

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 9 February, 2017

Present: Councillors, Colby (Chair), Simmance, White, Maddison and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllrs Bolam and 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 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Guest speaker – Lydia Speakman, Project Manager, Revitalising Redesdale: The Chair welcomed Lydia who provided an update on the project progress. She advised that communities still have a chance to provide feedback and suggestions on proposed projects. Lydia reported that the website is up and running and being enhanced continuously and that the facebook is increasing in popularity. Presently the projects being suggested require a budget greater than that which will be available. She mentioned that Parish Councils, as partners of the project, can potentially access further funds via numerous charitable organisations. Lydia referred to a colleague, Katherine Williams who could assist with funding applications. Lydia reported she was arranging posters to be created and shared across the valley highlighting to residents the work and projects proposed as well as ways people can provide feedback. There was discussion around local footpaths and feedback Lydia was seeking on where improvements / repairs were needed. The Chair thanked Lydia for her work on the project and time to attend the meeting.

5. Matters arising

- a) Relocation of 30mph sign location** – The Clerk advised he had not heard from Neil Snowdon (NCC) but would continue to chase.
- b) Ray Wind update** – Cllr Simmance reported that at the most recent meeting a decision had been made to progress the formation of the CIO. He advised that there was a further meeting scheduled on 16 February that would include Community Foundation. Concern was expressed over the possible need for match funding with applications to Ray Wind that may put people off applying due to the extra work.
- c) Condition of Raylees Road** – There was concern voiced that the road was becoming more and more dangerous with reports of incidents of near misses when vehicles meet each other. It was reported the road was too narrow and there too few passing places. It was also highlighted that the road between Landshott and Whiskeyshiel had all but eroded away. It was reported that the road to Harwood was so bad that it required driving in the middle of the road to avoid the worse potholes. Additionally Cllr White reported that the car park surface needed urgent attention.

Bonfire debris – It was noted that the debris remained but it was agreed hiring a skip would be too expensive.

Notice board – It was reported that David Scott had finished the notice board. The cost of this work was being met by EPIC.

6. Finance:

There were no finance matters on the agenda this month.

7. Planning:

- a) 16/04729/FUL: Demolition of dilapidated farm building and erection of new agricultural building: Monkridge Farm, Otterburn, NE19 1ND:** – This application had been shared prior to the meeting. It was confirmed that there were no objections.

Liberty Hill Farm – Woodland creation: The Clerk provided details of the application received and shared with the Councillors. Concern was raised over the potential impact for the local residents, especially their water supply from the spring that may be effected. A question was also asked as to whether the quality of soil could sustain trees. The Clerk was asked to feedback comments.

8. New business:

- a) May local elections: The Clerk provided details of the process and timelines for the elections on May 4. It was agreed there was a need to publicise the elections in an effort to encourage nominations. The Clerk was asked to prepare a 'flyer'.
- b) Pothole fund for North East: The Clerk provided detail of an email received from Anne-Marie Trevelyan.
- c) Rothbury Community Hospital: The consultation was discussed and there were concerns that the NHS had already decided the fate hospital. It was however agreed to encourage residents to complete the consultation.
- d) NCC stakeholder survey: The Clerk provided details.
- e) Otterburn Memorial Hall surgery – permanent closure: The Clerk advised he had received confirmation of this matter from the Bellingham Surgery.

9. Any other business:

- a) The NNPA Local Plan community workshop meeting on 12 April in the Elsdon Village Hall from 2.00 – 5.00 was highlighted. This is an opportunity for residents to have their say on what are the most important issues relating to planning in their local area.
- b) The Chair mentioned it was planned to plant the tree whips on 11 February at Checkgate.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 16 March, 2017, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 9.25pm