

## Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 8 October, 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), Renton and Morgan. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr France and Cllr Bolam

**1. Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllrs Graham & 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.

### **4. Matters arising**

- a) Ray Wind update – The Clerk advised that there had not been much activity to update on although the Small Grants Fund was still open until 2 November for applications. Additionally it was reported that the Ray Windfarm CIC was still accepting Covid19 Hardship Fund applications.
- 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 provided an update following the recent Steering Group meeting plus also provided a summary of the Interim Evaluation Report received from Revitalising Redesdale.
- d) Cabinet and frame for church – The Chair advised he understood that there had been a PCC meeting at the beginning of October but he had not heard whether there had been an endorsement for the proposal of the cabinet etc in the church. It was agreed to postpone the matter to the November meeting.
- e) Soppit Lane road flooding – The Clerk reported he had been advised by NCC that the work to complete the drainage would take place the week commencing 9 November.
- f) Replacement of notice board near Pinfold – The Clerk confirmed that he was waiting to hear from the company as to when the noticeboard would be ready for installation.
- g) Future use of the bus shelter – It was reported that there had been no update on this matter and it was agreed to roll over the matter to the November meeting.
- h) Local Transport Programme 2021-22 – Following discussion it was agreed to request resurfacing with particular attention to the sides of the road that runs from Crown Farm to Town Foot. Additionally it was agreed to request repairs to the road that circles the church from the B6341 and white lining on the local roads that have recently been resurfaced.
- i) Sharing communications / actions with other Elsdon committees – The Clerk advised he had shared the draft minutes from the previous meeting with both EPIC and the Village Hall committee. He also highlighted the Village Hall minutes that he had received and shared with the Councillors.
- j) Possible notice for the Bull Stone on village green – The Clerk shared comments provided by Cllr Graham who was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Bolam advised that if the potential notice was to be similar size to the cock-fighting sign then planning permission should not be required.

### **5. Finance:**

- a) Payment of the Clerk's salary – The salary for the Clerk from April, 2020 to October 2020 was agreed.
- b) Payment of one third share of the monthly zoom subscription for six months – There was agreement to pay six months of £4.00 each month to Otterburn Parish Council where the original subscription is paid.
- c) Payment of the second and final instalment of the invoice for the new noticeboard – The Clerk advised that as the development of the noticeboard had been delayed there was no payment required at this time.

### **6. Planning:**

There were no planning applications to consider this month.

## **7. New business:**

- a) Remembrance service and wreath – The Clerk provided the details he had received from Rev Ryder of the plans for the service at Otterburn. The Chair agreed to represent the Parish Council to lay the wreath providing there were appropriate social distancing measures in place. It was agreed to order a wreath.
- b) Horse tethering on the village green – There had been an informal request for the possibility of horses being tethered for a short time on the village green whilst riders visit the pub or stop for lunch. Whilst there was a cautious agreement from the Councillors it was agreed a number of factors needed to be agreed and a formal agreement drawn-up that included responsibility for maintenance of the green and any agreed structure to tether the horses to.
- c) White lining along recently resurfaced sections of B6341 – Disappointment was expressed at NCC's response to the request for white lines in the centre as well as road edge on the B6341 as well as the Gibbet Road. Whilst it is understood there was a cost associated to this work it was highlighted that these roads were in very dark areas with no street lights and often with deep drops at the edges of the road. It was noted that there had been additional white lining since the email had been sent but there was still much of the local road network requiring it.
- d) Adoption of Northumberland National Park Local Plan – Cllr Bolam provided details of the Plan.
- e) New battery and pads for the village defibrillator – The Clerk advised the replacement parts had been fitted by Damien Weston (First Responder). EPIC had met the cost of these from the reserve remaining in the budget but it was noted that the Parish Council would soon need to fund future replacements / repairs.
- f) Smoutel Ford stepping stones – The Chair advised he had received a call from a resident complaining that the stepping stones were too low to cross most of the time as they were under water. The Clerk advised he had spoken to the Revitalising Redesdale Project Manager who installed the new ford and the stepping stones and provided the reasons given why the stones are the height they are. It was agreed that warning signs should be put in place to prevent walkers having a wasted journey and needing to double back if unable to cross the river.
- g) Local Covid19 restrictions – The Chair advised he had received a complaint that the outdoor concert had been allowed to go ahead during the current social distancing restrictions. It was highlighted that County Council had provided the go-ahead for it to take place and that the Parish Council had only provided permission to use the village green. It was also noted that the owners of the Bird in Bush pub had decided to close for a short while as the heightened Coronavirus restrictions were being imposed in Northumberland.

## **8. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Morgan reported on the support that Cllr Bridgett had provided in the matter of the green waste and street side glass collection. Disappointment however was expressed that this service would be not provided in Elsdon.
- b) Cllr France provided an update on the latest position of the National Park Authority board and the appointment of the new Chair, Jean Davison.

**9. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 12 November, 2020 starting at 7.00pm via video link.

Meeting closed at 8.10