

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

Present: Councillors Colby (Chair), White, Simmance, Maddison and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers, Chris France

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest: There were none raised

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

4. Matters arising

- a) The Clerk advised he had not received any further update regarding the repairs of the bridges but would continue to chase NCC.
- b) There was discussion on the state of the roads. Cllr France provided details from the Hepple PC meeting that has highlighted not only the state of local roads but areas where hedges and trees are encroaching over the road. It was highlighted that at the curve in the road behind the church had a pot hole requiring attention. Also two areas were identified where water is running across the road surface. Firstly the road opposite the Hemmel as well as the road towards Raylees where the ditch is blocked.
- c) The Clerk provided an update he had received from Duncan Wise (NCC) regarding the progress of the application for Elsdon to become a Dark Sky Discovery Site.
- d) The Chair advised she had received two letters from Mr Ivan Dunn. The first was a request for him to place stepping stones from a garage across the village green. It was suggested by Mr Dunn that the route is actually a recognised footpath. Whilst it was agreed to investigate whether the footpath does exist, after discussion it was felt there was no real need for the stepping stones at the location. It was agreed to suggest to Mr Dunn that he could create a gravel path alongside the garages up to a maximum of 3 foot wide.

The second letter from Mr Dunn concerned the CCTV cameras on a neighbour's house. Mr Dunn believed the cameras angle covered not only their property but also a section of the village green and he requested the Parish Council (as owners of the village green) ask for the cameras angle to be adjusted or they are removed. After discussion it was agreed there appeared no harm being done by the cameras where they were presently located. However the Councillors felt the sign on the village green referring to the cameras should be removed immediately. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Dunn.

5. Finance:

- a) Invoices in respect of the village fete were presented. The first for £75.00 from Carol Lewins (Make Do and Mend) and the second for £50.00 from Helen Hill (Galaxis Energy). The Chair advised that both Carol and Helen had requested that instead of payment these could be considered as donations to the village fete. It was highlighted that there was one final invoice to pay. This is for £200.00 to the Village Hall for hire and other costs during the village fete.
- b) The Clerk provided a summary of the Parish Council finances for the financial year to date. There was discussion about the next financial year precept and agreement to address the matter in detail at the next meeting.
- c) It was agreed at the October meeting for the Parish Council to make a £50.00 donation towards the firework display. However it was still not clear who the payment should be made to. The Clerk was asked to contact Chris Armstrong to determine if he will be organising next year's event and if so send the donation accordingly. It was highlighted there was also a £100.00 donation from the proceeds of the village fete.

6. Planning:

There were no planning applications this month.

7. New business:

- a) *Community Asset transfer:* There was discussion about the possibility of registering the Rector' School as a community asset. The Clerk referred to the details he found on the NCC website. It was agreed he would share the link for further discussion at the next meeting.
- b) *Geocache at Elsdon:* The Chair spoke of an email she had received from Jane Riddell (NNPA) asking if the bus stop in the village could be used to store a container for geocache. It was agreed by all.
- c) *2014 bonfire night:* It was generally agreed the night had been a success and enjoyed by all. There was one email the Clerk had received from someone disappointed the fireworks started earlier than originally advertised. Thanks were expressed to Mr Archie Wright who led the bonfire clear up, supported by Mr John Tait and Mr Alan Colby. It was agreed there are some learning's for next year's event including a 'do's and don'ts' list being shared earlier together with clear timescales when wood could be left for the fire. The Clerk was asked to contact NCC for a replacement sign regarding bonfire maintenance as the original had gone missing.
- d) *Protecting grass adjacent to Crawford Crescent - Homes 4 Northumberland:* The Chair referred to an email she had received from Hannah Simpson. They are looking for agreement to put down protective covering at the edge of the village green that will allow parking for two cars. It was agreed that this would look better than the hogging however there was agreement that there should be no 'kick-rail' included as it was felt this would be a trip hazard. Should the work go ahead it was requested that any earth dug up could be used as back-fill for the drainage work. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Hannah Simpson.
- e) *Northumberland Local Heroes www.hero.northumberland.gov.uk:* The Clerk provided details of this initiative from NCC. A name was suggested from Elsdon however it was felt this person would not like the attention and the Clerk was asked to contact NCC to see if recognition could be low key.

8. Any other business:

- a) It was agreed the Remembrance service had been good and well attended.
- b) Cllr Maddison advised book of WW1 service photos was being prepared that would be provided to the local communities.
- c) The planting of the daffodil bulbs went well and thanks were expressed to Mr Ken Hargreaves for supplying these.
- d) Having reviewed the minutes from the recent Cluster meeting there was agreement by all that Elsdon would not join the meetings at this time.
- e) The Chair highlighted a recent email from Iain Hedley (NCC) of the Local Plan Core Strategy. The consultation would run from 12 December and 11 February, 2015 with series of 'drop-in events' planned for January. It was agreed to discuss the matter and agree possible attendance at the next meeting.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 11 December, 2014 starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

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