

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 13 April, 2017

Present: Councillors, Colby (Chair), Simmance, Maddison, White and Tait. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. David Renton, Glen Graham, Peter Morgan, Julia Plinston (CAN – 7.05 - 7.40).

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.

5. Matters arising

a) Ray Wind update – Cllr Simmance advised that the drop-in event on 6 April in Elsdon seemed to have gone well and attended by a good number of the local community. He advised that there was a meeting on 19 April with legal representatives to discuss the creation of a Community Interest Company (CIC). This was now considered the preferred option for the Steering Group to be able assist the community within the catchment area of Ray Wind.

b) Condition of Raylees Road – The Clerk confirmed he had registered interest in having passing places created along the road as well as signs indicating priority for one direction of traffic but as yet had no response.

4. Guest speaker – Julia Plinston, Community Development Officer, CAN – re Local Community Transport requirements: The Chair welcomed Julia who provided details of a project that CAN and Adapt are jointly working together and commissioned by NCC to establish what rural transport needs are. Julia advised Adapt are providing a Help Phone-line service to assist people with options of how they can best travel to meet their needs depending on their circumstances. She advised there have been many calls in respect of Patient Transfer Service and Adapt have been helping people with their appeals. CAN have undertaken a quick transport audit confirming options are limited within Elsdon and the surrounding area. Whilst it is acknowledged that in the present climate extra bus services will not be provided it was agreed that an appropriate questionnaire to local residents would help to establish the need within the Parish. Julia advised this would be kept short and likely to be based on the fundamental question of “regular journeys people would like / need to make but cannot or is difficult to do”. There was discussion highlighting the known difficulties in the area and possible solutions. Julia agreed to draft a questionnaire and seek feedback before it is distributed across the Rede Valley and asked for assistance in promoting the research in an effort to have as many returned as possible. The Chair thanked Julia for her time.

6. Finance:

- a) **Clerk’s salary and expenses:** The sum of £414.99 was agreed that included a book of second class stamps, mileage in respect of candidate nomination paperwork and a new printer cartridge.
- b) **Annual Audit:** The statement of Accounts and Annual Governance statement 2016-17 were agreed. A review was undertaken of the Asset register.
- c) **Payment of invoice to Village Hall for hire from October 2016 to March 2017:** The payment of £60.00 was agreed.

7. Planning:

a) **17NP0009LBC: Strengthening & maintenance comprising the introduction of a reinforced concrete saddle and re-appointing of joints: Elsdon Mill Bridge, Elsdon – withdrawal of application:** It was reported that the application had to be withdrawn whilst a bat survey was undertaken at the location.

- b) Easement across the Village Green: Mr Graham provided details of the matter his mortgage lender had highlighted regarding only domestic vehicles being permitted to cross the village green in respect of the easement previously completed on behalf of the Parish Council. The Councillors admitted this was an error by the legal representative for the Parish Council and it was agreed by all Councillors to complete a consent form allowing appropriate vehicles to access the plot. The Chair signed the consent form.
- c) Registration of the village green: The Clerk provided an update 'evidence' paper providing many examples of the Parish Council's ownership of the village green. This was shared to all Councillors and all were in agreement. The Chair signed the form and the Clerk advised he would contact Land Registry in an effort to complete the matter.

8. New business:

- a) Quoits tournament on village green, 3 June: Cllr Tait advised that the date had now changed to later in June but as yet to be confirmed. Permission was being sought to mark a playing area and erect a tent on the village green. It was reported that Katie Bland would be attempting to set up a local team. It was suggested the event could happen at possibly the same day as the 'Big lunch'.
- b) Parking at Kielder for Elsdon residents: The Clerk advised the 'Discovery Pass' offer of 50% discount had been posted on the parish Council website and it was confirmed Town Crier had shared the details.
- c) Freedom of Information training slides: The Clerk advised that he had emailed the link to these slides to all Councillors.
- d) Defibrillator training: The Clerk advised that Damien Weston was willing to provide further training if there was a demand for it. It was agreed put details on the website and share via the Town Crier and anyone interested should contact the Clerk.
- e) Update on Middle Hill Action Group: Cllr Simmance advised that at the AGM a decision had been made to continue the existence of the group but to put 'it on ice' for now. Cllr Simmance advised he had resigned from the group.
- f) Preparations for Elsdon 2017 bonfire & fireworks: It was noted that with increased focus from the parish Council insurers the risk assessments needed reviewing. The Clerk shared the copies developed and it was agreed to add aspects highlighted at the meeting before sharing with the organisers of the events.
- g) Departing and new Councillors: The Clerk confirmed that with five standing for the new Parish Council there would be an uncontested election on 4 May. He also covered the matters the Councillors would need to complete. The Chair welcomed the new Councillors into their roles. Cllr Maddison thanked the Chair for her time and added that in the 30 years he has been on the Parish Council there has been no better Chair. Cllr Simmance added his agreement and thanked also the services of Cllrs Tait and White for their time on the Parish Council.

9. Any other business:

There was nothing reported.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 11 May, 2017, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon

Meeting closed at 8.55pm