

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 8 June, 2023

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

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Brownlee

2. Declarations of Interest: None were raised.

3. Minutes of the previous Ordinary and Annual meeting: The minutes of the two 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 Chair provided an update on progress. After a few initial problems the generator was now working. There was proposal to add an exhaust outlet to the container that held the generator as this would remove the need to pull the generator out of the container each time it was to be used. It was reported that Richard Wilson had completed the required electrics work.
- c) Speed Indicator device (SID) – The Clerk advised he had been in touch with Westcotec who was providing the new SID, for an installation date but nothing was as yet confirmed.
- d) Potential funding for EV charging points – The Clerk reported he had received an email from the NCC Climate team who had agreed to send a Highways Electrician to Elsdon to assess options for a possible EV charging point.
- e) Community Emergency & Contingency Plan – There was agreement that the Chair as well as Cllrs Bell and Renton would meet with the Village Hall committee to develop the Emergency Plan.
- f) Dark sky events events & access to the Pinfold – The Clerk provided details of his conversation with Duncan Wise (NNPA Dark Sky). Whilst Mr Wise recognised the wish to hold Dark Sky events at the Pinfold given his experience he would suggest the Village Hall would be a better location as it provided a darker area, warmth and lighting for people attending, solid, flat ground to walk across in the dark as well as placing equipment on and toilets close by. He advised that whilst the area was very close to the Village Hall it was north facing where vast majority of Dark Sky events look towards but at the same time the car park on the other side of the building could be used. There was agreement to accept Mr Wise's recommendations and the Clerk was asked to update the Village Hall committee. The Clerk was also asked to contact Mr Wise to determine whether there was any Dark Sky logo signage that could be used to direct people around the Village Hall.
- g) Flooded section of B6341 – The Chair advised he had not as yet received a response from NCC having reported this problem.
- h) Ward Boundary change proposals – Discussion included the comments from the residents who attended the meeting in May. There was agreement that because of the strong close links to Rothbury over the years including health, (Doctors, Dentist, Elderly care), emergency services provided from Rothbury as well as schooling and shopping the proposed ward change should be objected by the Parish Council with the recommendation the boundary remains as it is. It was agreed the Clerk would summarise and share the points and remind residents that each individual had the chance to provide comments before the deadline date of 10 July, 2023.

5. Finance:

- a) Budget update and forecast – The Clerk advised that bank balance was currently £10,539.19 that included the £8,640 grant from Ray Windfunds for the speed indicator device that will be installed shortly. There were no comments to the budget forecast presented.
- b) Parish Council insurance renewal from 1 June, 2023 – The Clerk confirmed that the insurers (BHIB) could not include cover for the dog show in the annual insurance. It was agreed to pay the premium of £473.26.

6. Planning:

- a) There were no planning applications to consider this month.

7. New business:

- a) Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP visit to Elsdon – There was discussion on the topics the Councillors would like to cover with Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP when she visited later in the month. There was agreement to email the agreed list of topics to her Chief of Staff, Tom Forrester.
- b) Local Transport Programme 2024/25 – There was discussion as to what may be included in the years submission after not making any requests last year. Cllr Simmance referred to the 20mph speed restriction through Walton and highlighted the reasons Elsdon should have a similar speed limit in the village. It was agreed to finalise the submission at the July meeting.
- c) Village fete arrangements – The Chair confirmed that St John’s Ambulance had been booked to attend the event. An insurance premium quote was being obtained for the dog show and that Mr Lewins was arranging the car parking on behalf of the Parish Council.

8. Any other business:

None was raised.

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

Meeting closed 8.15pm