

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 10 April, 2014

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), Maddison, White, Simmance and Tait. Clerk Martin Chilvers. Cllrs Chris France & Sue Bolam, Robert Arthur, David Coles, Allan Graham, Glen Graham and Helen Graham

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 Clerk reported that County Council advised him they would be visiting Elsdon shortly to assess the direction of light of some street lights as well the remaining four lights that still require changing to LED. It was agreed NCC should advise the Councillors when they were to visit so someone could meet them and highlight the problems. The Clerk was also asked to enquire about the possibility to turn off the light near the pinfold on dark sky nights. It was suggested he contact Duncan Wise of NNPA if necessary.
- b) As a result of the well attended and successful EPPF event on 17 March a committee has been formed called 'Elsdon Projects in the Community' (EPIC). It was agreed there had been some excellent ideas already provided. David Coles was thanked for circulating the details of the events. Sub-groups had also been established including one for the proposed Fete and another covering the drainage on the Green. Robert Arthur was thanked for arranging for Peter Anderson to visit and assess what needs to be done to improve the drainage of the Green. It was agreed to cancel the clearing of ditches planned for 12 April and rearrange for when drier. Cllr Simmance confirmed he had sent to Ruth Dickinson (NNPA) a document containing everything for Elsdon enhancement programme that was agreed at the Elsdon Past, Present & Future meeting
- c) The Clerk provided an update he had received regarding the planned repairs to the two bridges requiring attention in the village.
- d) The Clerk advised he had received confirmation from NCC that the work to repair the damage on the local roads would start at the beginning of the next week.
- e) There was discussion about the comments Councillors had individually sent to NCC regarding the Town & Parish Council Charter.

4. Finance:

- a) The Clerk's salary and expenses for the previous six months was agreed.
- b) The statement of Accounts and Annual Governance statement 2013-14 were agreed.
- c) It was agreed to pay the expenses relating to the Elsdon Past, Present & Future event on 17 March, £127.98 was paid to the Mr Colby for refreshments and £2.70 paid to Cllr Simmance.
- d) It was agreed to make a donation of £50.00 towards the Rede Valley Newsletter.

5. Planning:

- a) *14NP0025LBC: Listed Building Consent in respect of removal of mid & late C20th internal and external additions, restoration of C18th and C19th feature, replacement of existing rooflights with larger size, and addition of removable steel & glass dark sky viewing platform to rear stone staircase: The Bacchus, Elsdon, NE19 1AA:* David Coles was invited to provide details of the application. It was confirmed that the plans for the dark sky platform was no longer going ahead. After discussion all Councillors agreed to support the application.
- b) *14NP0018: Proposed construction of detached dwelling house: Land adjacent to the School House, Elsdon, NE19 1AA:* There was discussion following receipt of email from Michael Miller (NNPA) regarding the communication of this application. It was agreed that when the Parish Council had been advised of the application by email there had been no posters put up around the village. The applicant, Mr Graham,

confirmed he also had not received any communication about the application when it was discussed by the parish Council. He additionally asked that why having paid for five sets of the plans he and the Parish Council had not received one.

- c) *13/02866/MRVEIA – Blaxter Quarry update:* The Chair provide details of the site visit to the quarry and conversation with Joe Nugent of NCC. It was reported that it appeared that there had been some work undertaken in respect to some of the application conditions. Mr Nugent agreed he would provide details of future reports to the Parish Council.

6. New business:

- a) *Quality of Homes for Northumberland work:* The Chair and Cllr Tait advised they had been approached by some of the residents in Crawford Crescent and Square. The quality of work and conditions the residents were being left in was very poor. Examples of some situations were given including cupboards being left hanging from walls, holes in ceilings with debris falling through and being left without facilities. The Clerk was asked to write to Hannah Simpson of 'Homes for Northumberland' highlighting the problems and seek a meeting to discuss and agree a solution.
- b) *Damage to Village Green:* Pictures had been taken of the damaged areas. It was proposed that these are sent to Mr Ramsay of Newcastle City Council for advice on action that could be taken. It was agreed to send to Ruth Dickenson of NNPA also.
- c) *Northumberland Fire & Rescue Plan 2014-17:* It was agreed to discuss this matter at the next meeting after reviewing the consultation paper.
- d) *EDF Energy Green Rigg Windfarm Community Benefit Fund:* A variety of ideas that would benefit from funding were discussed and it was agreed should anyone wish to have an application they should contact the Clerk.

7. Any other business:

CAN Newsletter – The Clerk distributed the latest copies of the newsletter.

Village Green – Mr Arthur advised that whilst Mr Anderson would be willing to provide assistance he suggested there should be a project manager and recommended Cllr White could undertake the role.

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

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

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