

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 14 September, 2023

Present: Councillors, Stuchfield (Chair), Simmance, Renton and Brownlee – Martin Chilvers, Clerk, Annie Gregory, Simon Etheridge & Wendy Murray (until 7.35), Cllr Sue Bolam

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Bell

2. Declarations of Interest: The Chair declared an interest in topic 7a.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the meeting had previously been shared with the Councillors and was accepted as a true record.

4. Arrangements for the Elsdon Bonfire & Fireworks – There was confirmation that the event would take place on Sunday 5 November. The bonfire would be lit at 18:00 and the firework display start at 18:30. There was discussion and agreement regarding the marshalling of the event and how many marshals would be required given the anticipated number attending. It was agreed to recruit more marshals as well as people to go around the event with buckets collecting donations. As it was anticipated that up to 400 people may be attending it was agreed to employ two First Responders and there was agreement that the cost would be split between the Parish Council and the Firework committee. Wendy advised that hot-dogs would be sold by Sharon at the Bird in Bush that would be open on the night. There was discussion regarding the size of the bonfire and management of the construction with agreement of responsibilities and that the size would not exceed 6 x 4 metre providing the Parish Council insurers accepted the proposals. Wendy provided details of the amount raised in 2022 and the split of the funds across the community.

5. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update – The Clerk advised that there was to be an ‘open / drop-in’ event on 4 October from 16:00 – 19:00. This was an opportunity for people to learn more about the Ray Windfunds as well as assist with thoughts on Community Transport and other priorities for the current grant year. Refreshments would be provided and all were welcome to attend. For more details or questions about the available funds for grants people should contact Jo Willis, Community Development Officer on either 0776 217 9579 or at admin@raywindfund.co.uk
- b) Speed Indicator device (SID) – It was confirmed that the new SID was in place and that the Clerk had downloaded the first data. There was discussion on various other areas within the village that could benefit from having a SID in place.
- c) Potential funding for EV charging points – There was no update on this matter.
- d) Community Emergency & Contingency Plan – The Chair advised that volunteers were being sought and training provided for operating the generator at the village hall that will take place on 9 October.
- e) Flooded section of B6341 – As the area had not flooded again it was agreed to remove the topic from the agenda.
- f) Anne-Marie Trevelyan (AMT) MP visit to Elsdon – The update received following AMT’s visit was discussed. It was noted that there was no update on the matter of the sewage infrastructure in the village and the Clerk was asked to enquire about this matter.
- g) Review of the Elsdon fete – The Chair provided an update following the successful event. Approximately £2.5K was raised that would be split between the church and other local community projects. He advised that there were some learning points to improve the event for next year and EPIC would be discussing this shortly.

5. Finance:

- a) Budget update and adoption of the 2022-23 accounts – The Clerk provided an update on the budget position with a balance of £11,465.76. This was before the payment for the SID but the Clerk confirmed the second instalment of the precept (£900.00) had been received. The Clerk provided details of the accounts following the audit and these were adopted.

7. Planning:

- a) 23NP0085: Proposed extension of septic tank drainage field & installation of underground drainage & surface water pipes: The Hemmel, Elsdon NE191AE – The matter was discussed and supported by the Councillors between meetings. The Chair took no part in the discussions.
- b) 23NP0015: Proposed construction of 1 detached principal residence dwelling house: Land adjacent to Larkes Cottage, Elsdon, NE191AZ – It was noted that the topic had been discussed at the National Park meeting the previous day and it had been conditionally granted. Cllr Bolam provided more details of the meeting and how the decision had been made

8. New business:

- a) Remembrance wreath 2023 – There was agreement to purchase a wreath via Landmarc for £18.00. Cllr Renton confirmed that if he was available he would be willing to represent the Parish Council at the service. If not then possibly Cllr Bell or the Chair would attend.
- b) Recycling bin location – It was confirmed that the bins had been moved back to their original location in the car park.
- c) Public telephone on village green: The Clerk reported that the phone was still not working but he would chase up Opereach again.
- d) Annual Town & Parish Council Conference – Cllr Brownlee confirmed she was willing to represent the Parish Council and attend the event.
- e) Village Green edge protection – Cllr Simmance reported he had spoken to the Ray Windfunds representatives at the village fete who had given a positive response to the idea of revisiting the possibility of funding for adding protection to the village green edges in certain sections. It was agreed the Clerk would seek updated quotes for the three sections previously identified before a grant application was considered as well as discussion with Chris Jones from the National Park on a possible archaeology review of the area that would be included.

8. Any other business:

- a) Annie Gregory provided details of the Green Dog Walker initiative run by NCC. She advised it was the aim to get as many people signed up as possible to promote responsible dog ownership. Members could collect free dog bags from Northumberland libraries. It was agreed by the Councillors to support the scheme and research possible leaflet dispensers for key locations in the village.
- b) Cllr Renton highlighted that he had been approached about a project for lead pipes across the village to be replaced.
- c) The Chair gave his apologies for the October meeting.
- d) The Chair reported that the wild flower area on the village green needed to be strimmed. He would look to get some volunteers to assist with the work but asked how the cuttings could be disposed. Cllr Renton agreed to approach NCC to determine if someone could visit and remove the cuttings.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 12 October, 2023 starting at 7.00pm at Elsdon Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.40pm