

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

**Present:** Councillors Colby (Chair), Maddison, White, Simmance and Tait. Clerk Martin Chilvers. Cllr Sue Bolam (from 7.35), Robert Arthur, David Coles

**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) There was discussion regarding the new street lights. Whilst mostly positive there were a few identified that are directing light in the wrong direction. Additionally there are a few of the old style street lights remaining. The Clerk was asked to arrange for Chris Bolt (NCC) to visit Elsdon when dark so the problems can be rectified.
- b) It was agreed photos would be taken of the Village Green and any other areas damaged as a result of the underground cabling work undertaken during the year. A further meeting would then be arranged with Mr Ramsay of Newcastle County Council. It was agreed that ideas for the possible compensation from Northern Powergrid could be on the agenda for the proposed community meeting on 13 January.
- c) Following discussion it was agreed to wait to find out what repairs to the Village Green are required before any action is taken regarding the communication of use of the green.
- d) It was proposed that the next Past, Present and Future event could be held on 13 January
- e) It was noted that the lay-by on top of Billsmoor had been cleared of the debris and Mr Arthur was thanked for doing this.

### **4. Finance:**

- a) There was discussion about what the next financial year precept should be. It was noted that the annual wayleave of approximately £125 would no longer be received. However taking into account expected spend for the next year it was agreed to maintain the precept at the current amount of £1,500.
- b) It was agreed to pay the invoice for the Remembrance Wreath for £18.00.
- c) It was agreed to pay the invoice to Spanglefish for £24.95 regarding the Parish Council website.
- d) It was agreed to pay the invoice to David Countryskills for £30.00 for repair to public seat near the church.

**5. Planning:** There were no planning applications this month

### **6. New business:**

- a) Cllr Tait provided details of the meeting with Tony Gates (NNPA) on 18 November. Mr Gates was shown around the village and was advised of the issues affecting Elsdon. It was agreed that the pinfold could be made better use. The derelict School House was highlighted to Mr Gates. All in all the meeting was considered as very positive. Cllr Colby highlighted that Mr Gates asked whether there was a desire of the Parish Council to make the parish a conservation area. There was discussion and it was agreed by the Councillors that there was no desire for this.
- b) Details of the meeting with Ruth Dickenson and Derek Proudlock (both NNPA) on 28 November were shared. The Councillors showed them around the village. There was an offer that when the weather improves NNPA rangers would help clear the pinfold. There was discussion about a gate being made for the pinfold. There was also support offered to assist with a feasibility study and help raise funds in respect of a possible Heritage Centre.
- c) Cllrs Colby and Tait spoke of their meeting with representatives of 'Homes for Northumberland'. This happened when a van parked on the green to provide a demonstration for the air source heating that is to be installed into the council houses. Cllr Tait made reference to the van being parked on the village green

and received the response there were plans to repair parts of the green by NCC. Whilst acknowledging the good news Cllr Tait asked what reference had been made to Parish Council. Subsequently Cllr Colby has spoken to Simon Crossthwaite and Hannah Simpson. They have been investigating options that could help prevent future damage to the edges of the green. Details have been sent to Cllr Colby who shared these with the other Councillors. Whilst it was reported that Alwinton had not been very impressed with the product it was agreed to add that topic to the agenda for the community meeting on 13 January.

- d) It was highlighted that 15 bollards had been erected at the turning area opposite Moontree Lodge. Cllr Colby has spoken to Highways at NCC but has not been able to determine the origin of the bollards. The Clerk was asked to speak with Kevin Brown (NCC) when he returned to the office to see if any light can be thrown on the matter before any further action is considered.
- e) The Clerk provided details of the definitive map modification order (No 24) 2013.
- f) It was agreed not to apply for trees from Woodland Trust on this occasion.
- g) The Chair thanked all who were involved in clearing the rubbish from the bonfire on the green. Special thanks was given to Peter Simpson for taking away the waste in his van. There was acknowledge given also to Town Crier for getting the message out to the community. David Coles advised that he had recently purchased a website [elsdononline.co.uk](http://elsdononline.co.uk)

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

Moles on Village Green – Cllr White advised that mole hills had been spotted on the green and a mole catcher had been employed.

Town Crier articles – David Coles asked for people to add their names when sending articles for the Town Crier with a point of contact.

Dark Sky Award – Cllr Colby spoke of the event she attended at Redsdale Arms when the announcement was made of the Dark Sky Park status being granted. She advised that she had spoken to Duncan Wise (NNPA) about the success of the recent Dark Sky event in Elsdon and the possibility of using the pinfold for future events. Mr Arthur advised that the Village Hall raised £100 from sales at the Dark Sky event on 29 November.

Damaged 'Give Way' sign – Cllr Maddison mentioned that the sign near Bird in Bush required some attention as it was leaning over.

Redundant TV signal equipment – Cllr Maddison highlighted an electric box with equipment in it that was used when Elsdon had the TV signal system. This was now redundant and it was suggested, and agreed, that it could be offered to Alwinton Parish Council, who still had the system. The Clerk was asked to contact the Chair of Alwinton.

**8. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 9 January, 2014 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

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