

# Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14 May, 2015

**Present:** Councillors, Colby (Chair), Simmance, White, Maddison and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Parishioners Annie Gregory, Simon Etheridge, David Renton and David Coles (from 7.10)

**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) Elsdon Bridge repairs – The Clerk provided details of an email he had received from David Moat. Cllr White advised he had met Mr Moat the previous day at the bridge. It was confirmed the metal railings of the south bridge would be replaced in the near future. Mr Moat advised the stone bridge repairs are part of a bridge refurbishment bid that NCC is preparing and if successful then funds will be available. Mr Moat further advised the bridge had been inspected on 13 May and it was considered no further damage had happened since the previous inspection.
- b) State of local roads – The Clerk provided an update from emails he had received from NCC. The blocked ditches along the road to Raylees have been added to the task list but no repair date has been provided. An inspection of the road and over-hanging trees on the road to Eastnook will be undertaken shortly to determine what action should be taken. NCC also advised that a 'Response' gang had been filling pot holes along the roads towards Otterburn and Hepple from Elsdon. It was commented by Councillors that these roads required far greater attention than had been undertaken so far. It was agreed the Clerk would continue communication with NCC in an effort to progress matters.

It was additionally highlighted that log wagons are damaging the road verges. Particular reference was made to the verge alongside The Larkes. It was reported log wagons are exceeding the speed limit through the village starting as early as 2.30am and travelling throughout the day. It was agreed photos of the damage would be sent to the Clerk who would then make contact with NCC.

- c) Dark Sky Discovery Site – There has been no response from Duncan Wise regarding the correct placement of the notice board at the pinfold and it was agreed the Clerk would contact him again.
- d) Community Asset transfer – There was discussion on information that had been gained on the ownership of Rector's School. It was agreed the matter would be discussed at the next EPIC meeting to determine what local residents wished to do. The Chair agreed to contact NNPA regarding the matter.
- e) Broadband in Elsdon – Update – The Clerk advised that he had not had any further contact from John Cooper following the meeting on 23 April. Whilst a positive response had been received about iNorthumberland attending the village fete on August Bank Holiday the Clerk was asked to contact John to gain confirmation. It was reported that the Rothbury broadband was experiencing problems and may need to be replaced.
- f) Defibrillator and first aid training: The Clerk advised the committee who arrange the Promise auction were collating the funds and will provide an update in time for the next meeting.
- g) Winter's Gibbet: The Clerk shared the email received from Sally Roberts (Wallington General Manager). The email advised that due to limited funding as well as concern over vandalism a decision had been made not to replace the 'head'. It was suggested that perhaps the Parish Council could seek advice from English Heritage as to how best to proceed as there is a desire within Elsdon for the 'head' to be replaced.
- h) Parking at Kielder Water: The Clerk advised he was still to follow up with Kielder Water and would update when he had a response.

- i) Quotes for various jobs about the village: Following discussion it was agreed the notice board at the Pinfold was in a bad condition and really needed replacing rather than repairing. It was agreed the Clerk would get various quotes for the next meeting.
- j) Garden waste collection: The Clerk advised he had not received any response to emails on the matter. It was agreed he would share with new MP as well as Cllr Bridgett.

Ray Wind Farm: Cllr Simmance advised that he had made contact with Sarah Seabury at NCC in attempt to make an appointment to view the paperwork in respect to the Discharge of Condition 25. Cllr Simmance advised the request was turned down. There was discussion as to possibly submit a formal Freedom of Information request.

#### **5. Finance:**

- a) NALC Annual Subscription: The payment of £65.59 was agreed.
- b) Payment of the Parish Insurance premium: It was agreed the 3 year 'long-term' agreement premium of £265.00 was best value for money and payment of premium was agreed.
- c) Annual audit: The statement of Accounts and Annual Governance statement 2014-15 were agreed.
- d) Update on Parish finances: The Clerk provided a summary of the budget position including forecast for the 2015-16 financial year. It was agreed the VAT reclaim for the village fete and parish plan (£78.76 and £32.67 respectively) – total £111.43 – should be paid to EPIC.

#### **6. Planning:**

- a) 15NP0025: First Floor extension to provide additional bedroom: Landshott Farm, Elsdon: After discussion the application was agreed by all.

#### **7. New business:**

- a) Redesdale Landscape Partnership project: - The Chair spoke of the memorandum of understanding received from the Partnership. After providing details it was agreed by all to sign and agree terms.
- b) Damage to footbridge over Elsdon burn: – Cllr Tait highlighted the damage on the footbridge. It was agreed the Clerk would contact the National Park to seek repairs. A further footbridge towards Whiskershiel was also identified as requiring attention.

#### **9. Any other business:**

- a) The Chair advised she had received an email from Katie Bland, concerned about the school bus contract. It appeared Snaiths had lost this contract however there had been very little communication from NCC to date. It was agreed the Clerk would contact NCC for details of the latest position.
- b) Cllr Maddison highlighted logging activity at Motte Hill. There has been considerable ongoing noise of chain saw and log splitter happening most days and it was questioned whether there was a business being run at the location. It was questioned as to whether a change of use request had been made.
- c) The Clerk provided details of the music festival at Blyth on June 27 and provided leaflets.

**10. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 11 June, 2015 starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon  
Meeting closed at 9.10pm