

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 13 April, 2023

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

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Bell

2. Declarations of Interest: None were raised.

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 the NPg grant cheque had been received and paid into the Village Hall bank account. Mr Lewins had begun to make arrangements for the work and a generator had been purchased. It was reported that Richard Wilson would be working on the electrics at the end of May. The Chairs proposal for emergency contingency planning was agreed and the topic would be included in the May meeting agenda.
- c) Speed Indicator device (SID) – The Clerk reported that the funds had been received from Ray Windfunds via Community Foundation. The Clerk confirmed he had been in touch with Richard McKenzie at NCC who had put in place the order for the installation of the post for the speed indicator camera (SID). The Clerk reported that he had confirmed matters with the company providing the SID.
- d) Potential funding for EV charging points – There was discussion regarding the proposed location received from NCC for the EV charging point. It was agreed that there was no room near the pinfold and the Councillors believed this would raise safety issues. Whilst the Councillors acknowledged it would be more expensive based on the Northern Powergrid (NPg) present connectivity structure, the car park was really the more appropriate location for the charging point. It was agreed to highlight this to NCC and ask Cllr Bridgett to support the proposal.
- e) Community Emergency Plan development – It was agreed to incorporate this topic into the contingency plan discussed in agenda item 4b.
- f) Dark sky events events / street light baffle near Pinfold – The Clerk confirmed that the baffle had been installed in the street light near the pinfold however as it was daylight when this was observed it was not possible to advise how successful it would be. The Clerk advised he had not had chance to speak to Duncan Wise for his recommendations how to improve the location for holding dark sky events as well as being accessible for wheelchair users.
- g) Access to Pinfold – This topic was discussed in agenda item 4f.
- h) Connection to public sewer system at the Croft – There was agreement that it appeared the work had been completed and there was confidence that after a little time and growth the village green would look as good as before the work.

5. Finance:

- a) Clerk's salary & expenses for six months from October, 2022 – The amount of £550.00 was agreed by all.
- b) Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022-23 – This was approved by all.
- c) Approve the draft Annual Accounts for 2022-23 – This was approved by all.
- d) Approve the Accounting Statement & Explanation of variances for 2022-23 – This was approved by all.
- e) Confirm and approve the Certification of Exemption for 2022-23 – This was approved by all.

6. Planning:

- a) There were no planning applications to consider.

7. New business:

- a) Clearing the bonfire debris from the village green – Cllr Renton advised that the group were waiting for a dry spell and the green to dry before attempting to get a vehicle on the green to remove the debris.
- b) Gritting the road around the church – The Clerk advised he had not had chance to progress this matter. It was agreed to postpone any action until September when request assistance from Cllr Bridgett.
- c) Completion of the repair work in the footbridge – Cllr Renton advised that NNPA still planned to complete the work but not date had as yet been fixed.
- d) Location of start cairn at the village hall – There was agreement that whilst perhaps not the best location for the star cairn no action would be taken for a possible relocation.
- e) National Emergency Alert test on 23 April – The details of the test were shared.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Brownlee highlighted the number of bad pot holes within the community. It was agreed to again share the NCC link for reporting pot holes requiring attention to encourage residents to report them individually.
- b) Cllr Simmance highlighted the roadside flooding near his property on the B6341. It was believed to be caused by flooding from a blocked ditch and the Clerk was asked to report the matter to Mitch Young at NCC.
- c) Cllr Brownlee highlighted that all holiday lets will require planning and noting there were a number within the Parish wondered if this would be retrospective and if so would there be a number of planning applications submitted shortly.
- d) Cllr Simmance highlighted that the bottle bank in the car park was full and it was agreed the Clerk would report the matter to NCC.
- e) Cllr Simmance provided a copy of the safety plan for the 2019 village fete that was the last to be run and it was agreed to use this as the template for the 2023 event.
- f) The Chair reported on the planned event for the ‘Big Help Out’ on 8 May Bank Holiday. It was agreed to seek volunteers to help cut back the area of long grass on the village green to neaten the area as well as prepare the land as a possible wild-flower area.
- g) The Chair reported that the footbridge on the route towards the Motte & Bailey was in need of repairs. It was highlighted that it was the responsibility of NNPA and Cllr Renton advised he would contact the appropriate person.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 11 May, 2023 starting at 7.00pm at Elsdon Village Hall. This will follow the Annual Parish Meeting
Meeting closed 8.15pm