

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 13 March, 2014

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), Maddison, White, Simmance and Tait. Clerk Martin Chilvers. Elaine Sims (Avonline – until 8.15pm), Robert Arthur, David Renton, Tony Patrick, Peter Simpson

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. Avonline

The Chair welcomed Elaine Sims who from Avonline. Elaine spoke about the service Avonline provides and satellite broadband in rural Northumberland. She provided details of equipment required (you must have a specific Avonline dish for the service) plus approximate monthly costs ranging from £20 to £150 depending on the type of service required. Elaine advised that Avonline are working partners with iNorthumberland and made comparisons to others services such as fibre optic. Elaine provided a demonstration of the picture clarity and signal strength.

4. Matters arising

- a) It was confirmed that no action had been taken by County Council regarding the street lights and the Clerk was asked to contact them again.
- b) The Elsdon Past, Present and Future event was confirmed to be taking place on 17 March at 7.30pm. It was hoped there would be a good turn out and there was discussion and action agreed how to advertise the event.
- c) The Clerk referred to an email he had received from David Moat (Structure Inspector for NCC) regarding the outcome of his inspection on the bridges. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact him again for timescales for the repairs as well as contact the Environmental Agency regarding the need for the river bed to be cleared.
- d) The Clerk advised the action taken regarding the state of the roads previously identified. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase for response and timescales as to when repairs would be undertaken. It was noted that the state of the road to and beyond Landshot was so bad that ordinary saloon cars cannot drive along it. It was also highlighted that the Post Man had not been delivering along that road due to the poor condition.
- e) Cllr Tait advised that she had received a call regarding the Credit Union proposal that she had offered to take forward locally. At this time there had not been a great response so it was unlikely to progress in the near future.

4. Finance:

- a) It was agreed that catering could be provided for the event on 17 March and paid for from the remaining funds set aside.

5. Planning:

- a) *14NP0018: Proposed construction of detached dwelling house: Land adjacent to the School House, Elsdon:* The Councillors spoke of their site visit on 12 March. Whilst it was agreed the plans suggest a very nice house the Councillors had a number of concerns about the application. These included – the degree of dominance the height of the building will have over a sensitive part of the village, concern over the potential damage of the Village Green during development and the apparent lack of communication of the application in the parish. Additionally there was discussion concerning the possible vehicular access to the property across the Village Green and the impact on the Green the decision may have for future

similar requests if granted. It was agreed following discussion to object to the application as it is currently presented.

- b) *13/02866/MRVEIA – Blaxter Quarry update:* It was noted that all Councillors were going to attend the site visit on 14 March. Parishioners Mr Patrick and Mr Simpson spoke of their experience how the quarry was being run and conditions set at the previous application are allegedly not being met. The Chair thanked them for their time and the preparation they have provided before the site visit.

6. New business:

- a) *NCC Town and Parish Council Charter:* It was agreed each Councillor would complete their individual feedback forms and the topic would be on the agenda next month.
- b) *Getabout scheme in Northumberland:* The Clerk provided details of the scheme that was making people aware of the service as well as advertising for more volunteer drivers. Details of the scheme can be found on the Parish Council website.
- c) *Northumberland Residents Festival:* The Clerk provided details of the festival and how residents can get hold of discount vouchers.

7. Any other business:

Clearing rubbish from roads – Cllr White highlighted the great work that Tom Pick had been doing picking up litter from the road side around the village. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Pick thanking him for his efforts.

Pinfold and Car Park tidy – It was highlighted that Ruth Dickenson (NNPA) and a Park Ranger would be arranging to help with the tidy up of the Pinfold and the car park in Elsdon. It was hoped people would turn up and help.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 10 April, 2014 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

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