

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 9 February, 2023

Present: Councillors, Stuchfield (Chair), Simmance, Renton, Brownlee and Bell Clerk – Martin Chilvers. S. Bolam (NNPA) and J. Sewell (JS)

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

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. Working in collaboration with Bird in Bush: The Chair welcomed Jackie Sewell, the owner of the Bird in Bush (BiB) pub in Elsdon. A number of matters were discussed including – Dark Sky events. It was agreed that the pinfold would lend itself well to hosting an event. The Clerk reported that he had been advised by Gavin Barlow (NCC) that the street light next to the pinfold would shortly have a baffle attached and the angle adjusted so that it would not impact on a dark sky event. Cllr Brownlee advised she would check that the pinfold was accessible for wheelchair users.

It was agreed by all that any event on the village green required a risk assessment before any agreement would be considered. There was discussion regarding the limits of the Parish Council insurance for customers of BiB, however JS confirmed that the BiB had appropriate insurance that covered pub customers to drink at the benches on the green. She also advised that from October 2023 single use plastic glasses would not be used but there would be non-breakable glasses for customers drinking at the benches on the corner of the green. JS advised she had no plans to seek any further benches on the green.

There was discussion how the Parish Council and BiB would work together for the planned August Bank Holiday fete and firework event on 5 November. JS stated she believed the Parish Council required a Temporary Event Licence to hold events on the village green and it was agreed the Clerk would investigate the matter.

JS advised she welcomed direct communication that would remove any confusion and help progress any matter rapidly. She highlighted that the BiB now had Sky sports and would be showing key sporting events. She shared her plans for the coming months including the B&B in the Bird in Bush. JS also confirmed that the community defibrillator had that day been relocated on the external wall to the left hand side of the BiB entrance, funded by Ray Windfunds.

5. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update – The Clerk advised that there was nothing new to report this month however grants were still available and anyone with a query should contact Jo Willis, Community Development Officer on either 0776 217 9579 or at admin@raywindfund.co.uk
- b) Village Hall power outage preparations / Northern Powergrid (NPg) grant application – The Clerk confirmed he was still waiting receipt of the cheque from NPg before the work could start on the village hall.
- 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 Windfunds via Community Foundation. It was hoped there would be an answer by the end of February. It was reported that Police had been present to undertake speed check at the weekend. Whilst the number of vehicles was low on this occasion it was confirmed they would return and use an unmarked car next time.
- d) Northumbria Water work in the area – It was reported that the necessary repairs had all be completed and the regular tankers bringing water had stopped. The Clerk advised he had been promised by a contact at Northumbria Water that any damaged caused by the tankers would be made good.

6. Finance:

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

7. Planning:

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

8. New business:

- a) Town, Parish & Community Council Conference – Cllr Brownlee provided details following her attendance at the Morpeth meeting. She spoke about the speakers who presented and in particular the person representing Northumberland Communities Together. She advised that a Local Coordinator would be in touch shortly to highlight what can be done at a local level to improve life's. It was agreed to extend an invite to the Local Coordinator to attend a Parish Council meeting. The Chair and Clerk would share the Charter and latest Who's Who in NCC.
- b) Road surface parking bays / bottle bank at car park – The Clerk reported that the matter had been reported to Mitch Young at NCC and was waiting a response.
- c) Reporting pot holes to County Council – It was agreed the Clerk would add the link to do this on the Parish Council website to help residents to report not only pot holes but other matters such as faulty street lights to the County Council.
- d) Potential funding for EV charging points – The Clerk provided details received and there was agreement that it would be good to have a point at the car park or village hall car park. It was agreed to share the details with the village hall committee.
- e) Community Emergency Plan development – There was a discussion regarding the template provided by the Clerk and it was agreed to further develop this for further discussion at the next meeting.
- f) King Charles III coronation events – This topic was discussed in agenda item 4 and at present there appeared to be no plans for a formal event although the village hall committee may arrange for an afternoon tea sometime over the Bank Holiday weekend.
- g) August Bank Holiday fete – This matter had been discussed in agenda item 4. The EPIC team would be sharing plans in due course.
- h) Leaking drain on the road to Hudspeth behind the Village Hall – It was reported that the repair work had been undertaken by NCC and the leak had stopped.
- i) Police speed watch in Elsdon – This matter was discussed in agenda item 5d.

8. Any other business:

- a) Nothing was raised.

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

Meeting closed 8.10pm