

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 10 September, 2020

Due to the social distancing restriction imposed due to Coronavirus this meeting was conducted via video link between the recorded attendees.

Present: Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Graham, Renton and Morgan. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr Bridgett, Paul Cowie, Cllr France and Cllr Bolam (until 7.20)

- 1. Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllr Maddison
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None were declared.
- 3. Minutes of the previous Ordinary meeting:** The minutes of the meeting was accepted as a true record.

Cllr Bolam advised that the National Park AGM was scheduled for next week and that it was expected two new Councillors would be appointed. She advised that majority of National Park facilities had been reopened and that locally there had not been too much trouble with visitors.

There was discussion regarding the bus shelter on the village green being used by some visitors as a toilet.

Possible ideas were considered including an information board for visitors. Cllr Bolam agreed to take the proposal to NNPA to determine whether any assistance could be given towards the project. Cllr Morgan advised that it may be possible to move the old noticeboard to the bus shelter when the replacement was installed at the Pinfold.

4. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update – Mr Cowie provided an update following the recent AGM. He advised that David Burn had been appointed the new CIC Chair and that Paul had taken on the role of Vice-Chair. Three Directors had stepped down at the AGM and that the CIC were seeking new Directors especially with business grant experience. Mr Cowie also provided an update on the Small Grant Funds that would be coming directly from Vattenfall to the CIC in future but the administration of the fund was still to be decided. Meantime the Small Grant Funds was open to applications via the Community Foundation until 2 November.
- b) Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage – The Clerk reported that there was no update on this matter this month.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale – Cllr Morgan advised that there had been no developments in the last month but there was a Steering Group meeting on 16 September.
- d) Cabinet and frame for church – The Chair advised he had not yet received a response to the enquiry and it was agreed that until there was confirmation of support from the church the Parish Council should not progress with any grant application.
- e) Soppit Lane road flooding – The Chair advised that he had spoken to the engineers undertaking the recent work. There was apparently no culvert under the road. Whilst a drain had been created further work was going to be required including a creation of a ditch to the nearby burn that was approximately 100m away. This work needed to be planned as there were utility cables under the roadside to avoid. It was not known when this work would be carried out but there was a promise it would be soon. It was highlighted that much of the debris from the work had been left at the Billsmoor lay-by but Cllr Bridgett promised this would be moved soon.
- f) Replacement of notice board near Pinfold – The Clerk confirmed that Revitalising Redesdale would be supporting the project up to £2,000. The new noticeboard had been ordered and it was hoped would be ready for installation early October.
- g) Annual bonfire and firework display – Following discussion it was agreed by all that sadly the bonfire and fireworks event this year would have to be cancelled. The Clerk would notify the general public whilst the Chair and Cllr Renton agreed to advise the local residents who had committed to help organise the event.

- h) Future use of the bus shelter – It was agreed to wait and see what response was received from National Park Authority before deciding the next steps of this matter.

5. Finance:

- a) Payment of the invoice for a replacement Noticeboard – The Clerk advised that the company required 50% payment of the invoice before delivery as it was a bespoke order. There was agreement to pay a sum of £1,449.60 that equated to half of the invoice including VAT to Noticeboards Online Ltd.
- b) Finance update and adoption of the 2019-20 accounts – The Clerk provided a summary of the latest accounts and forecast to the end of the financial year. Following discussion a few additional aspects were highlighted to be included. The Clerk provided an update on the 2019-20 audit and there agreement to adopt the accounts.

6. Planning:

- a) There were no planning applications to consider this month.

7. New business:

- a) Local Transport Programme 2021-22 – There was discussion on the update provided by NCC on the requests from the previous year. It was acknowledge the bollards had been installed to make the area near the bridge safer and that the Gibbet Road was due for some maintenance work in the near future. There was disappointment that the road around the church was not currently included in the planned for work by NCC and there was agreement that it should be included again this year. There was agreement to Cllr Morgan's suggestion that the road from Crown Farm to Red Hall was in a poor state and required attention and should perhaps be included this year. It was agreed the Councillors would give consideration to any other matters requiring work and discuss at the October meeting. The Chair highlighted that white lining had still not been marked on the resurfaced B6341 towards Rothbury. Cllr Bridgett advised the Clerk should write to Graham Bucknall (NCC) highlighting this work was still outstanding. Cllr Bridgett also advised that £250K additional funds received from Central Government were being set aside for the Gibbet Road resurfacing.
- b) Sharing communications / actions with other Elsdon committees – There was agreement to take action to assist with communications between the Parish Council and other committees such as the Village Hall and EPIC.
- c) Possible notice for the Bull Stone on the village green – Cllr Graham advised he had not had the opportunity to investigate possible notices and it was agreed to postpone this matter to the next meeting.

8. Any other business:

- a) Removal of old noticeboard – Cllr Renton agreed to remove the old noticeboard when the replacement was ready to be installed.
- b) Cllr Bridgett provided an update on various matters including his thoughts regarding the likely County Council high-level restructure and the latest information on the Covid19 restrictions. He also reported on the likely plans for Rothbury Hospital and that the mobile X-ray was proving very useful. He also spoke of the possible options being discussed in respect of the future of the RAF Rothbury House.
- c) The Chair questioned whether there would be a Remembrance Service this year and it was agreed the Clerk would contact Rev Elaine Ryder.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 8 October, 2020 starting at 7.00pm via video link.

Meeting closed at 8.00