

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

Present: Councillors, Stuchfield (Chair), Simmance, Renton, Brownlee and Bell Clerk – Martin Chilvers.

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Brownlee item 6a.

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 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 reported that NPg had advised the grant cheque was in the post and that it was hoped work would be able to start soon.
- c) Speed Indicator device (SID) – The Clerk reported that whilst he was waiting for confirmation he was hopeful that the grant application for the SID was successful.
- d) Northumbria Water work in the area – It was highlighted that there had been an influx of water tankers on 25 February delivering to the water works in Elsdon. Whilst it was not known what problem there may have been it was noted normal service had been resumed since that day.
- e) Road surface parking bays / bottle bank at car park – There was agreement that the car park looked good following the work by NCC.
- f) Potential funding for EV charging points – The Clerk reported that he had submitted to NCC the application for an EV charging point within the car park based on an estimate by Northern Powergrid. He advised he had not as yet received a response.
- g) Community Emergency Plan development – There was discussion regarding the draft plan submitted and agreement on the suggested changes before it was shared with the village hall committee for comment.

5. Finance:

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

6. Planning:

a) 23NP0005: Construction of a 2X4m shed: Moontree Lodge, Elsdon, NE19 1AE: Following discussion there was agreement from the Councillors to support the application. Cllr Brownlee took no part having declared an interest.

7. New business:

- a) Dark sky events events / street light baffle near Pinfold – There was discussion on the possibility of running dark sky events within the Pinfold. It was not clear as to whether the work agreed by NCC to add a baffle and alter the angle of the nearby street light had been completed and this was to be checked. It was agreed to seek Duncan Wise (NNPA) thoughts on what changes could be made to improve the access as well as the experience of any dark sky event to be held in the Pinfold.
- b) Access to Pinfold – Cllr Brownlee reported on her experience of getting a wheelchair into the Pinfold. There was then discussion as to what work was required to improve access. Cllr Simmance reported on the original planning application and work to the Pinfold carried out by NNPA.
- c) Temporary Event Notices – There was discussion following the research by the Clerk on the topic. It was agreed that it appeared a TEN was not required but the Clerk was asked to seek confirmation.
- d) Connection to public sewer system at the Croft – The Clerk reported on the latest position having received and email from the residents. Unfortunately the work had been postponed and as yet a new date had not been set.
- e) Identification requirement at future election voting booths – The Clerk provided details of the development and that he would receive leaflets from NCC that could be shared across the community.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Brownlee asked when the area on the village green would be cleared of the bonfire debris. Cllr Renton advised he would speak to the two people, who had previously cleared the area and had agreed to do this year, for a date when the work would be carried out.
- b) Cllr Renton highlighted the short flicker of the electric power that evening. He reported that all such incidents needed to be reported to Northern Powergrid so that the company was aware of any problems. It was agreed to publish the contact number and email address for people to report incidents in future.
- c) The Chair highlighted that it was possible not all parishioners had received the Alternative Fuel Payment (AFP) of £200 and it was agreed to make people aware how to apply if necessary.
- d) Cllr Bell asked whether it would be possible for the road up round the church from the B6341 could be included in gritting. He had seen care workers visiting a resident and struggling on the road in the recent icy conditions.
- e) Cllr Renton reported that the footbridge was due to have the repair work completed soon by NNPA.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 13 April, 2023 starting at 7.00pm at Elsdon Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.10pm