

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12 September, 2013

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

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Maddison.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising:

- a) It was reported that the work on the burn had been completed. There was praise for the taskforce who undertook the work on time, communicated their plans and were considerate to local residents. Additionally the quality of work and finish were both considered to be very good. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Barry Rowland at NCC to thank the Operatives.
- b) Cllr Tait highlighted a concern raised by a resident of a street light in Crawford Crescent. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Chris Bolt at NCC regarding the problems. It was reported that it appeared no work had been carried out on the underground cabling project over the past couple of months. It was agreed to meet an hour before the meeting with Northern Powergrid on 19 September.
- c) It was reported that NCC still had not provided an explanation about their actions over the decision to remove the support of the TV signal system in both Elsdon and Alwinton. It was agreed the Clerk would write again to Kevin Bartlett (NCC) as well as update Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith MP and Margaret Ward (Chair Alwinton Parish Council).
- d) There was discussion how communication could be improved to share local news with residents of the parish. It was agreed to ask residents via the Parish Council website as well as via email lists that both Cllr Simmance and Mr Coles had, whether people were happy to be contacted with news such as the 'Town Crier'.
- e) NNPA – The Chair made reference to letter received from Mr Gates (NNPA). There was an invite to meet to discuss matters. There was discussion as to where Elsdon appears to fit in NNPA plans. It is perceived that Elsdon is the link between the north and south of the National Park where funds are being provided. However in Elsdon there is concern that there is no support for even basics such as the toilets at the Village Hall. It was agreed that a meeting at Eastburn would be welcomed and objectives for it should be set. Cllr Bolam advised she would be happy to be part of the meeting.
- f) Parish Plan – There was discussion about how the different committees and organisations in the Parish can work together under an umbrella group. Reference was made to the Northern Area Grants with a suggestion of approaching Cllr Bridgett. It was agreed that a social evening could be arranged with the different committees to discuss the way forward.

4. Finance:

- a) The Clerk provided an update of the Parish finances. Opening bank balance on 1 April, 2013 was £3,914.82 including funds for the Parish Plan. The current balance is £3,791.41. Income so far during this financial year includes the precept totalling £1,500 plus Wayleave of £125.06. Outgoings so far this year total £1,748.47, £912.80 of this expenditure has been for Parish Plan activities.
- b) An original figure of £1,500 had been provided towards the Parish Plan work and it was reported the £587.20 remains less some expenses to reimburse Cllr Tait.
- c) It was agreed to pay the invoice for £10.00 for the Village Hall hire on 15 July for a Parish Plan event.

5. Planning:

- a) The Clerk reported he had received notice from NCC that the planning application 13/01397/FUL at Land NE of Liberty Hill Farm had been granted. There was disappointment expressed about the location of this building being agreed.

6. New business:

- a) Cllr Simmance advised that Ruth Dickinson (NNPA) was due to attend the next Village Hall committee meeting on 9 October when the topic of funding for the public toilets would be discussed.
- b) The Clerk advised the Community Newsletter committee were inviting articles for the third edition. These would be required by 17 October with distribution due late November and covering from then until February 2014.

7. Any other business:

Otterburn Camp – Cllr Simmance reported he had been approached by three people raising concern over the level of noise from the training exercises at the Camp. The Cllrs had not been aware of any particular excessive noise in recent days. It was agreed the Clerk would forward training exercise details to Cllr Tait for display on the notice board.

Bonfire – The Chair advised she had received an email from Katie Bland representing PTA and asking if children could make a guy for the bonfire on Village Green. The Chair advised she had responded stating the bonfire was not arranged or organised by the Parish Council, but just supervised. It was agreed Chris Armstrong would be approached regarding any plans for this year.

Council Houses – It was reported that each Council House in Elsdon was due to be fitted with ground source heating by February, 2014.

Road conditions – Cllr Simmance highlighted the dip in the road at the corner near his house that still floods badly and requires attention.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 10 October, 2013 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm

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