

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14 December, 2017

Present: Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Maddison, Morgan and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Alison Simmance (until 7.25)

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Graham

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.

Cllr Maddison wished for it to be noted for thanks to Cllr Renton who by himself cleared the debris left from the recent bonfire on the village green.

4. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update** – The Chair highlighted his letters of resignation from the Community Interest Company (CIC). He advised to separate letters were sent. One to the Chair of the CIC (Peter Ramsden) and a second to Berry Jordan of Vattenfall. There was discussion regarding the Chairs replacement on the CIC to represent Elsdon Parish Council. It was agreed to provide an update message on the Parish Council website and Town Crier and at the same time seek volunteers from the Parish. It was agreed the Clerk would draft a note and share with the Councillors for approval. The Clerk advised that a revised Grant Agreement had been presented by Vattenfall and this was currently with the legal advisers.
- b) New and relocating road signage in Elsdon** – The Clerk reported he had not received any further communication from NCC regarding the agreed work in Elsdon. Reference was made to the work on the car park and connecting road to Landshott gate. The Clerk advised he had responded to the email from NCC regarding the work and highlighted that whilst there should be junction road markings at the car park to the main road the timing needed to be agreed between this and the resurfacing work that Cllr Bridgett had agreed to fund. It was highlighted that parking bay line markings would also be beneficial in the car park.
- c) Street name signposting** – The Clerk highlighted the email shared for the replacement road sign reading “Crawford Crescent leading to Crawford Close”. This quoted a cost of £110.00 plus £20.00 delivery plus VAT. Cllr Morgan asked whether there were other signs that also required replacing. There was also discussion regarding the location of the sign if purchased. Cllr Morgan advised he had spoken to the home owner at the ideal location who was agreeable to the proposal. It was believed that a possible second location (fence) was owned by NCC. Cllr Maddison also highlighted his belief that NCC had removed the original sign so perhaps before the Parish Council purchased a replacement contact with NCC should be made for return of the sign although it was noted this was many years ago.
- d) Data protection regulations** – The email share by the Clerk was discussed. It was agreed that at this time the matter would be monitored whilst NALC investigated further however it was noted a possible annual fee of £55.00 could possibly be introduced from May 2018 for all local councils.
- e) Development of village green pinfold update** – The Clerk advised he had not as yet received a response from NNPA regarding the proposals for the pinfold and it was agreed to defer the matter to the January meeting.

5. Finance:

- a) Finance update / Precept 2018-19** – There was discussion on the likely spend in the next financial year. It was noted that the Parish Council had a healthy bank balance at present but the Councillors did not want to be in the position where a large precept increase would be needed. The Councillors agreed to increase the Clerk’s annual salary from £750 to £780 from 1 April, 2018. Cllr Morgan suggested a precept increase of £25.00 to £1,525 and this was agreed by all Councillors.
- b)** It was agreed to pay Spanglefish £24.96 + VAT for the 2018 website subscription.

c) It was agreed to pay £18.50 for the Remembrance wreath.

6. Planning:

- a) 17NP0120: Conversion of former agricultural building to form holiday let: East Todholes, Elsdon, NE191BS – All Councillors agreed to support the application.
- b) Screening for afforestation at Liberty Hill, Elsdon – The Chair highlighted several points that he had noted from the paperwork. All were agreed and supported by fellow Councillors and the Clerk was asked to collate and provide the feedback.
- c) 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 shared the email he had received from NCC regarding the road signage in respect of this application.
- d) Elsdon (Knightside) bridge repairs update – The Clerk advised he had not received any update from NCC on this matter and it was agreed to defer the topic to the next meeting.

7. New business:

- a) Revitalising Redesdale. Assessors decision: The Clerk confirmed he had received an email from Lydia Speakman to advise the Assessors had agreed for the project to proceed and would be receiving the National Lottery Funding. It was highlighted that four project related jobs had been advertised on the Revitalising Redesdale facebook and those possibly interested in applying should view for details.
- b) Pharmacy Needs Assessment (PNA) Consultation – The Clerk shared the details and link for people to view and comment on the consultation.
- c) Interactive speeds signs: There was discussion on the merits of these and locations where these are installed. It was agreed that as there was no obligation to purchase the signs the Parish Council should register an interest.
- d) Clearing of debris from bonfire on village green: As earlier noted thanks was given to Cllr Renton for his work in clearing the debris.
- e) Courier deliveries: The Chair advised he had received an email from a resident who was fed-up with the number of delivery van drivers asking them for directions in Elsdon. It was noted that there was approximately 30 properties with the same post code (NE19 1AA) and it appeared this may be the source of the problem. There was discussion on the possible options to resolve the problem and it was agreed the Clerk would write to Royal Mail for advice.
- f) Green Rigg Windfarm, next deadline date for applications: The Clerk advised he had shared for the details of the date in January for the next deadline to submit applications.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Maddison provided details of the access across the village green to Harbinger House that had been cut up in the poor weather. It was agreed that it was not apparent that it was an access route to the property as it was just grass and that perhaps required some indication including the possibility of putting a gravel track down.
- b) Cllr Morgan highlighted that the Rothbury practice was moving to the Community Hospital on 15 December.
- c) Cllr Morgan provided details of the Prince's Trust that the Bird in Bush had been successful in receiving an award.
- d) Cllr Renton reported on the broken drain along the gibbet road near The Lonning. He advised that consequently water was flooding across the road and freezing causing dangerous conditions. It was agreed to report this to NCC for repair as soon as possible.
- e) The Chair highlighted that the Leader application for the work on the village hall car park and roof had successfully made it through the first stage of assessment.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 11 January, 2018, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm