

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

Present: Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Maddison, Graham and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllr France, Helen Hill, Katie Scott and John Devlin (both until 7.30)

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Morgan

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.

Katie Scott (Save Rothbury Community Hospital): The Chair welcomed Katie who provided an update on the latest developments in the campaign to keep the Rothbury hospital open. She spoke of the data collection exercise they are looking to undertake and provided copies as well as promised to provide electric copies for availability online for residents to complete.

Katie Scott referred to the recent news of the matter being referred to the Secretary of State for onward consultation by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP). She highlighted the need to report additional information to the IRP and provided a letter prepared by the Campaign Committee seeking endorsement from the Parish Council. After reading the letter and discussion the Chair signed the letter on behalf of the Parish Council.

4. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update** – The Chair advised that there had been no further meeting since the last Parish Council meeting. The next meeting for the Ray Windfarm CIC was on 15 November. The Chair reported that a more detailed business plan and financial forecast had been prepared going to a five year plan and that this had been submitted to Vattenfall. The Chair highlighted that there was still only ‘passing’ reference the properties within Elsdon Parish that had no mains electricity. The Chair reported that he had met and spoken to Lord Devonport when attending the recent NNPA Local Plan consultation.
- b) New and relocating road signage in Elsdon** – The Clerk reported he had spoken to Richard Mackenzie (NCC) in the absence of Neil Snowdon (NCC). He had confirmed the project had been signed-off and all that was waiting for was a start date.
- c) Street name signposting** – The Clerk advised he hoped to be able to provide a progress report on this matter at the next meeting.
- d) East Elsdon bridge** – There was discussion regarding the email the Clerk had received from the engineer. Whilst it was believed the second arch should have been cleared it was recognised the waterflow generally along the burn was lower than it used to be in the past. It was acknowledged that the drainage alongside the bridge had been cleared by the contractors. The condition of the second bridge close by was discussed and it was agreed the Clerk would write to NCC highlighting the need for repair work to be undertaken on this as well.

5. Finance:

- a) The Clerk reviewed the latest Parish Council finances and there was discussion regarding the forecast spend for the rest of the financial year. It was agreed to consider possible spend for 2018-19 and agree the next precept at the December meeting.
- b) It was agreed to make a donation of £50.00 to the Great North Air Ambulance.
- c) There was discussion regarding the donation request from Tynedale Hospice. Whilst acknowledged the excellent work the Hospice undertakes it was questioned how many of the Elsdon parishioners benefit from it.

It was agreed to check if the hospice covers local residents and whether there are appropriate good causes for the Parish Council to consider.

6. Planning:

- a) 17/03688/FUL: Re-siting of vehicle access onto A696 to serve Ravenscleugh with associated construction of new access track: Street record access road to Ravenscleugh, Elsdon: The Clerk confirmed he had collated the Councillors comments and the support for the application had been reported to NCC.

7. New business:

- a) Remembrance service: Cllr Maddison confirmed he had added the centre piece to the wreath and the Chair confirmed he would be attending to lay the wreath.
- b) Northumberland National Park Local Plan consultation – The Chair advised he had attended and spoken to Clive Coyne of NNPA. The Chair advised that further drop-in sessions would be available in the local area and encouraged all to provide feedback. Cllr France provided thoughts on the challenges the NNPA face to strike the appropriate balance between visitors and people living in the National Park and surrounding area. It was agreed to encourage as many local residents as possible reviewed the paper and provided feedback.
- c) Review of the Elsdon firework and bonfire evening: Cllr Renton returned the risk assessment paperwork signed by the event organisers. It was agreed there had been a good turnout for the event and everyone had seemed to enjoy themselves. It was highlighted that NCC had not arrived to close the road as agreed so this had to be done by the organisers.
- d) Data protection regulations: The Clerk advised he would look to provide an update on this matter at the next meeting.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Renton advised that he would obtain a quote from A. Dodd for the removal of a tree and stump to be taken out and made safe.
- b) Cllr Renton agreed to dig a hole in readiness for the oak tree donated by Helen Hill. Cllr Maddison agreed to construct a protection to put round the tree.
- c) The Chair highlighted an email he had received from CAN requesting a donation. The matter was discussed and it was agreed CAN had been helpful in a number of matters and a donation of £50.00 was agreed.
- d) The Chair made reference to the EPIC meeting on 6 November where there was discussion on the proposed development of the pinfold. All Councillors were in agreement with the plans.
- e) The Chair advised that Cllr Bridgett had been in touch to confirm funding from his budget would be made available for the necessary work on the car park. This, it was anticipated, would be completed before the end of the current financial year and include required work on drainage.

- 9. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 14 December, 2017, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm