

## Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 8 April, 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, Graham and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr Bridgett

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 the Small Grants Fund administered by Community Foundation on behalf of Ray Windfarm would be open for applications from charitable and non-profit organisations later in April.
- b) Brown Tourist signs and replacing other road signage – Whilst it appeared all tourist signs had been installed, and there was agreement it looked good, it was questioned whether the promised work on surrounding vegetation in a couple of locations had as yet been completed. It was agreed to contact Richard McKenzie (NCC) for an update.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale – Cllr Morgan provided an update following his attendance at the Steering Group meeting recently. Bruce Wilkinson would be taking on the Project Manager role following the departure of Maria Hardy, starting 26 April. There was an update on the projects in progress as well as proposed roll-out of community activities as social restrictions began to ease.
- 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 – The Clerk advised he had received confirmation from the company that supplied the noticeboard that the repairs would be completed sometime the week commencing 12 April.
- f) Future use of the bus shelter – The Clerk provided an update on the progress of the work by Alan Graham. There was confirmation of an earlier discussion that the repaired noticeboard would be fitted on the left hand side external wall.
- g) Repair of old noticeboard and relocation – The Clerk confirmed that David Scott would be making the repairs and then fit the noticeboard as detailed in agenda item 4f.
- h) Notice for the bull stone – Cllr Graham provided details of two options for the notice he had identified. It was agreed that whilst the proposed cost should be only a maximum £45.00 the Clerk would apply to Revitalising Redesdale Community Heritage Fund for a grant.
- i) May local elections – The Clerk confirmed he had submitted the nomination papers for the Councillors.
- j) Flooding at Starmyers bridge – The Clerk advised he had received response from Mitch Young regarding the proposed work to improve the flow of water under the bridge.
- k) Damage to village green by oil tanker and at Crown Farm – The Clerk advised that the company on behalf of the oil tanker had been in contact in respect of the required repairs to the village green. Cllr Bridgett advised he was confident NCC would make good the repairs to the green near Crown Farm as well as any other location that was damaged as a result of the diversion due to road works on A696 at Monkridge.
- l) Tree near Crawford Crescent – The Clerk advised he was still chasing BT Openreach to undertake the required work in respect of tangled telephone cables in the tree.

### **5. Finance:**

- a) Payment of Clerk's salary and expenses Oct 2020 – Apr 2021 – The Councillors agreed salary of £413.00 plus mileage expenses in respect of the election nomination paperwork submission for £9.00.

- b) Clerk's salary 2021-22 – The Councillors discussed the average monthly hours worked by the Clerk and his pay in respect of minimum hour rate. Following discussion it was agreed to increase the annual salary to £900.00 with immediate effect. Additionally it was proposed that there would be no August or December meetings to help reduce the hours the Clerk worked.

**6. Planning:**

- a) There were no planning applications for consideration.

**7. New business:**

- a) Request for permanent bus service through Elsdon – The Chair advised he had been approached by a parishioner requesting whether the morning bus service that has been coming through Elsdon due to the diversion around the A696 roadworks could be made a permanent feature. There are several people using the 808 service and during the diversion this meant passengers have not had to initially travel to Otterburn to catch the bus. It was agreed the Clerk would contact Neil Easton (NCC) with the request.
- b) Request to repair an access-way across village green – A request had been received via the Clerk for repairs to be made to an easement track across the village green. The Clerk shared details he had received from NALC and the Chair spoke of the research he had undertaken on the matter. It was highlighted that it appeared legally the maintenance of the easement track was the responsibility of the residents who used the easement to access their property. Cllr Bridgett advised that the track could not be a tarmac surface as this area would no longer be classed as village green and the same amount of land would need to be found and designated as village green elsewhere. Additionally a request would need to be made to the Secretary of State to tarmac any part of the village green and would cost a minimum £5,000 to de-register the land as village green. It was agreed that where possible a compromise should be found and the Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with the residents.

**7. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Renton highlighted that the Raylees road was in a bad state due to the additional heavy traffic using it during the diversion on A696. The gullies had begun to fill and due to the narrow width of the road, with very few passing passes the verges were becoming very bad. Cllr Bridgett advised that Graham Bucknall (NCC) was due to be assessing roads in the area next week and the Clerk was asked to write and highlight the problems.
- b) The Chair advised that whilst he was standing for another term he would not be seeking to be Chair again. He thanked the Councillors for their support over the time he has been Chair and looked forward to working with the new Chair and those who successfully stood for re-election.

**8. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 20 May, 2021 starting at 7.00pm at Elsdon Village Hall or via video link, to be confirmed nearer the time. The meeting will start with the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Ordinary Meeting

Meeting closed at 8.25