

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 11 March, 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), Morgan, Stuchfield and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr Bridgett, Cllrs France and Bolam, Mr K. Maddison

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Graham.

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. Presentation to Keith Maddison – The Chair made a presentation to Mr Maddison for his long service on the Parish Council as well as many other positions within the village including Church Warden. The Parish Councillors wished to acknowledge the excellent work he had done over 30 years for the community by presenting him with the Honorary Freeman title.

5. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update – The Clerk advised confirmed that Community Foundation would be administrating the Small Grants Fund on behalf of the CIC for a further year. It was expected the grant would be opening for nominations by late March.
- b) Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage – It was believed that majority of the new signs, including both the tourist and general signs had now been installed. It was agreed to arrange a meeting to check all signs when NCC had confirmed the work was completed.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale – Cllr Morgan advised the next Steering Group meeting was on 17 March and an update would be provided at the next meeting.
- d) Cabinet and frame for church – The Chair advised he had still been unable to meet with Jo Scott to discuss the funding application for this matter due to covid restrictions.
- e) Replacement of notice board near Pinfold – It was agreed that as the repairs had not yet been undertaken and the noticeboard was getting in a worse condition the Clerk would contact Noticeboards Online requesting that it was replaced rather than repaired.
- f) Future use of the bus shelter – The Clerk confirmed that Alan Graham had ordered the glass and would be building the bench in the near future. Cllr Renton advised that he and Cllr Graham would be fixing the netting to prevent birds nesting in the shelter, in the next few days. It was agreed to have the old noticeboard repaired and fixed to the external side wall of the bus shelter.
- g) Repair of old noticeboard and relocation – It was agreed that the old noticeboard when repaired should be fixed to the external side wall of the bus shelter. The Clerk was asked to get a quote for this piece of work.
- h) Notice for the bull stone – As Cllr Graham was absent it was agreed to push this item to the next meeting.
- i) May local elections – The Clerk provided the latest information he had received from County Council.
- j) Jubilee sign – Thanks were expressed to Cllr Graham for the repair of the Jubilee sign

6. Finance:

- a) Payment of invoice from Lavelle Lettering for calligraphy – The invoice for £45.00 was agreed.

7. Planning:

a) 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 confirmed there had been no objections to this application.

8. New business:

- a) Flooding at Starmyers bridge – Following discussion it was agreed that whilst the stone wall needed repairing this was not a flood prevention wall and to reduce the risk of flooding the arch under the bridge required clearing. It was agreed the Clerk would write to NCC and EA regarding the matter. There was agreement that if nothing else was done a warning sign both sides of the bridge highlighting to drivers of the risk of road flooding was required.
- b) Damage to village green – The Clerk had received confirmation from a resident that the oil company who had damaged the green would be repairing the damage. It was also highlighted that the corner of the green opposite Crown Farm had been damaged by large vehicles diverted due to roadworks on the A696. It was agreed to approach NCC regarding the repairs.
- c) Tree near Crawford Crescent – It was reported that telephone wires were getting tangled in the tree opposite 5 Crawford Crescent however Openreach were allegedly not willing to do anything until the wires were broken. Cllr Bridgett provided a contact at Openreach to approach.
- d) Poor condition of local roads – The Clerk provided details of the response he had received from NCC regarding the plans for pot hole and road surface repairs. NCC acknowledged many roads were in a bad condition following the winter and were assessing and prioritising work. Cllr Bridgett advised the Graham Bucknell (NCC) had recently visited the Elsdon area and had created a ‘to do list’ of work required.
- e) Queen Elizabeth monument at Cold Law – The Chair highlighted the public enquiry that had opened that week.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Morgan highlighted the amount of ivy growing up a tree on the village green and it was agreed that it was likely to be detrimental to the trees health and arrangements should be made to remove the ivy.
- b) The Chair advised he had received a call from Mr Shaw at the Bird in Bush regarding his proposed plans for re-opening from 12 April. He was requesting to have a marquee erected on the village green to serve customers in a similar position as the previous summer. Following discussion the request was agreed by the Councillors subject to set criteria including tidying the area, insurance, opening times, noise levels.
- c) Mr Maddison advised he had been approached by someone asking permission to scatter the ashes of Margaret Morley in a few selected locations in the village. He advised that Margaret had lived in Elsdon for many years and had been the postmistress for most of them. There was agreement to the request from all of the Councillors.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 8 April, 2021 starting at 7.00pm via video link.

Meeting closed at 8.00