

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 10 October, 2013

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), White, Simmance and Tait. Clerk Martin Chilvers. David Coles, Ken Baxter, Tony Patrick, Eleanor Patrick and Peter Simpson

Apologies: There were no apologies.

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

5. Planning

a) *13NP0091: Certificate of Lawful Existing use in respect of use of premises as residential dwelling: 2 The Larkes, Elsdon:* The Chair invited Mr Baxter to speak about the application. Mr Baxter advised that whilst NNPA representatives visited the property at appropriate times during construction to undertake all necessary checks and regulations they failed to officially record these. Mr Baxter advises his solicitor did not highlight this when he was buying the property however the solicitor acting on the behalf of the people due to buy from him has identified there are no official records. Consequently Mr Baxter has been advised that he needs to apply for a 'Certificate of Lawful Existing Use' and this will have to be at his expense. It is not know whether the same problem exists for the properties built at the same time on the plot.

There was no objection to the planning application however the Councillors were disappointed that Mr Baxter had to pay for what appeared to be an error made by NNPA.

b) *13/02866/MRVEIA - Review of old minerals permissions (ROMP) - C/98/CC/34 - Details submitted in accordance with provisions of the Environment Act 1995 Proposed conditions:- Duration of the permissions; Access, traffic and protection of public highway; working programme; environmental protection; landscaping; restoration; after use; aftercare (where appropriate): Blaxter Quarry, Elsdon:* Mr Patrick initially spoke providing a background to the spring that provides his house and his neighbours drinking water that up to recently was very good quality. He advised that neither property was connected to mains water supply.

It was reported that at the time of the last application a number of conditions were made by NCC however the applicant had not met these. Mr Patrick and Mr Simpson advised that they had been unable to use the spring water since August 2012 due to operations by the company that made unsafe to even cook or wash with it. Whilst they were attempting to work with authorities to rectify this matter they had great concern that the new application would only see an intensification of quarrying. This would be at a greater depth than previous work that would in all likelihood destroy the spring forever.

The Councillors discussed the application referring to paperwork provided. There was agreement from all to object the application. This was based on evidence suggesting the detrimental effect the work at the site has and will have on the spring water, passed history that previous conditions set have not been met as well as the effect the intensified proposed activity would have on road safety at the access point to A696.

2. Matters arising:

a) It was agreed to take up Paul Aldsworth's (Morrison) offer to remove all the redundant poles after the cabling project is completed. There was also discussion about Morrison's removing the cabling from houses but concern was raised regarding potential damage to cabling that needed to remain.

It was noted that some of the new street lighting was casting light in wrong direction.

Concern was raised about the digging of trenches for cabling on the Village Green. It was believed this should not be happening however Northern Powergrid advised they had received agreement from the Parish Council for this to be undertaken.

- b) It was reported that the Village Hall committee had decided not to proceed with the NNPA offer of funding for the toilets. This would have been £1,500 for next year, £750 the following year then nothing thereafter. Consequently reference of public toilets in Elsdon is to be removed from NNPA literature. The Councillors supported the decision made.

Reference was made to the proposed meeting with NNPA. It was decided to suggest either 5 or 12 November with a meeting at Eastburn. The Clerk was asked to contact NNPA to arrange. A preparation meeting was agreed for 22 October and to invite Cllr Sue Bolam.

4. Finance:

- a) The Clerk's salary and expenses for the previous six months was agreed.
- b) The Clerk advised he had received confirmation from BDO that the annual audit had been approved.
- c) Expenses totalling £28.47 were approved for Cllr Tait in respect of the Parish Plan activities.
- d) It was agreed to wait for a request for a donation from the bonfire committee.
- e) A donation of £50.00 was agreed for the Great North Air Ambulance.
- f) A late request for donation for the Otterburn under 11's football team was received. It was noted children from Elsdon are part of this team and it was agreed to make a donation of £50.00
- g) A donation of £100.00 was agreed for the Elsdon Community Heritage Group

5. New business:

- a) It was agreed to defer the matter of potential Northern Powergrid compensation until a later date.
- b) It was agreed that the demand for a possible morning bus service coming through Elsdon to Newcastle would be investigated before any further action is taken.
- c) David Coles provided an update following conversation with John Cooper regarding broadband. He advised that there was little detail provided however it had been suggested that BT upgrade was not likely to happen until 2015 earliest and that wifi option may be best in the short / medium term.
- d) It was agreed to draft a letter for all residents detailing the do's and don'ts of the village green.
- e) The Clerk shared the details of the joint Area Committee & Parish council meetings.
- f) The Clerk shared the details of the road closure C187 on 13 October.
- g) It was noted that it had been agreed to have daffodils planted outside the churchyard on 13 October.

7. Any other business:

Grass cuttings – David Coles highlighted recent correspondence received regarding grass cuttings being thrown in the Burn. This highlighted the fact that NCC had previously refused Green waste collection. It was reported that it was environmentally bad to take grass cuttings to the nearest NCC refuge which is a 50 mile round trip. It was agreed to write to NCC again requesting Green bins. Meantime it was agreed to also investigate a village composter and possibly seek funding from Northern Powergrid as part of a compensation package regarding the underground cabling project.

- 8. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 14 November, 2013 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

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