

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14 November, 2013

**Present:** Councillors Colby (Chair), Maddison, White, Simmance and Tait. Clerk Martin Chilvers. Cllr Chris France, David Coles, Robert Arthur, Ann Gregory, Simon Etheridge, Sgt Graham Vickers (until 8.15), Jo Scott (8.00 – 8.35)

**1. Apologies:** There were no apologies.

**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) The Chair advised she had spoken to Martin Robinson of Northern Powergrid. He advised he could only speak to the person who raised the complaint about the underground cabling i.e. the Clerk. Having overcome this challenge he confirmed he would be visiting Elsdon on 15 November to assess the remaining tasks still requiring attention. He would be going around the village with Paul Aldsworth of Morrison US. Mr Robinson advised there remains one street light that requires connecting, this being along the road going out of the village. He is hopeful that this will be able to be done without the need to close the road. When all work is complete he will visit the village again and invited Parish Council representation to check all work has been finished to required standard.

### **6. New business**

f) The general feedback for the new street lights was positive. There were a few examples highlighted where the light was shining in the wrong place rather than on the road. Additionally there were still a few of the original type street lights remaining and it was questioned when these were going to be replaced. There was general agreement that the brightness of the lights was fine. The Clerk was ask to provide the feedback to Chris Bolt (NCC)

### **3. Matters arising:**

b) The Chair provided details of the meeting on 13 November when some of the Councillors met with Colin Wilson (NNPA) and James Ramsay (Newcastle County Council). The meeting was arranged following the Councillors meeting with NNPA on 5 November. Mr Ramsay has offered to help with communications with Northern Powergrid regarding the state of the Village Green following the underground cabling work. Cllr Maddison will provide photos to Mr Ramsay.

It was agreed that if compensation was forthcoming from Northern Powergrid it could be used to repair the Village Green with particular focus on the drainage and the area outside the church.

c) The Chair thanked David Coles for his work in collecting the demand for a bus service via Elsdon and invited him to provide an update on the matter. Mr Coles advised that approximately 12 responses had been received so far. Whilst all believed it was a good idea to have the Otterburn to Newcastle bus service come via Elsdon results show that there would only be occasional use at this time.

### **Police report – Sgt Graham Vickers**

Sgt Vickers provided an update on recent local crime in the area. He advised that from the New Year the resource in Rothbury will be split geographically so that there will be someone dedicated to the Elsdon area. Sgt Vickers answered questions from Councillors before providing some crime prevention tips including leaving lights on when going out and ensuring keys are removed from ignition of vehicles. He provided details of the website for further tips and the latest information on local policing. He left the message that “if in doubt call 999”.

## **6. New Business**

c) Jo Scott provided details of the Dark Sky evening being arranged for 29 November with support from NNPA. Jo spoke of the NNPA work to gain Dark Sky Park status. The outcome should be known soon and assuming success, Jo advised that it would be great if the Elsdon community could work together to benefit from this. Ideas were discussed and it was agreed that the matter could be tabled at the next Past, Present & Future event.

## **4. Finance:**

- a) Cllr Tait advised that she had lost the previous cheque. As it so happened she had further expenses of £16.99 in respect of the Parish Plan events. A cheque for £45.46 was issued and the Clerk will put a stop on the previous cheque.
- b) It was agreed that as there had not been a request this year for a donation for the fireworks that no action should be taken.
- c) After discussion it was agreed that on this occasion a donation would not be made to the West Northumberland CAB. It was noted the excellent work that they undertook however with only a small precept it was agreed funding could only be provided to local community matters.

**5. New business:** There were no planning applications this month

## **6. New business:**

- a) Unfortunately Elaine Sims of Avonline was unable to make the meeting.
- b) The Chair provided details of the meeting on 5 November with Tony Gates and other representatives from NNPA. After what was described as a 'frosty' start the Cllrs all agreed the meeting had been productive and there was renewed optimism for the future working relationship with NNPA.  
There has also been discussion regarding wayleaves in Elsdon and in particular underground cabling across the village green. It was suggested that some sites are missing from the map provided and the Clerk was asked to contact Jessie Johnston at Northern Powergrid. Current wayleave being suggested is for just £3.45 a year.
- c) This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- d) The matter of materials from the underground cabling work being left in a lay-by on top of Billsmoor was discussed. Mr Arthur advised he would make arrangements for this to be moved as soon as possible.
- e) The Chair spoke of the possibility of a social event for the community where there can be discussion on how to get the community to work together for the good of Elsdon, It was agreed to investigate a date for such an event.
- f) This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- g) The Chair agreed to review the paperwork relating to the Core strategy preferred options: Housing, Employment and Green Belt
- h) It was agreed no action was required regarding the CAP reform.
- i) It was agreed that the January meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> was good for all Councillors

## **7. Any other business:**

Defibrillator – The Clerk advised he had been approach by a company asking if Elsdon would like to purchase a defibrillator. A cost of £1,000 had been quoted and whilst the importance was recognised it was agreed should one be required there were other avenues including Lottery funding to be explored.

Free trees from Woodland Trust – The Clerk advised he had received an email from Woodland Trust offering free trees. It was agreed to discuss the matter at the December meeting.

**8. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 12 December, 2013 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon  
Meeting closed at 9.30pm

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