

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 11 June, 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 and Morgan. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr Bolam. Paul Cowie (until 8.00), Nick Lightfoot (Revitalising Redesdale – until 7.35)

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllrs Renton & Maddison

2. Declarations of Interest: None were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Ordinary meeting and the Annual Parish meeting: The minutes of these two meetings were accepted as a true record.

4. Nick Lightfoot (Revitalising Redesdale) – Mr Lightfoot was welcomed to the meeting. He provided details of work during the Covid19 lock down as well current position and progress being made by the team and the project partners. He also provided a report on the successes of 2019 including the Lidar project, sika spruce removal and the bio-blitz as well as the Community Heritage Funding projects that had grants agreed. He reported that a Trainee Wildlife Officer had been appointed for Benshaw Moor and that a bio-blitz would be happening on the moor but volunteers would have to do this individually.

The Chair provided an update on the work regarding the cabinet and frame for the church as well as the proposal for the new notice board. He advised that Rev Elaine Ryder had given her approval of the ideas however there had as yet to be a PCC meeting due to the lock down so an overall decision had not yet been made. There was discussion as to whether these two projects would be eligible for potential Community Heritage Funding. Mr Lightfoot left the meeting at 7.35

5. 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 progress of the application process for local businesses to apply for grants. The Chair provided an update on the two applications he had made to the CIC for the Brown Tourist signs and the village green protection. He advised that there had been agreement for the tourist sign work but at this time there would be no funding for the village green protection. It was agreed to press ahead with the tourist signs.
- b) Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage – This topic was covered in agenda item 4.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale – Cllr Morgan advised that the next Steering Group meeting was on 17 June.
- d) Repair of roadside fence alongside burn – The Clerk advised he was chasing Cllr Bridgett and Mitch Young (NCC) for an update and timescale of this work.
- e) Climate controlled cabinet in the church – This matter was discussed while Nick Lightfoot had been in attendance.
- f) Soppit arena lighting – The Clerk advised that he had not received an update this month.
- g) Soppit Lane road flooding – The Clerk advised he was chasing for an update on this matter.
- h) Replacement of notice board near Pinfold – Following the discussion while Nick Lightfoot was in attendance it was agreed the Clerk would contact Corsenside Parish Council as well as get confirmation from the Otterburn Councillors on the type of notice board they would both wish to order if possible. It was agreed by the Councillors that they would prefer a notice board with a shaped header that had a backboard that took pins and was dark green in colour.
- i) Parish Council activities during coronavirus crisis – The Clerk provided an update on activities and notices that had been posted on the website and Facebook. He advised that AGE UK had kindly made a further donation of food parcels for those requiring them and these were being stored at the Memorial Hall in Otterburn.
- j) Mote Hills information board vandalism – Cllr Graham provided an update after speaking to a resident. It appeared it had been a sheep that had ‘vandalised’ the board. There was discussion as to whether the sign

should be attached to the gate rather than the original location. Cllr Bolam agreed to update Duncan Wise (NNPA) on this development.

6. Finance:

- a) Renewal of Parish Council insurance – There was confirmation that the Councillors had made the decision to continue the insurance with Came & Coy at the same premium as the previous year of £280.00.

7. Planning:

- a) There were no applications for consideration this month.

8. New business:

- a) Annual bonfire and firework display - It was agreed to monitor the situation over the next couple of months before making a decision as to whether the event could go ahead this year. Cllr Graham advised he would speak to Cllr Renton to get the thoughts of those who have organised past events.

9. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Bolam provided an update from the National Park advising on the opening of the car parks and toilets. She also reported on the damage that had been seen at a number of locations plus the high amount of litter left by some visitors as the lock-down eases.
- b) The Chair advised he had been speaking to Steve Shaw regarding possibilities for the reopening of the Bird in bush pub when government guidance allowed it. There was a request to possibly erect a couple of marquees on the village green as well as the tables on the green near the pub to assist with the social distancing. This proposal was agreed by the Councillors and the Chair advised he would speak to Mr Shaw.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 9 July, 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 8.15