

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 10 December, 2015

Present: Councillors, Colby (Chair), White, Maddison and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Chris France, Tony Patrick (left 7.05), Sue Bolam

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Simmance.

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) Broadband in Elsdon – Update: The Clerk advised he had not received any further update from iNorthumberland but would continue to chase for a progress report.
- b) Winter's Gibbet: The Clerk advised he had still not heard from Paul Hewitt (Countryside Manager, Wallington) despite writing twice. There was a suggestion he could phone Wallington and contact or leave a message via Sylvia.
- c) Log wagons using local roads – The Clerk advised that PC Brian Foley was currently off work but he would look to obtain the statistics from the speed monitoring as soon as possible. Also he would look to get details of where the Police can assist with further speed monitoring in the village.
- d) Harbottle Surgery – Cllr Bolam provided an update on the current service from Harbottle and Rothbury. She advised that there had been numerous complaints from patients of the trial partnership including no regular doctor provided in Harbottle, needing to call Rothbury to make appointment at Harbottle and the difficulty in actually making an appointment. There had also been many complaints regarding the pharmacy delivery service. The 'Save Harbottle Surgery' group had spent £2,500 to date on legal matters and the current plan is to wait until the end of the 'trial' period of the partnership before deciding on any further action. It was noted that the Rothbury practice was moving shortly to a larger premises.
- e) Collection of garden waste from Elsdon – It was noted that Kevin Bartlett would be attending the January meeting. The Clerk advised he had also received details of Bob Hodgson of NCC who is the main point of contact regarding grass cutting of village green.
- f) Heritage Lottery Fund – Landscape Partnership bid in Redesdale - The Chair spoke of the details of the first of what will be quarterly meetings of the core partners of the partnership. She advised the first meeting was a progress report and broad outline of the next stages. A Project Manager will be appointed by Natural England in the New Year.
- g) First Responders in Rede Valley – The Clerk advised that eight people had expressed an interest to be a First Responder. A meeting had been arranged for 15 December to find out more and discuss next steps.
- h) Community pub – Cllr Tait advised that the pub had been purchased at auction by two local residents, Stephen Shaw and Katie Bland. All agreed this was excellent news and the Parish Council wished the couple every success for the future.
- i) Rural Parish meetings - The Chair advised she had attended the meeting on 17 November in Rothbury. It had been poorly attended, probably due in part to the bad weather. The Chair provided details of conversations she had with County Council representatives at the meeting. Cllr France advised of the cluster meetings that covered similar topics and stated the next meeting was scheduled for 15 March.

5. Finance:

- a) Precept for 2016-17: The Clerk provided an update on the Parish finances. Projected income for current financial year is £2,058 including the £1,500 precept received. Spend to date totals £1,663 with approx £335 forecasted spend before 31 March 2016. This provided a forecast closing balance of just short of £3,500. There was discussion regarding potential projects for 2016 including revitalising the village green. The Chair

provided details of the grass reinforcements and all agreed this appeared to be a good idea to pursue. Various funding options were also discussed. It was agreed the Parish Council should work with EPIC for future projects and fund raising. Following discussion the Councillors agreed to increase the Clerks salary by £100 a year. The Clerk thanked the Councillors. It was agreed by all to keep the precept at the current figure of £1,500

- b) Payment of Remembrance Wreath – It was agreed to pay the £18.00.
- c) Payment of invoice for Spanglefish (website) subscription – It was agreed to pay the £20.79 plus VAT for the next 12 month subscription.
- d) Donation request from Great North Air Ambulance – After discussion a donation of £50.00 was agreed.

6. Planning:

- a) 15NP0057: Proposed construction of two storey dwelling & detached garage: The School House, Elsdon, NE19 1AA – The Clerk provided details of the draft Deed of Easement he had received from Mark Warcup. A few queries were noted and it was agreed the Clerk would return to Mr Warcup with these. The Clerk advised he had received an update from Rebecca Adams of NNPA Planning. The application was currently with the Legal Department but she had confirmed the Parish Council had provided all details required. The Clerk was asked to provide an update to Mr Graham.
- b) 15/03779/FMAST: Vodafone Communication Mast, West Woodburn, Northumberland: After discussion and review of the paperwork it was agreed to support the application

7. New business:

- a) Tesco – Local Community grant scheme: - The Chair provided details of the application that had been submitted for revitalising of the village green.
- b) Community Foundation (Green Rigg) funding: - The application deadline dates for 2016 were shared. It was agreed to have a closer look and see if an application can be submitted in 2016.
- c) Bridge repairs - update: - The Clerk provided an update received from David Moat (NCC) advising that the repairs were still on the list of work that was needed to be undertaken. There was discussion about how the bridge had coped with the recent flooding.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr White referred to the gullies around near the pub and church that were blocked and had flooded in the recent bad weather. It was also mentioned that the sign for the humpback bridge was broken.
- b) The Chair asked that as the pub had been sold whether attention (in respect of community asset) should be directed to the Rectors School. She advised she had updated Tony Kirsop who said he would be delighted to help where possible.

9 Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 14 January, 2016, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 8.35pm