

# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 9 May, 2013

**Present:** Councillors Maddison (Chairman), White, Colby, Simmance and Tait. Clerk Martin Chilvers. David Coles

**Apologies:** There were no apologies

## **Election of Officers for 2013-14**

Cllr Colby was nominated for Chair by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Tait

Cllr Madison was nominated for Vice Chairman by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Tait

There was a vote of thanks by Cllrs Colby and Simmance, supported by all in attendance for the hard work and efforts over the years for Cllr Madison in the role of Chairman.

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting – 10 May, 2012:** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## **Summary of the year's activity and questions (Cllr Maddison):**

- The grass cutting on the Village Green will remain the responsibility of NCC. It had been quoted that it costs £800 for each cut however when the Parish Council had asked for the £8,000 for the annual cut so it could be undertaken locally ensuring all areas are cut this had been declined by NCC. The option to increase the precept significantly to cover grass cutting was dismissed by all hence NCC will cut the grass during 2013.
- The drainage on the Green had been attended to and whilst still not perfect was much better than before
- All agreed the Jubilee celebrations were enjoyed by the community despite the poor weather. The mugs for the children were well received. The plan to plant an Oak tree was still to be fulfilled however a decision still needed to be made as to where to locate it.
- Road surfaces in the local area are still very bad. Cllr Simmance advised he had written to NCC listing all the particularly bad spots and many had been attended to. It was know that there are further plans by NCC to resurface local roads over the summer so the matter will be reviewed in a few months.
- Frustration and anger were expressed towards NCC in respect to their poor service and handling of the TV relay system in Elsdon and Harbottle. There are been no response to the most recent letter sent to Steve Stewart or Jeff Reid. It was agreed however given the underground cabling project that when the redundant poles were removed the relay system would have to be removed from all residents.
- The telephone box that had the glass smashed and weeds growing around it had been repaired and tidied.
- Repairs had been made to the Parish Notice boards as well as the seating within the village.
- The work with the underground cabling was on-going however there was wide spread agreement that the company responsible for the project were managing it very poorly.
- Elsdon will be one of the first communities within the county to have the new, more efficient and dark sky friendly street lights introduced. Whilst there was agreement the light poles were not really in-keeping with a National Park village it was acknowledge Elsdon was going to have a couple extra lights in the areas requiring it and there was insufficient budget to fund different poles.

- The matter of NCC repairing the damage caused by the burn erosion continues. Engineers had visited the site however there had been little progress in recent months. The Clerk will return to NCC for a progress report.
- Thanks were expressed to David Coles for his efforts in gaining the required registered interest in the superfast broadband. The process has now moved the second stage and it hoped the superfast broadband may be available within the next couple of years at least.
- The proposed development of the wind turbines at Middle Hill appeared to have gone quiet recently. There was uncertainty as to why this may be but in the meantime due to changes in legislation it is believe the maximum turbines that could be developed was now eight and not nine.
- There had been no change in the condition of the either Braeside or the School House however it was hoped matters may improve in the near future.
- The Geo-physical survey undertaken in 2012 provided some interesting results and it is hoped that further 'test pits' under supervision would going ahead this summer.
- There had been no change regarding the toilets at the Village Hall. Due to lack of funding it was not possible to have these open. Both NCC and NNPA have been approached for assistance with funding but declined. NNPA tourist literature continue to make mention of the toilets. It was agreed to invite Tony Gates to a future Parish Council meeting to provide an update of the local community that was the largest within the National Park.
- During 2012 and early 2013 the Parish Plan had begun to gather momentum and it is hoped this would continue with the heritage working plans in 2013 and beyond.
- The Parish Council website had been created and whilst still required further development had started to record records of meetings and other community information.
- Thanks were expressed to Ann, Allan and Chris for their efforts whilst standing as Cllrs and decided to retire / stand-down during the last year. Additionally after many years of service Roger Bolam retired as Clerk in May 2012.

**Financial Report:**

The Clerk provided a report on the finances from 1 April, 2012 through to 31 March, 2013.

- Opening bank balances totalled £3,863 and closing for the year at £3,915. This included the £1,500 provided for the Parish Plan work.
- Clerk salary was slightly higher past year due to the cross-over of Clerks as Roger Bolam retired and Martin Chilvers took over.
- Due to spend on Jubilee celebrations and repairs to notice boards and seats the payments were slightly higher at £960 than the previous year. However by changing providers the Parish Insurance had been reduced by £230 per annum.

**Any other business:**

There was no other business and meeting closed at 9.05pm