

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 12 January, 2023

**Present:** Councillors, Stuchfield (Chair), Simmance, Renton and Brownlee. Clerk – Martin Chilvers. S. Bolam (NNPA – until 7.40)

**1. Apologies:** There were apologies Cllr Bell.

**2. Declarations of Interest:** None were declared.

**3. Minutes of the previous Ordinary meeting:** The minutes of the meetings 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 three new CIC Directors had been appointed to the Ray Windfarm CIC board and would begin work at the first CIC meeting in January. Additionally the Clerk reported that the latest Annual Report was now available and he would share this.
- b) Village Hall power outage preparations / Northern Powergrid (NPg) grant application – The Clerk confirmed that the application had been successful and that the cheque from NPg should arrive shortly so that work could start. It was agreed to set up a meeting with the Village Hall committee to agree actions as well as begin to prepare an ‘Emergency Plan’ to implement in the case of another ‘Storm Arwen’ or similar emergency situation. It was agreed to share contact details with NCC in case of an emergency event.
- c) Speed Indicator device (SID) – The Clerk advised he had submitted a grant request for the purchase and installation of a solar powered SID with Bluetooth data collection to Ray Windfarm via Community Foundation and was waiting a response.
- d) Broken road sign near Crawford Crescent – There was confirmation that the broken sign on Billsmoor had been replaced and Cllr Renton would check to determine whether the Crawford Crescent sign had been replaced as well.

## **5. Finance:**

- a) Finance update and 2023/24 precept – Following discussion regarding the plans for 2023/24 and the latest financial position there was agreement from all Councillors to reduce the precept from £2,000 to £1,800. It was agreed that the Clerk would determine the latest plans regarding the relocation of the defibrillator from the private residence to the Bird in Bush pub.
- b) Payment of invoice from St John’s Ambulance for £96.00 + VAT for first aid on 5 November – The payment was agreed. It was noted that half the net amount would be met from the proceeds received at the event.

## **6. Planning:**

- a) There were no applications to consider at this meeting.

## **7. New business:**

- a) Repair work at Starmyers bridge – There was discussion regarding the work undertaken by NCC. Cllr Renton believed the pipe should have been longer to be effective and last longer however it was agreed take no further action at this time.
- b) Northumbria Water work in the area – The Clerk shared the latest details he had received that day from Northumbria Water advising that the repair work was almost complete. Water quality testing would take place this week and it was hoped there would be no need for the regular tanker visits from the end of the next week. There was discussion regarding the repair of the damage created by the tankers but it was agreed to monitor the situation as Northumbria Water had promised to make good the damage.
- c) Revitalising Redesdale project evaluation – The Clerk shared the project evaluation and the Councillors agreed to review and pass any comments to the Clerk.
- d) Preparation for possible power outages – The Clerk shared communications from Northern Powergrid (NPg) regarding possible emergency power cuts during the winter. Whilst NPg has advised the power cuts were very unlikely they have provided via their website a Q&A and guidance of how notification will be provided and how to prepare in case power cuts are implemented.

- e) New Year fireworks on village green – Cllr Renton advised that the fireworks had been a private party. There was discussion as to how to communicate the need for permission to hold an event and use of the village green before future such ‘events’ were held.
- f) Proposal for a dark skies platform near bus shelter – There was confirmation that the star cairn had been completed and was located just outside the village hall but it was hoped signage would be installed to help people to find it. A proposal for a dark sky platform on the village green had been received and whilst the idea received a positive response it was agreed there were a number of questions that needed answering before the Councillors would consider the idea, especially as the pinfold had been used for previous dark sky events. It was agreed to invite Duncan Wise (NNPA) and Jackie Sewell (Bird in Bush) to a meeting to discuss the proposal.

**8. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Brownlee highlighted that vehicles are parking very close the bottle bank in the car park which is making access difficult for people dropping off bottles as well NCC to empty the bins. It was agreed to contact NCC asking for the car park to have bays marked on the road surface and ‘hatching’ marked on the surface preventing parking too close to the bottle bank.
- b) Cllr Renton highlighted the number of potholes in the road towards starmyers bridge that were highlighted by a resident as well as the flooding on the road outside the church. It was confirmed that both the potholes and flooding had been reported and that NCC had already been out and cleared the blocked drain.
- c) Cllr Renton also highlighted the overgrown hedges that were hanging over the road on the other side of Billsmoor and it was agreed to highlight this to Hepple PC as well as NCC.
- d) The Chair advised that EPIC had arranged for a planning meeting to be held at the Village Hall on 6 February for the possible August Bank Holiday fete. Whilst it was hoped the fete would take place this year there needed to be a good number of volunteers to help organise and help put up marquees as well as assist on the day. The meeting in February would determine if there was sufficient number of volunteers to progress with the preparations.
- e) The Clerk reported that a resident had highlighted the apparent drainage pipe leak on the road behind the car park towards Hudspeth. There was discussion as to whose responsibility the matter was but it was agreed to report the matter to NCC.

**9. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 9 February, 2023 starting at 7.00pm at Elsdon Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.25pm