

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12 April, 2018

Present: Councillors, Simmance (Chair), Maddison, Morgan, and Renton. Clerk - Martin Chilvers. Cllrs S. Bolam & C. France. Paul Cowie (from 7.30 – 8.15)

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.

4. Matters arising

- a) **Ray Wind update / Parish Council representative decision** – The Clerk provided details from the most recent Ray Windfarm meeting. It appeared the Small Grants Fund is proving popular and whilst deadline for the first applications is 16 April it is believed there will be a good number of applications submitted to the Community Foundation. There was discussion and agreement that perhaps a greater proportion of the overall annual funds should be directed to the Community Foundation to cover the demand.
- b) **New and relocating road signage in Elsdon** – The Clerk advised he was still chasing up NCC to replace the damaged signs as well as complete the remaining aspects of the work. It was noted that the ‘Diversion’ signs still remained in place following road closure before Easter. The Clerk was asked to chase NCC for the removal of these.
- c) **Street name signposting** – Cllr Morgan advised he didn’t have the tools to undertake the work to install the new sign. It was agreed to seek the tools in the village so the sign can be put in place.
- d) **Action required regarding Data protection regulations** – The Clerk provided an update on the latest position and advised he would be attending a NALC training event in May.
- e) **Development of village green pinfold update** – The Chair advised the application was submitted on 14 March. The Clerk confirmed the Parish Council had received the details from National Park but had advised it was unable to comment given the Parish Councils interest in the matter.
- f) **Elsdon (Knightside) bridge** – The Chair advised he had met David Moat (NCC) at the bridge. He was advised that the problems had been reported and that the matter was in ‘the system’ to monitor and take action as appropriate. The Chair advised from there he went to assess the drainage problem at the Lonning junction to the road. Mr Moat promised the NCC would look into whose responsibility it is to repair the damage. The Clerk advised he is still corresponding with NCC to the ownership and responsibility to repair the ditch. The Chair advised he and Mr Moat also visited the flooded area at Grasslees and the flooded area at Soppit Lane. Mr Moat advised that the latter of these two was due to a collapsed culvert and he would get Highways to look into the repair. It was reported by Cllr Maddison that a lot of debris taken from the ditches along the Raylees road has been pushed back in by the larger vehicles using the road whilst the road closure was in affect near Bird in Bush. Cllr Renton highlighted the land slippage on the A696 at Raylees.

Paul Cowie was welcomed by the Chair and thanked for taking on the Ray Windfarm representative for the Parish Council. Mr Cowie provided his thoughts from his first meeting and suggested he would like to assess how windfarm funds are generally spent across the country He advised he had joined the Ray Windfarm Strategic sub-committee and advised he hoped the projects would provide a social return as well as a financial return. It was agreed he would attend Parish Council meeting as and when appropriate to update on progress of the Ray Windfarm CIC.

- g) **Gibbet road drainage problems** – This topic was covered under agenda item 4f.
- h) **State of roads around Elsdon (potholes, flooding an damaged surfaces)** – It was noted that a number of pot holes locally had recently been filled although it was highlighted there was much to do as many roads were still in a very poor state.
- i) **Request for additional grit bins within Elsdon** – The Clerk advised he was still corresponding with NCC for these to be added on the Gibbet Road as well as repair of the one near the Pinfold.

- j) Car park resurfacing update – The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Bridgett for an update on progress.
- k) Update on replacement of damaged road sign near the Pinfold – The Clerk advised he was still chasing NCC for replacement signs.

5. Finance:

- a) Review of Parish finances and plans for 2018-19 – The Clerk provided an update for the last financial year. This included an opening balance of £3,961 and closing balance of £3,914. He advised that the only income apart from the £1,500 precept was the wayleave payment from Northern Powergrid of £137. Expenses for the year included the Clerk's salary of £750, Parish Insurance of £280, Donations for £100 annual subscriptions of £68 and stationery of £42. It was agreed that attention and possible spend in 2018-19 could be on the removal of the tree stump in the village green as well work to strengthen the village green in various places as well as improve drainage where it was prone to flooding on the village green.
- b) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017-18 – The Clerk provided details of the new process with the new external auditors and went through the paperwork prepared. All were in agreement to the figures and the Chair & Clerk signed the relevant paperwork.
- c) Consideration for Parish Council online banking - The Chair advised he had not received anything from Barclays Bank as yet and it was agreed this would be chased up.
- d) Payment of Clerk's salary & expenses for October 2017 – April 2018 – The payment of £396.96 that included a book of second class stamps was agreed.
- e) Payment for replacement defibrillator pads – The Chair reported that EPIC had the reserve for this payment and the Clerk was asked to forward the invoice to Carol Lewins for payment of £58.90

6. Planning:

- a) There were no planning applications to consider this month.

7. New business:

- a) Review of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way and decision on any evidence to provide NCC: There was discussion on each of the six routes provided by NCC. There was confusion as to why some of the routes, which were dead-ends and/or already council-owned roads, were included. There was also concern that people using 4x4 on the untarmacked routes would ruin the surface. It was also questioned as to what the minimum width of the routes would have to be if status was to be changed. It was agreed the Clerk would write to Alex Bell (NCC) to seek clarification before reviewing at the next meeting.
- b) Sandstone Way – consideration to apparent repairs needed – Whilst direct contact had not been received it was understood by the Councillors that an application to Ray Windfarm had been made for repairs on a section of the route that is within Elsdon Parish. With knowledge of the route it was questioned as to how there would be any benefit to Elsdon as cyclists using the route are unlikely to make a detour to Elsdon village when travelling from Rothbury to Bellingham.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Morgan shared the Revitalising Redesdale submission book to HLF that included details of the proposed projects.
- b) The Clerk was asked to prepare a road closure request to NCC for the Elsdon Village Fete on the August Bank Holiday Monday.
- c) It was reported that the Village Hall had been successful in obtaining funding for £3,000 to replace the stage.
- d) Cllr Maddison reported that he and the Chair had approached workmen attempting to dig a trench across Crown Farm entrance to install a new LED light. The Parish Council had not been contacted about this and the Clerk was asked to investigate.
- e) It was reported that Mr Coles who was presently managing the Elsdon website wished to step back from this from June and asked if there was anyone else who take it on. It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

- 9. **Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 10 May that would include both the Annual Parish meeting and the Ordinary meeting, starting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Elsdon. Meeting closed at 9.35pm