

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 8 February, 2024

**Present:** Councillors, Stuchfield (Chair), Brownlee, Bell and Simmance – Martin Chilvers, Clerk

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

**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 – The Clerk provided details of the grant given to B4RN that would be used for the installation of the superfast broadband in the first phase of the implementation within the catchment area of Ray Wind. 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)
- b) Speed indicator device (SID) – The Chair provided a summary of the data from the most recent download of the SID near the Larkes on the B6341 received from Mr Bird. Both December and January data showed 61% vehicles passing the camera were exceeding 30mph and that the 85%ile was in excess of 37mph. Reference was made to the NCC data collection in late 2022 and that the problem of speeding traffic also related to vehicles exiting Elsdon towards Otterburn. It was agreed to approach NCC regarding the possibility of a further SID to capture vehicles travelling out of Elsdon and receive a quote from them as well as Westcotec for an additional SID before preparing a grant application for funding. In the meantime it was agreed to request Police presence to monitor the speed of passing traffic.
- c) Community Emergency & Contingency Plan – The Chair reported on the opening of the village hall during the power outage when storm Isha hit. He made reference to a problem to the generator as well as a list of items that would have made the running of the hall easier. He advised he would be attending the next village hall committee meeting to share his thoughts. Cllr Brownlee spoke of the feedback received from those residents who visited the hall during the day that was positive and reassuring that there were able to get a hot drink and charge mobile devices during the power outage. She advised that five of the Northern Powergrid emergency packs had been handed out and the Clerk was asked if he could get more to replace these. There was agreement that the lack of communication was the worse aspect of the power outage and that residents should be encouraged to contact their MP to highlight more pressure was needed to be put on communication companies to ensure mobile usage and internet connectivity continued during power outages.
- d) Anne-Marie Trevelyan (AMT) MP regarding the sewage infrastructure in Elsdon – The Clerk advised he had received an email from Abby Briggs in AMT's office advising Anne-Marie Trevelyan had written to Northumbria Water regarding the Elsdon sewage infrastructure and was seeking a meeting with the company.
- e) Cutting of the wild flower area on the village green – The weather had still be too wet to do any work on the area and it was agreed to postpone the topic until the March meeting.
- f) Potential EV charging point, electric power and street light on village green – The Chair provided a summary of the feedback to the proposals of NCC installing a EV charging point near the bus shelter within the informal 'lay-by'. It was highlighted as to whether Village Green criteria allowed an EV charging point to be installed on village green and the Clerk was asked to investigate. Meantime it was agreed to invite Keith Hopper (NCC) to visit Elsdon on 14 March at 6.00pm, at the proposed location, to demonstrate the space and size of any possible charging point. It was noted that NCC had not as yet received the budget for roll-out of charging points across the county.
- g) Footbridge repairs at the Mote – It was noted that the repairs had not as yet been made and the Clerk was asked to contact Mark Bolton (NNPA) about the matter.
- h) Flooding issues and warning signage in Elsdon – The Clerk provided an update on the 'flap-down' signs that would highlight road flooding advising that NCC had agreed to provide these plus possible the smaller mobile signs. The Clerk was asked to contact Alex Henderson to ensure he was agreeable for a sign to be installed near his property.
- i) Town & Parish Council spring conference – Cllr Brownlee confirmed that she had submitted her registration for the event.

**5. Finance:**

- a) Budget update – The Clerk advised the present bank balance was £5,322 but still included funds for payments to NCC £3,462 and £360 as well as £500 to NNPA and that the Clerk was waiting for invoices. He also advised that there was approximately £1,068 of VAT to reclaim.

**7. Planning:**

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

**8. New business:**

- a) House DIY waste changes in Northumberland – Details were shared of the changes that NCC were implementing shortly and that these could be found on the Parish council website.
- b) Police Rural Engagement – There was discussion following receipt of the email from Northumbria Police. It was agreed that whilst a good idea the proposal should be arranged separate to the Parish Council and the Clerk was asked to respond providing the village hall contact details to make a booking.
- c) Hudspeth road damage drainage and other road matters – The Clerk advised he had reported the drain damage to NCC and had received a response that it was being investigated. The Chair questioned whether it was a matter for Northumbria Water and the Clerk was asked to highlight the problem to them as well. The Clerk advised that he had also reported the damaged and blocked drain outside The Larkes.
- d) Village Green registration, boundary query – The Clerk advised that the boundary query had been reported to HMLR and that the registration of the village green was still being processed.
- e) Mobile library service in Elsdon – The Clerk shared the details received from NCC. The mobile library was still visiting Elsdon fortnightly on Thursday between 10.00 – 10.20 and parked near the Pinfold. The next visit was due on 22 February. Unfortunately the specialised van was not appropriate for a library service and as such a white transit van (with no markings) was being used for the service. It was agreed to post the details on the Parish Council website.
- f) Speed camera options / quotes – This matter was discussed in agenda item 4b.
- g) Street lighting throughout the night – The Chair advised he had been approached by a resident asking whether it was necessary for the street lighting to be on throughout the night. It was agreed to contact NCC for comment on the matter.

**9. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Simmance referred to the new X74 bus service that replaced the 808 and 131 from 29 January. He asked whether it had been agreed for the service to come via Raylees to Elsdon ‘upon request’ as the previous service had and whether the Saturday service would come via Elsdon? It was agreed the Clerk would contact NCC.
- b) Cllr Brownlee offered her apologies for the March meeting as she would be attending the NCC conference.

**10. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 14 March, 2024 starting at 7.00pm at Elsdon Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.25pm