

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

**Present:** Councillors, Brownlee (Chair), Renton and Simmance – Martin Chilvers, Clerk, Neil Bird (until 7.15), Annie Gregory, Cllr Bolam, Allan Graham (from 7.25), Cllr Stuchfield (from 8.25)

**1. Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllr Bell

**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.

**5 b) Speed Indicator device (SID)** – Mr Bird provided details for the October data of the SID. This highlighted 85%ile of 34.9mph with 64% of vehicles passing exceeding the 30mph speed limit and 25% over 40mph. He highlighted the particularly high volume on 14 October that was put down to people travelling to the Alwinton show. He was thanked for his continued work on the data.

**4. Possible EV charging point in Elsdon** – The Clerk advised that unfortunately Keith Hooper (NCC) was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. The Clerk provided details he had received from Mr Hooper that if budget was signed off in early 2024 then NCC should be able to install an EV charger at the ‘informal’ lay-by near the bus shelter. This would be for two vehicles parked parallel to the road. Mr Hooper repeated that he should also be able to provide power to the village green and possible a street light near the bus shelter. It was agreed to seek resident feedback on the proposal for a further street light before committing with NCC.

## **5. Matters arising**

- a) Ray Wind update – There was nothing significant to report this month. Anyone wishing to seek details of the grants available should contact Jo Willis, Community Development Officer on either 0776 217 9579 or at [admin@raywindfund.co.uk](mailto:admin@raywindfund.co.uk)
- c) Community Emergency & Contingency Plan – Whilst there was little to update on this month it was noted that the area at the bottom of the car park had recently flooded and was prone to flood that may impact on the accessibility to the village hall when it was required as an emergency location during a long term power outage. Cllr Renton advised he believed access would be possible through the land of a near-by resident assuming they were agreeable.
- d) Anne-Marie Trevelyan (AMT) MP visit to Elsdon – It was reported that it was believed there had been a good response to the letter from AMT’s letter regarding the village sewage infrastructure however as yet there had been no update from AMT’s office on the matter.
- e) Bonfire & Fireworks event on 5 November – Those who had attended the event agreed it was very good and well attended. The fire had been well built and it was confirmed marshals protected people at all times from the fire. The Clerk was asked to determine how much was raised on the night and how it was going to be distributed.
- f) Public telephone on village green – Cllr Brownlee reported that whilst the line to the public telephone was operational the phone itself was damaged and that BT had no plans to repair or replace. The Clerk was asked to write to BT to request that it was made operational again and asked to highlight the matter to Rosie Thomas at Northumberland National Park for support with the request.
- g) Green Dog Walkers leaflet dispenser – Cllr Renton agreed to fix the dispenser to the external side wall of the bus shelter near the dog bag dispenser.
- h) Cutting of the wild flower area on the village green – It was highlighted that the original date for the clearing – 21 October - had been too wet and was postponed. It was not known when there would be another opportunity in the short term. Cllr Brownlee reported that what appeared to be old tomatoes plants had been dumber in the area.

## **5. Finance:**

- a) Budget update and 2024/25 precept – The Clerk advised the present bank balance was £5,686.78. It was agreed the Councillors would consider the amount of precept for next year and agree a figure at the January meeting.
- b) Reimbursement to the Clerk for the purchase of a leaflet dispenser – There was agreement to the payment of £27.54.

- c) Payment of invoice to Elsdon Village Hall for room hire – The payment for £90.00 was agreed.
- d) Payment of invoice to Lifeline Medical Services for two first Responders attending the fireworks event on 5 November – The payment of £200.00 was agreed.
- e) Payment of invoice to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for the Remembrance wreath – The payment of £18.00 was agreed.

There was agreement also to the payment of the invoice to Spanglefish for the Parish Council website of £33.30 + VAT for the next 12 months.

**7. Planning:**

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

**8. New business:**

- a) Community transport in Redesdale – The Clerk reported on a situation in Otterburn where an elderly resident without his own transport and family living locally had to pay £80 to attend an appointment at the surgery in Bellingham. There was discussion what could be done to provide community transport locally and the Clerk highlighted that the matter was to be discussed at the next Ray Windfunds CIC meeting later in November.
- b) Easement across the village green for two properties – The Clerk provided the paperwork he had received from the Parish Council legal representative in the matter. There was agreement to proceed and the two easements were signed by Cllrs Brownlee and Simmance.

**9. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Brownlee invited Mr Graham to comment on the matter he wished to raise. Mr Graham explained as he and his wife purchased their property before 1988 the property is not registered at HM Land Registry (HMLR). A problem had come to light when he enquired a matter with the HMLR at the same time as the village green is being registered. It appeared a section of land that belonged to Mr Graham was being included with the village green. The details were confirmed and the Clerk was asked to highlight the matter to the Parish Council legal representative.
- b) Cllr Renton suggested that flood warning signs were placed where flooding has been particularly bad in recent months. This included the areas near Starmyers, Batt Hall and the bridge. It was agreed the Clerk would contact NCC about the matter.
- c) Cllr Stuchfield advised it was hoped that the wild-flower area would be cut in January.

**10. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 11 January, 2024 starting at 7.00pm at Elsdon Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.35pm