

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 11 February, 2021

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, Stuchfield and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllrs France and Bolam

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

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. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update – The Clerk advised that there had not been much activity during the past month however reminded those attending that the Covid Hardship fund was still available for local businesses to apply. Additionally the Clerk reminded attendees that there was a vacancy on the CIC board for anyone interested.
- b) Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage – It was confirmed that work had started on the installation of the new tourist signs. It was agreed to refer to the original paperwork to check and confirm everything that should be included has been installed correctly.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale – Cllr Morgan provided details following a meeting with Creative Core who provided the initial thoughts regarding the interpretation hubs. He also highlighted several activities that will be happening in the next few weeks. Additionally he advised that Maria Hardy, Project Manager of Revitalising Redesdale, will be moving on to a new role and that the vacancy will be advertised shortly.
- d) Cabinet and frame for church – The Chair advised due to the current lockdown restrictions he was unable to meet with Jo Scott to discuss the funding application for this matter.
- e) Replacement of notice board near Pinfold – The Clerk provided details of the plan for the repairs to be made to the noticeboard which were agreed by the Councillors.
- f) Future use of the bus shelter – The Clerk advised he was expecting the final quotes to be received within the next week. Cllr Graham advised he had purchased the netting and he with Cllr Renton would put this in place shortly. Cllr Graham provided details of the solar lighting he had found but it was agreed not to move forward on this element of the work at this time. It was agreed the old noticeboard requiring repair would not be appropriate for the bus shelter and as such the Clerk would investigate other options.
- g) Repair of old noticeboard and relocation – There was agreement to accept the quote of £100.00 from David Scott for the repair of the noticeboard. There was discussion on the location following the repair given that it was not appropriate for the bus shelter. It was agreed it would be most appropriate for it to be install on posts on the verge at the car park and the Clerk was asked to obtain a further quote for that work.
- h) Honorary Freeman recognition – There was agreement on the wording for the title. All Councillors agreed to endorse the honour of the title to Keith Maddison for his service to Elsdon Parish Council for over 30 years. The Clerk provided details of the quotes received including the calligraphy and framing. There was agreement on the contractor to request to undertake the work.
- i) May local elections – There was confirmation that the local elections would be taking place on 6 May, 2021. It was agreed that the Parish Council meeting that month would take place on Thursday 20 May. At this time it was not known whether that meeting would be by digital format or face-to-face as current legislation expires on 6 May.

5. Finance:

- a) There were no finance matters to discuss this month.

6. Planning:

a) 21NP0004: Erection of covered muck store: East Todholes, Elsdon, NE191BS: All Councillors supported this application and NNPA Planning had been advised.

21/00306/FUL: Construction of a proposed rear (North) facing single storey extension, proposed side (East) facing single storey extension and existing internal alterations: Burnhead Cottage, Elsdon, NE191BW: The Clerk highlighted this application that had been received that day. It was agreed the Councillors would review and share comments via email.

7. New business:

- a) Parish representatives on the Northumberland National Park Authority – The Clerk referred to the email he had shared on this topic. Cllrs France and Bolam both spoke about the role and current structure of the authority.
- b) Notice for the bull stone – Cllr Graham advised that he had not had chance to consider this topic.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Graham made reference to a Jubilee sign on the village green that requires repair. All were in agreement to his proposal for repairs.
- b) Cllr Graham advised he had been approached by the party seeking a tethering post on the village green for horses. They were in agreement to the proposal to have this fixed to the back external wall of the bus shelter. The party confirmed that they would pay for the work and be responsible for the maintenance and removal if no longer required as well as any tidying up required.
- c) The Chair confirmed that the drainage at Soppit junction was working well following the recent heavy rain fall but that NCC was due to return and complete the work in the near future.
- d) The Chair reported that the litter bin situation at the lay-by near Ottercops appeared to be much improved. It was agreed to monitor in case additional litter bin was required.
- e) The Chair highlighted the very poor condition of the A696 on Blaxter Hill. Other locations where the road conditions were also very poor were identified including a pot hole just beyond the bridge on the Raylees road.
- f) Cllr Morgan reported on the flooding at Starmyers bridge. It was believed that part of the cause of this was that the wall had not been repaired as well as clearing the channel through the bridge. It was agreed to contact County Council as well Environmental Agency.
- g) Cllr Bolam spoke about a parcel of land used by the Educational Trust that was increasingly difficult to graze and use. There was a proposal a small part of the field beyond the burn could be used for planting trees and be an area for sitting / resting. This received positive comments from the Councillors and Cllr Bolam advised she would speak to the land owner.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 11 March, 2021 starting at 7.00pm via video link.

Meeting closed at 8.30