

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 11 January, 2024

Present: Councillors, Stuchfield (Chair), Brownlee, Renton and Simmance – Martin Chilvers, Clerk, Annie Gregory & Simon Etheridge

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.

4. 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
- b) Speed indicator device (SID) – There was discussion on what action to take following the first few months of data received from SID. It was agreed to ask the Police to visit again. There was agreement that speeding was also a problem exiting the village where vehicles were believed to be exceeding the speed limit past the Larkes. The Clerk was asked to seek a quote for a further SID that may capture the traffic exiting the village. It was agreed that the data should continue to be shared with NCC and the Police.
- c) Community Emergency & Contingency Plan – It was noted that there had been a lengthy power outage on Christmas Eve when at the same time the mobile signal was lost. The Clerk was asked to highlight the lost mobile signal to Cllr Steve Bridgett.
- d) Anne-Marie Trevelyan (AMT) MP regarding the sewage infrastructure in Elsdon – The Clerk advised he had shared emails with Abby Briggs in AMT's office and was expecting an update shortly following the letter received by all residents.
- e) Public telephone on village green – It was confirmed that the telephone was now working but only for outgoing emergency calls. It was noted that it did appear that the telephone was also receiving calls.
- f) Cutting of the wild flower area on the village green – It was reported that the area was still far too wet to work on and it was agreed to review the situation at the February meeting.
- g) Community transport in Redesdale – The Clerk provided an update from the discussions and meetings at Ray Windfunds on the matter. It was hoped that the administration aspect of any local initiative that may happen would be undertaken by a more central organisation with appropriate resource. The Chair suggested that possibly an agreement could be made with a local taxi firm where vulnerable / elderly local residents received a priority / discounted service for a lift to health appointments that perhaps could be funded by Ray Windfunds.
- h) Potential EV charging point, electric power and street light on village green – The Clerk advised that there had been no further update from NCC on the matter. There was agreement to post details of the possible plan on the Parish Council social media to seek feedback from the residents before any decision was made. However in the meantime the Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with NCC in March to clarify matters assuming budget for roll-out of the EV charging points had been agreed.

5. Finance:

- a) Budget update and 2024/25 precept – Following discussion and consideration for likely costs during the 2024/25 financial year there was agreement to maintain the precept at the current level of £1,800.
- b) Donation request from Great North Air Ambulance – There was agreement to make a £100 donation.
- c) Donation request from Tyneside Hospice at Home – Whilst there was appreciation for the excellent work the hospice undertook it was believed there were very few, if any, residents using the service from the parish and it was agreed that with the tight budget the Parish Council could not make a donation this year.

7. Planning:

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

8. New business:

- a) Northumbria Primary Care potential mobile healthcare – Cllr Brownlee provided a summary of what impact the proposal potentially could have on the local area. There was discussion and general agreement to support the

initiative should it be carried out. There was concern raised that the proposal would be costly and how that may impact the other local services provided.

- b) Footbridge repairs at the Mote – It was established that the repairs had not as yet been undertaken and Cllr Renton agreed to speak to Park Ranger, Mark Bolton from NNPA about the matter.
- c) Flooding issues in Elsdon – The Clerk advised he had received an email from NCC suggesting the possibility of providing ‘flip-down’ signs that could be activated by a Parish Councillor when a road was flooded. There was discussion and agreement that signage was required at the locations near The Larkes / Batt Hall, Starmyers and the bridge on the B6341 near the car park. However it was suggested temporary, mobile signs would be preferable at The Larkes and bridge and permanent (flip-down) signage at Starmyers.
- d) Town & Parish Council spring conference – Cllr Brownlee advised she would be happy to attend again unless another Councillor would wish to go on this occasion, 14 March. It was noted that the event clashed with the March Parish Council meeting.

9. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Renton highlighted that it appeared the drainage on the road towards Hudspeth was damaged and that it was causing water to flow over the service towards the car park. It was noted that this would be dangerous if it were to freeze and the Clerk was asked to raise the matter with NCC.
- b) Cllr Simmance asked whether the matter raised at the last meeting with Mr Graham had been resolved. The Clerk reported he had provided comments to Muckle Solicitors and received an acknowledgement but nothing since.
- c) Mr Etheridge reported that a fence at Knightside near where the dog bag bin was located appeared to be damaged. Cllr Renton advised he would investigate the matter.
- d) The Chair highlighted the response to the request from a local resident for resurfacing of a stretch of road in Elsdon that unfortunately NCC would be unable to attend to for the time being but would monitor the road.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 8 February, 2024 starting at 7.00pm at Elsdon Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.35pm