

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 14 March, 2024

Present: Councillors, Stuchfield (Chair), Renton, Bell and Simmance – Sue Bolam (NNPA), Martin Chilvers, Clerk

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Brownlee

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 progress for community transport within the Ray Windfunds catchment. 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) – The Chair provided a summary of the most recent data received from Mr Bird for the SID near the Larkes on the B6341. This was still showing the percentage of drivers exceeding the 30mph speed limit was averaging around 65% and the 85%ile at around 36mph for the past few months. The Chair provided feedback from the residents regarding the potential second SID to capture vehicles exiting Elsdon past the Larkes and the possible location for this. The Chair advised there was broad agreement a second SID was required however the suggested location may be a challenge due to curve in the road as well as tree cover impacting the solar gain for the device. The verge at the suggested location was also very narrow and steep that may prevent a pole being installed. There was agreement that any funding for a second SID would require evidence of speeding being a problem at this location and the Clerk was asked to approach NCC for a speed survey at this location as well as, at the suggestion of Cllr Renton, on Millbank.
- c) Community Emergency & Contingency Plan – The Chair reported that it was hoped the list of items required following the power outage in January would be funded by a grant. Meantime the Chair advised that the generator was being tested on regular basis to ensure it would be ready in case of another power outage.
- d) Anne-Marie Trevelyan (AMT) MP regarding the sewage infrastructure in Elsdon – The Clerk advised he had no update on this matter this month.
- e) Cutting of the wild flower area on the village green – It was reported that the area was still far too wet to cut.
- f) Potential EV charging point, electric power and street light on village green – The Clerk reported that he had been advised the LEVI funding for EV chargers had changed recently. This meant that instead of NCC it would be Transport NE installing the charging points through third part contractors. The Clerk was advised that Elsdon was still on the list to receive an EV charger however no timescale was presently available. It was highlighted that this would most likely mean there would be no additional street light installed on the village green or an electric power supply provided to the green. It was noted that Cllr Bridgett had recorded recently he would be willing to meet some aspect of the cost to install power to the green and it was agreed to approach him on this matter.

It was agreed to also seek revised quotes from the three contractors for village green protection. This would be for just two areas, along from the pub to opposite the church and the other side of the road from the cross roads where the telephone box was located to the entrance to the church.

- g) Footbridge repairs at the Mote – It was agreed that following the work the footbridge was looking very good and thanks were expressed to Ranger Mark Bolton.
- h) Flooding issues and warning signage in Elsdon – The Clerk advised that he had spoken to Mr Henderson who was willing for flood signs to be installed near his property. Mr Henderson had suggested locations to maximise the effect of the signs and allow traffic to turn round. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Bridgett to request four 'temporary' signs warning of flooded roads.
- i) Hudspeth road damaged drainage and other road related matters – It was confirmed that despite the matters being reported several months ago via Fix My Street nothing at all had been done to repair the faults. Cllr Renton advised that Mr Arthur was meeting NCC in the next few days regarding the flooding of the Hudspeth road and in the meantime the Clerk would contact NCC again about the matters.
- j) Street lighting throughout the night: The Clerk reported that he had reported the matter to Gavin Barlow (NCC) but as yet had not received response.

5. Finance:

- a) Budget update – The Clerk advised the present bank balance was £5,341.59 and that this 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.
- b) Grant request from Bailiffgate Museum, Alnwick – Following discussion it was agreed that whilst the Museum did excellent work there was limited links to the parish of Elsdon and with a tight budget unfortunately there was no scope to provide a grant.

7. Planning:

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

8. New business:

- a) Changes to voting – Details were shared and the Clerk advised these would be posted on the Parish Council website.
- b) Trees overhanging B6341 – It was acknowledged that the two trees were still overhanging the B6341. The Clerk shared communications he had received from Neil Carmichael who was attempting to arrange for the safe removal of these as well as wind blown trees following recent storms.
- c) Northern Powergrid Foundation grant scheme – The Clerk highlighted that the Foundation would be open again for grant applications from 1 April, 2024.
- d) Closure of village cafe – There was discussion how to mark the closure of the cafe at the end of the month when Mr & Mrs Graham retired. A 'leaving' present was agreed and the Chair advised he would make arrangements.

9. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Simmance enquired as to what progress had been made on the commitment that upon request the new X74 bus service would when returning from Newcastle divert and drop off at Elsdon. The Clerk advised he had made the request to Chris Curtis (NCC) however was still waiting response.
- b) Cllr Renton highlighted the poor state the railings near the bridge that protected people from a drop into the burn. He advised that in many places the wood was rotten and if anyone leaned against it, it would possibly give way. It was believed the land was the responsibility of NCC and the Clerk was asked to make contact requesting the railings were repaired or replaced.

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 8.15pm