

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 12 October, 2023

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

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Simmance

2. Declarations of Interest: None were raised

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. Possible EV charging point in Elsdon – The Clerk advised that unfortunately Keith Hooper (NCC) was unable to attend the meeting. The Clerk provided details he had received from Mr Hooper that NCC would like to propose the installation of two EV charging points within the ‘informal’ lay-by near the bus shelter. Mr Hooper advised he would make the area much neater than it was presently and should be able to provide power to the village green for lights, fete and other events on the green. There was discussion on the potential impact this would have on the area and how practically it would look and be operated. There was cautious agreement subject to sight of plans and the use of porous hexagonal ground paving that grass could grow through rather than tarmac the area. It was agreed to request the plans before seeking comments from Elsdon residents before making any commitment.

5. Matters arising

- a) **Ray Wind update** – The Clerk reported on the open event that was held at the Gun Inn, Ridsdale on 4 October. He advised that the Ray Windfund CIC board were looking for comments and ideas on what, if any, investment was needed on community transport in the area. Anyone wishing to comment on the topic or seek details of the grants available should contact Jo Willis, Community Development Officer on either 0776 217 9579 or at admin@raywindfund.co.uk
- b) **Speed Indicator device (SID)** – The Chair welcomed Neil Bird who provided details of the first data from the speed indicator device at the west side of the village in the B6341. Mr Bird provided details of the data including that 12,765 vehicles that had past the camera, heading into Elsdon during September and that 56% of these had been travelling in excess of 30mph. It was agreed to highlight the main details to the residents via the Parish Council Facebook page. Mr Bird agreed to continue to provide details.
- c) **Community Emergency & Contingency Plan** – The Chair reported that eight residents had volunteered and been trained by Billy Lewins how to operate the village hall generator. Mr Lewins had agreed to train further volunteers. The Chair also advised that Mr Lewins had produced a flyer that detailed when the emergency plan would come into effect and this was being provided to all properties within the parish. The Chair provided details how the emergency plan would be activated and the various roles volunteers would undertake.
- d) **Anne-Marie Trevelyan (AMT) MP visit to Elsdon** – The Clerk reported that he had received an email from AMT’s assistant regarding possible EV charging points in the village however there was no reference regarding the sewage infrastructure within the village. It was agreed the Clerk should chase up the matter.
- e) **Bonfire & Fireworks event on 5 November** – The Clerk advised he had not as yet received the risk assessment paperwork from Chris Armstrong. Cllr Renton advised he would chase up for the return of these signed. It was confirmed there would be marshals attending to the fire at all times and they would be wearing high-viz jackets. The Clerk confirmed that two First Responders had been booked through Lifeline Medicals at a cost of £200 and it was agreed the bonfire committee would meet half of this cost. Cllr Renton advised that Jackie Sewall at the Bird in Bush had agreed to make a room available in case of need for the First Responders.
- f) **Remembrance Wreath 2023** – Cllr Renton advised he would not be able to attend the service on 12 November but the Chair agreed to represent the Parish Council to lay the wreath.
- g) **Public telephone on village green** – The Clerk provided an update on the out-of-order telephone located on the village green. BT advised that investigations were continuing to determine the fault.
- h) **Village Green edge protection** – It was agreed to put this topic on hold until there was confirmation about the EV Charging point location.

5. Finance:

- a) **Budget update** – The Clerk provided an update on the budget position with a balance of £6,287.76 and advised he would provide a detailed finance report for the November meeting to assist discussion to agree the 2024/25 precept amount.

b) Payment of Clerk's salary April – October 2023 & expenses – There was agreement to pay the Clerk's salary of £550.00 plus expenses of £16.00 for postage stamps and £34.98 for printer ink cartridges. The Chair reported that there was agreement among the Councillors to provide the Clerk a salary increase equal to the September 2023 inflation rate.

7. Planning:

a) There were no applications to consider this month.

8. New business:

- a) Tower & Parish Council Conference review – Cllr Brownlee provided a review from the conference she attended. This included the 'One-call' service for vulnerable people provided by NCC as well as energy saving tips, digital telephone switch over and NCC highways services during the winter. Cllr Brownlee also provided details of the 'Fix my Street' app available for people to use and report matters requiring attention.
- b) Green Dog Walkers leaflet dispenser – There was agreement to purchase one dispenser for £27.54 that would be installed on the external wall of the bus shelter.
- c) Cutting of the wild flower area on the village green on 21 October: The Chair advised he would put a post on the Parish Council Facebook seeking volunteers to assist with the cutting. He confirmed NCC had agreed to remove the cuttings.
- d) Installation of power to the village green – It was agreed to put this topic on hold until there was confirmation about the EV charging point and its location.
- e) Ward Boundary change proposals – It was confirmed that there had been a successful appeal and that the ward boundary would not be changing for Elsdon.

9. Any other business:

a) The Clerk provided an update on the matter of easement across the village green for two properties. There was agreement that the document and maps provided were accurate.

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

Meeting closed 8.25pm