

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of
Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Thursday 12 May, 2016**

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), Simmance, White and Tait. Clerk Martin Chilvers, Cllr Bolam, Cllr France, Lydia Speakman

Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Maddison

Election of Officers for 2015-16

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

Cllr Simmance was nominated for Vice Chairman by Cllr Colby and seconded by Cllr White

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting – 14 May, 2015: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

Summary of the year's activity and questions (Cllr Colby):

In progress

- Whilst there have been a number of successes during the last year the state of the local roads remains an ongoing issue and the Parish Council are in continual communication with County Council. It is recognised that County Council have severe financial constraints but the Parish Council will work to ensure this remains high profile. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the number of times that we have sought attention to the narrowing of the "Raylees road by the NCC ditch digger last year. It continues to provide problems for motorists and pedestrians in that there is no space to pass safely for some considerable distance.
- There appears to have been a significant increase in the number of large trucks driving through the village. Some of these when passing one another are damaging the road verges and village green. The Parish Council are working with Northumbria Police and County Council in an attempt resolve the problem and avoid further damage as well as risk of an accident. We have repeatedly requested that the 30mph signs on the approach roads to the village are moved to give vehicles time to reduce their speed before entering the village proper.
- The Parish Council are also working with Sgt Brian Foley looking at all options to reduce the speed of some speeding vehicles through the village.
- The stone bridge on the Gibbet road is in need of repairs. It is regularly being monitored by the NCC. We have been advised that the bridge is on the list of masonry arch refurbishment schemes to be undertaken sometime during the current financial year.
- After a long wait and many delays superfast Broadband is available to nearly all residents in the central area of Elsdon. We are assured that connections should be completed by the end of May.
- As many residents are already aware the Parish Council are working with the NCC in the attempt to have green waste collection from 2017. Residents should be receiving a letter in the near future from County Council and if Elsdon wish to have this service, it is vital residents respond accordingly. We are all aware that it is a paid for service and not automatically available to residents.
- Cllr Simmance is representing Elsdon at the Ray Wind development quarterly Community Liaison Group meetings as well on the newly formed Steering Group. The Ray Wind development will have turbines arriving from June and is due to be operational from early 2017 with up to £250,000 funding available for local communities each year for 20+ years.

- The Parish Council await the outcome of the Bellingham Surgery investigation and proposals following a CQC inspection regarding the service provided at Otterburn Memorial Hall. I am grateful that one of our own Parish Councillors, and Councillor Sue Bolam, have worked very hard to bring this matter to a wider audience on behalf of all the patients of the former Harbottle surgery, as well as those who live in our Parish. .
- The Chair is representing the Parish Council at the HLF Revitalising Redesdale Landscape project working with a number of partners as the project begins to gather momentum that will see £1.8m funding for the Rede Valley.
- Following damage to the Village Green by a vehicle from the Otterburn Camp the Parish Council has met representatives from the Camp who have promised to make good the damage.
- The registration of the Village Green is an ongoing matter that appears to have originally started back in the 1970's. The Parish Council are working to identify the required evidence and work with Land Registry to complete this matter.
- The Parish Council are still investigating the options of the possibility for strengthening and protecting the edges of the village green.
- Residents have reported a noticeable increase of dog fouling around the village. Whilst it appreciated this may relate to visitors the Parish Council invites everyone to play their part to keep Elsdon clean. If you see an incident please do report it to the County Council. A dual waste bin is available by the bus shelter on the green.

Resolution

- A defibrillator has been fitted in the village and training, including First Aid training was provided by the Stephen Carey Fund with a large number of residents attending.
- The Parish Council are grateful to NNPA, and in particular Mark Bolton, who made the necessary repairs to the footbridge in the village.
- The Village Fete on August Bank Holiday Monday was a very successful day enjoyed by all who attended and raised a significant sum for local projects and St Cuthbert's Church.
- The Parish Council has supported a planning application to provide Deed of Easement for a proposed new build property adjacent to the village green. The Parish Council wish the prospective residents every success for the future, despite their many setbacks.
- The Parish Council in conjunction with EPIC, registered The Bird In Bush public house as a community asset to prevent it being sold for residential development. We are very pleased that the pub has been bought by local residents and we wish them every success in their new venture.
- Thanks to volunteers the bonfire site has been cleared and looks neat and tidy once more.
- A number of outstanding jobs have been completed throughout the village, including repair to streetlight, blocked gully as well as repairs to a number of pot holes and road surface.
- During the last year the Parish Council have made donations to the Great North Air Ambulance and Tynedale Hospice both of which do exception work in the local area.
- Despite a continual strain on finances after careful consideration the Parish Council made a decision to maintain the precept at the same level of £1,500.

Thanks

- I would like on behalf of the Parish Council and the whole community to thank the presence and invaluable guidance of Cllrs Sue Bolam and Chris France. Between them they have attended most of the meetings during the last year and they have provided excellent guidance on so many areas.
- Finally I would like to thank the time and effort of my fellow Councillors. They have all willing given up so much of their valuable time to meet and work on various projects. We all share a common goal of working towards continual improvement of Elsdon for the people who live and visit here. It is not always easy being a Parish Councillor, indeed there are many frustrations,

but we try our very best to do the right thing. I am not going to draw particular attention to any one Parish Councillors, as I believe that we are a good team, and that we make best use of our individual skills and expertise. I am once again struck by the dedication and contributions made by my fellow Councillors and the volunteers that form the EPIC and Village Fete and Village Hall committees. I would also like to thank Tom Pick and Archie Wright for their continuing work in making Elsdon a cleaner and more beautiful place to live. I am very proud to be associated with Elsdon Parish Council, and look forward to having an equally productive 2016-17.

Financial Report:

The Clerk provided an update on the Parish Council finances. Opening balance on 1 April, 2015 was £3,425 and closing balance on 31 March, 2016 was £3,404. Income was £1,798 that included £1,500 precept as well as £160 wayleave from BT Openreach and £138 wayleave from Northern Powergrid. Expenditure during the year totalled £1,819 including £650 Clerk salary, £120 room hire, £265 Insurance, £181 for footbridge repairs. The statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statements were agreed for 2015-16.

Reports from County Councillor and questions: Cllr Bridgett was not in attendance.

Any other business:

There was no business raised.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm