants. The Chair provided and update on the two applications he had made to the CIC for the Brown Tourist signs and the Village green protections.
- b) Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage – This topic was covered in agenda item 4a.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale – Cllr Morgan advised that much of the planned activity was presently on hold although a virtual meeting was likely to happen in June. He also reported on the research he had undertaken in respect of Facebook locally to help highlight the planned projects and activities. It was agreed to accept the invite from Maria Hardy and Nick Lightfoot to attend the June meeting via zoom.
- d) Repair of roadside fence alongside burn – There had been no progress on this matter although it was reported that someone had been seen working on the broken fence but no other details were known.
- e) Climate controlled cabinet in the church – The Chair advised that there had not been any progress on this matter whilst there are no meetings. He advised he would look to speak to Rev Elaine Ryder.
- f) Soppit arena lighting – The Clerk provided details of the email he had received from NCC Planning on the latest position of the lights at Soppit Arena
- g) Soppit Lane road flooding – There had been no progress in this matter over the past month.
- h) Replacement of notice board near Pinfold – Cllr Morgan provided details of the quotes he had received for the notice board including installation. He advised he was seeking confirmation from Revitalising Redesdale that potential funding would still be available if the notice board was purchased online. It was agreed that a metal notice board should stand up to the weather better than a wooden one especially given the intended location for the notice board.

## **5. Finance:**

- a) Payment of the NALC annual subscription – The payment of £72.84 was agreed by all.
- b) Review of Parish Council finances and plans for 2020-21 – The Clerk provided a summary of the 2020-21 budget forecast. There was discussion on the possible projects the Parish Council could pursue in the year including the brown tourist signs, village green protection and potentially a second tree seat.
- c) Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019-20 – This was approved by all.
- d) Approve the draft Annual Account for 2019-20 – This was approved by all.
- e) Approve the Accounting Statements & Explanation of variances for 2019-20 – This was approved by all.
- f) Confirm and approve the Certification of Exemption for 2019-20 – This was approved by all.

## **6. Planning:**

- a) 20/01008/FUL: Construction of three holiday lodges & associated ground work: Land south of Ravenscleugh – The Councillors took time to review the paperwork and there was discussion over the proposal. All agreed that based on the information received to object the application due to safety concerns accessing the site from A696, the water course that flows through the location as well as the impact on the rural landscape and that the plans did not seem to be in keeping with the rural landscape.

b) 20/01360/FUL: Works to include creation of pool and riffle sequence rive channel, re-profiling / stabilisation of river banks and provision of floodplain at confluence of Miller Burn and River Rede: Land at the confluence of the Miller Burn and river Rede – The Councillors reviewed the details received and were all in agreement to support this application.

**7. New business:**

- a) Parish Council Facebook - Thanks were expressed to Cllr Graham for creating the Facebook page. He provided details and advised that he and the Parish Clerk were administrators of the page. There was discussion whether to keep the page to official Parish Council business or have it more to include community activities.
- b) Reopening Household Waste Recovery Centres – The Clerk provided details of the reopening that he advised were also on the Parish council website
- c) Rebuilding local tourism - There was discussion regarding the email shared by the Clerk from Bellingham Parish Council. It was agreed that there should be a community effort to help re-establish tourism in the local area for when it was safe for people to visit again and that Elsdon Parish Council should be part of that.
- d) Mote Hills information board vandalism – It had been reported that the board has been badly damaged. It was agreed to send the photos of the board to Duncan Hutt at the National Park to request whether repairs could be made.
- e) New tree planted on village green – The Chair reported that a new tree had been planted to replace the previous one that had to be removed as it was diseased.
- f) Elsdon fete cancellation – It was reported that sadly the fete due to be held on August Bank Holiday had been cancelled this year as a result of the covid19 crisis.
- g) New woodland at Monkridge – The Chair highlighted the recent report that 100 hectares of forest are to be planted at Monkridge Hill

**8. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Bolam provided an update from the National Park including the plans regarding both car parks and public toilets.
- b) The Clerk advised he had been approached by the owner of the caravan park behind the Bird in Bush who wished to remove an old caravan and replace it with a new one.
- c) The Clerk advised he had received that day details of the new Parish Insurance premium and would share this with the Councillors for comment / agreement.

**9. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 11 June, 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.

Meeting closed at 8.35