

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 10 December, 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, Morgan and Stuchfield. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr Bridgett, Cllr France

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 meeting had previously been shared with the Councillors and were accepted as a true record.
4. **Parish Council vacancy / co-option** – The Chair confirmed that after many years of excellent service to the Parish Council, Cllr Maddison had decided to resign his position. Due to the close proximity to the local elections in May 2021 Northumberland County Council confirmed that the remaining Councillors could co-opt to fill the vacancy. Mr Mark Stuchfield had been approached and accepted the position that was endorsed by all Councillors. Cllr Stuchfield was welcomed by all.

5. **Matters arising**

- a) **Ray Wind update** – The Clerk advised that the decision panel of the Ray Windfarm Small Grants Fund administrated by Community Foundation met on 8 December and all those who had submitted applications should be contacted within the next week or so by Community Foundation.
- b) **Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage** – The Clerk reported that despite several attempts to obtain a progress report he had not received a response from Richard McKenzie (NCC).
- c) **Revitalising Redesdale** – Cllr Morgan advised that the scheduled Steering Group meeting on 9 December had been cancelled. Meantime three Community Heritage Funding applications had been reviewed. Two required more information whilst the third, improved new signage at Carter Bar, had been agreed subject to further funding being raised.
- d) **Cabinet and frame for church** – The Chair advised he had been given the ‘green light’ from Rev Ryder as well as Karen Collins (Revitalising Redesdale) to progress the matter of seeking funding for the project. He advised he would meet with Jo Scott to develop an application in the New Year.
- e) **Soppit Lane road flooding** – The Chair reported that he had been approached by several local residents about the mess that had been left by the workmen on the road side. He read a proposed communication on the matter that was agreed by all Councillors. It was agreed to ask Emma Anderson to add to the next edition of the newsletter as well as add to the Parish Council website.
- f) **Replacement of notice board near Pinfold** – The Clerk confirmed that he was waiting to hear from the company with a revised installation date.
- g) **Future use of the bus shelter** – The Chair provided the background on this matter. He advised that unfortunately there would be no funding from NNPA for this project. The areas requiring attention to improve the shelter and provide information to residents and visitors were discussed and agreed.
- h) **Possible notice for the Bull Stone on village green** – Cllr Graham advised he had not had the opportunity to investigate this matter further and it was agreed to postpone the topic until the February meeting.
- i) **Horse tethering on the village green** – Cllr Graham advised he was waiting to hear back from the two stables and it was agreed no further action would be taken until contact was made.
- j) **Hidden dip on B6341 (Billsmoor)** – Cllr Bridgett advised that whilst the matter had not been submitted to the LTP in time he had spoken to Graham Bucknell (NCC) who may be able to install warning signs from his own budget.
- k) **Soppit arena lighting** – The Chair advised that he had not heard back from Duncan Wise (NNPA) on this matter. It was agreed as the matter had been discharged by NCC Planning no further action would be taken.

6. Finance:

- a) Update on the Parish Council finances / setting the 2021-22 precept – The Clerk provided update on the latest position and the forecast to 31 March, 2021. There was discussion on the various potential projects within the Parish. It was agreed initial focus should be on the redevelopment of the bus shelter and a potential £1,500 was earmarked for the work. It was also highlighted that a half round tree seat on the village green would be welcomed. Further consideration would be given possible other work and a decision on the amount of the 2021-22 precept would be made at the January meeting.
- b) Payment of the second and final instalment of the invoice for the new noticeboard – The agreement with the company is for the final payment to be made when the new noticeboard is installed. It was hoped this would be done in December and there was agreement if so and it met requirements the payment could then be made.
- c) Payment for Remembrance Wreath – The payment of £18.50 was agreed.
- d) Payment of the invoice to Spanglefish for the website subscription - The payment of £24.96 + VAT was agreed.
- e) Donation request from Great North Air Ambulance – A donation of £100 was agreed.
- f) Donation request from CAN – A donation of £50 was agreed.
- g) Donation request from Tynedale Hospice – Whilst it was acknowledged that Tynedale Hospice undertook excellent work it was questioned as to how many parishioners in Elsdon had connections and with a very small precept it was reluctantly agreed a donation could not be made on this occasion.
- h) Donation request from AGE UK – Whilst it was acknowledged that AGE UK undertook excellent work, as Elsdon Parish Council had a very small precept it was reluctantly agreed a donation could not be made on this occasion.

7. Planning:

- a) 20NP0088: Proposed refurbishment of existing cottage and farmhouse incorporating change of use of adjacent granary and cart shed to form part of the residential farmhouse accommodation: Dunshiel Farm, Dunshiel Drive, Elsdon, NE19 1AQ – Following discussion the Councillors agreed to support the application.

8. New business:

- a) AGE UK new activity packs for the community – The Clerk reported that he would be collecting a new batch of packs the next day and would distribute to those requesting them.

9. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Bridgett provided an update on the proposed development of the Spar shop at Thropton that should be presented to NCC Planning soon and if all goes well could be open for business by June 2021. He also provided the latest plans, and challenges for the Covid19 vaccination roll-out within the Rothbury area.
- b) The Chair provided an update on the request made for finger posts to mark the St Cuthbert Three Churches trail route having spoken to the land owner where part of the trail goes.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 14 January, 2021 starting at 7.00pm via video link.

Meeting closed at 8.15