

## **Elwick Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 24 June 2013 held at Elwick School**

**Present:** Cllrs. C. Banks (in the Chair), P. Hutchinson, J. Londesbrough, R. Musgrave, L. Parks, H. Thompson and R. Thompson

**Also present:** Mrs. West (Parish Clerk), Ward Cllr. B. Loynes, Barry Coppinger, Police and Crime Commissioner, Rachelle Kipling, Assistant to the Commissioner; PC K. Robinson, PCSO K. Jones.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Coppinger, who gave a brief presentation on his role and some of the initiatives taken since taking up his position in April. These included initiatives on Restorative Justice, Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence against Women and Children as well as Hate Crimes against the Disabled, Retail Crime and, of particular interest to Elwick – Rural Crime, which is an issue within the force and its review of policing priorities. He plans to hold a conference on this topic in September, and police from both Durham and North Yorkshire will attend. He referred members to the Crime Plan, which has now been published (see [www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk](http://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk)) and explained how some very difficult financial decisions were being considered in view of the funding reductions in the forthcoming years. The Chairman thanked him warmly for his attendance and invited him to return next year to inform of progress. At this point Mr. Coppinger and Miss Kipling left the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** none
2. **Public Forum:** CPSO Jones was welcomed back following her sick leave. It was noted that there had been three incidents reported in the last month. The increased response referred to by Mr. Coppinger, had been very helpful in apprehending 4 men at one incident. PC Robinson and CPSO Jones left the meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Minutes of 29 May 2013:** Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
5. **Matters Arising:**
  - (a) **Bus service update:** Cllr. Loynes reported that a meeting had been held by Rural Ward Councillors with Paul's Travel and that a quotation later received, for extending the service to cover West Park, had proved too expensive.
  - (b) **Mobile Home:** Cllr. Loynes reported that officers of HBC Planning Dept. were investigating.
  - (c) **No Parking sign/Flower tubs:** Cllr. R. Thompson apologised for not having reaffixed the sign or filled the flower tubs and agreed to undertake both tasks immediately.  
**Action:** R. Thompson to reaffix 'No Parking' notice board and to top up flower tubs as necessary.
  - (e) **Footpath at No 4 The Green:** The Chairman reported that he had asked BGS to undertake the clearing of the footpath, which was now heavily overgrown.
6. **Chairman's Report:**
  - a) Stones on the village green by the Terrace had been moved allowing access for vehicles onto the Green. Cllr. Parks agreed to ensure these were replaced ASAP. **Action:** Cllr. Parks to arrange for stones to be replaced.
  - b) It was agreed that the flower bed on North Lane would be difficult to maintain if grassed. BGS have been asked to provide a quote for covering the area with membrane and chippings.
  - c) Chairman is to meet with Brian Footitt, Chair of the Village Atlas Group and Robin Daniels, Archaeologist, on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>, to identify appropriate part of Green for archaeological dig in July, already agreed by the Parish Council.
7. **Ward Councillor's Report:**

Cllr. Loynes reported that she had informed officers of the road water problem at Elwick House;

the drain blockage near North Urn Farm had been dealt with (noted by Cllr. R. Thompson that the sandbags have been removed). The pavement near the school had also been repaired. The trees in Martindale Close were included on the list of trees to be maintained this summer. No meeting of the Red Gap Liaison Group had as yet been held, but that one would be arranged shortly, once all the planning issues had been resolved. The street lights had been reported, and should be repaired within the next few weeks, as new, stronger lanterns had been ordered. Road resurfacing was to be carried out during July and August, including Dalton Back Lane and Coal Lane. Councillor Loynes was thanked for her help in these matters.

The Chairman reported that water, originating in North lane, and running down Church Bank was now undercutting the road near the bridge. Cllr. Musgrave requested that mirrors be placed in Church Lane to improve visibility for oncoming traffic, and a branch of a tree was broken and overhanging the road. Cllr. Loynes agreed to arrange a meeting with officers of the Borough Council and the PC Chairman. **Action:** Cllr. Loynes to arrange a meeting as agreed.

8. **Maintenance Sub-Committee report:** Cllr. H. Thompson reported that she had prioritised the tasks into three categories of importance. The most urgent included the pavements in Martindale Close and North Lane, and up to the entrance/exit to the village. The Sub-Committee felt the steps, installed in 1977 up to the Church are in need of renovation as they are difficult for elderly people to use. Many pavements are covered in moss making them slippery in wet weather or frost/snow, and dangerous. It was agreed that these issues were the responsibility of the Borough Council. The second and third group are tasks which are mainly the responsibility of the Parish Council including the side road up to 12 The Green and beyond, where the corner of the road is collapsing, and in urgent need of repair. This road is part of the village green. Benches around the village require treatment. It was agreed that Cllr. Hutchinson would provide tarmac to support the road corner and that arrangements be made to treat the benches. **Actions:** Cllr. Loynes to ask officers of the Borough Council to take action as necessary; Cllr. Hutchinson to provide tarmac for the road and Cllr. R. Thompson to arrange for the benches to be treated.

9. **Financial Report:**

The Clerk presented the financial transactions report as follows:

<b>Receipts:</b>		<b>Payments:</b>	
Bequest for the Bus Service	£340.00	Bus Service	£430.00
Wayleave	<u>£ 6.90</u>	Grass Cutting	£600.00
	<b><u>£346.90</u></b>	Clerk's salary	£375.00
		Training	£ 58.80
		Insurance	£515.49
		Internal Audit	£ 50.00
		Room Hire	<u>£ 10.00</u>
			<b><u>£2,039.29</u></b>

The report was accepted. The Clerk further requested that the Council formally agree to transfer all their business to the Unity Trust Bank. Cllr. Banks proposed, and Cllr. Londesbrough seconded, a motion to transfer the Parish Council's banking to the Unity Trust Bank with immediate effect and that the Parish Clerk is authorised to manage the accounts, and to make any internal transactions she sees fit, at any time, without reference to the cheque signatories. The motion was carried unanimously.

10. **Correspondence:**

- (i) Notice from Hartlepool Borough Council about the closing dates for consultations on proposals for the Gypsy and travellers Sites. Councillors noted with appreciation, the openness and transparency of the process which had been undertaken, but had no comment to make on the sites proposed.

**Action:** Clerk to write to HBC planning in this regard.

11. **Any Other Business:**

- (a) Cllr. Hutchinson reported that refuse collectors had been observed dragging bins through the newly planted hedge near the former council houses.

**Action:** Cllr. Loynes to report this to officers responsible for the cleansing contract.

(b) Cllr. Londesbrough resigned from the Conservation Area Advisory Committee. Cllr. Parks offered to replace her, and this was **agreed. Action:** Clerk to inform Conservation Officer of the change.

12. **Planning Applications:** None

13. **Date of next meeting:** 7.00 pm, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at Elwick WI Hall.