

Elwick Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 28 October 2013 at Elwick WI Hall

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).

- 1 **Apologies for absence:** Ward Cllr. B. Loynes
- 2 **Public Forum:** The Chair reported that the Landlady of the McOrville and an adjacent householder had raised with him concerns about the increasing number of vehicles parking on the double yellow lines opposite the pub, which prevents vehicles from accessing the pub car park. After discussion, it was **agreed** that a site visit with the Borough Engineer and officer responsible for parking issues, to which the McOrville and Spotted Cow publicans and the shop/PO owner would be invited, and an article placed in the next issue of Village Life.
Action: Clerk to write to Mike Blair requesting a site visit, copied to Cllr. Loynes. Chair to ensure article is written for Village Life.
- 3 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. H. Thompson declared an interest in Agenda item 14.
- 4 **Minutes of 30 September 2013:** Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
- 5 **Matters Arising:**
 - a. **(2) Flooding:** Cllr. Loynes has reported that Borough Engineers have undertaken a survey of the area, though their report is not yet ready.
 - b. **(5) Street lights:** Cllr. Loynes has reported that the new street lights were more energy efficient and are being introduced throughout the Borough.
 - c. **(5) 20 MPH zone:** Clerk to enquire as to when the new speed limit will be in place.
 - d. **(5) Stones on The Green:** Cllr. R. Thompson, in liaison with Cllr. Parks, has agreed that 5 stones are to be placed in the next week.
 - e. **(5) Hedge opposite Tunstall School:** it was noted that this had still not been cut back.
 - f. **(7a) Mobile library:** Response received from Denise Ogden – our concerns are noted.
 - (7c) Rural Broadband:** The full application has now been submitted; Borough Councillors have agreed to contribute, £1,000 to the cost, Greatham PC £500 and Elwick PC £500.
 - g. **(7d/e) Christmas Tree lights:** These have been purchased. 'Friends of Elwick' have asked that the lights be switched on in time for their Christmas event on the Green. Councillors were concerned that the Friends are not using the school in their title, Cllr. Londesbrough to raise this with their committee.
 - h. **(12a/b) Spotted Cow:** the Conservation Officer, has replied that the required planning permission for the sign had not been sought and that this was to be taken up with the brewery. No mention in the reply was made of the change of colour to the exterior of the building, which also requires planning permission. This was to be raised again. It was also noted that the three flower tubs in front of the pub are not being maintained. It is thought that the landlords may not be aware that the previous landlord agreed to maintain these. **Action:** Clerk to write to Sarah Scarr again regarding the colour scheme and to mention the tubs to the landlords.
 - i. **(12c) North Lane Hedge:** Cllr. Hutchinson offered to cut this.
 - j. **(7b) Resurfacing of roads:** Coal Lane and Dalton back Lane have now been resurfaced.
 - k. **(11iv) Trees on the Green:** A site meeting has been held with Derek Wardle, HBC, who agreed that the trees needed pruning but planning permission is required. **Action:** Clerk to complete the application and once approved to seek tenders for the work. Cllr. R. Thompson noted that the Woodland Trust was offering packs of free trees to Councils. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that Councillors should consider if and where such trees might be planted. **Action:** Topic to be an agenda item at the November meeting.
- 6 **Bus Service:**

Following discussion it was **agreed** that: The Parish Council wish to see a bus service continue through 2014 subject to the level of subsidy remaining similar to 2013/14, Also the service provider be asked to reconsider the route to include West Park and reduce the length of time to reach the town centre. It was also agreed that the Chair should explore the possibility of Ward Councillors continuing their financial support. **Action:** Chair to contact Ward Councillors, Clerk to discuss with Paul's Travel.
- 7 **Chairman's Report:**
 - (i) The October skip had been placed at the wrong venue – it should have been next to the Forge, but was placed in Manor Close. **Action:** Clerk to raise with Baxketh's.
 - (ii) No requests have been received for a bonfire on the Green on November 5th. Councillors **agreed** that no such permission would be given. The Council's Insurance Company will be informed to this effect.

- (iii) The school sign on North Lane has been turned to face the wrong way. This has been the situation for at least three months and has been raised informally with officers several times by the Chair. **Action:** Clerk to write to relevant HBC officer.
- (iv) Wayleaves are due. After some discussion it was agreed to raise the Wayleave to £5 per house to cover administration costs. **Action:** Clerk to send out Wayleave demands.
- (v) Church Bank – the road at the bottom requires significant reconstruction which will entail closing Church Bank for approx..4 weeks. Following some discussion on a possible permanent one-way system, it was **agreed** to postpone the decision until after the work had been completed.

7. Limestone Landscapes Project:

It was noted that the Village Atlas group would be undertaking the photographing/recording of all buildings in the village from 13-15 November, as part of the project.

8. Rural Plan:

In order to progress the Rural Plan, each Parish had been asked to identify the preferred limits of their village envelope. The Chair reminded all that the Local Development Plan, recently rejected by the Borough Council, had identified a small area to the north east of the village as the only area for development. There was now an opportunity to revisit this decision if Councillors so wished. Cllr. Londesbrough proposed and Cllr. H. Thompson seconded a motion to retain the village envelope as per the rejected Local Plan. This was **unanimously agreed**.

9. Financial Report:

The Clerk presented a statement of transactions undertaken since the last meeting as follows:

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Reimbursement of Rural Plan		Grass Cutting	600.00
Expenses	<u>56.00</u>	Bus Service	430.00
		Clerk's salary (3 months)	375.00
		Skip Hire	312.00
		Rural Plan catering	132.00
		Village Maintenance	45.00
		Hall hire	<u>10.00</u>
			<u>1,904.00</u>

The report was accepted, as was the revised budget for the current year.

10. Budget/Precept 2014/15:

The Clerk presented a provisional budget for 2014/15. **Agreed** that this be discussed at the next meeting.

11. Correspondence:

Letters received from AON Insurance re: Bonfire and Fireworks events (covered under 7(iii)), and from Tyne & Wear Play Association offering training in Maintenance of Play Equipment. Councillors requested that the Clerk seek information from the Borough Council regarding inspection arrangements for the Playing Field. **Action:** Clerk to contact Council in this regard.

12. Ward Councillor's Report:

Cllr. Loynes had submitted a written report all items of which had already been covered during the meeting.

13. Planning:

H/2013/0479 – Hospital Site Wynyard Park – No Comment.

Diversion Order for Public Footpath No.22 at Close Farm – No objections noted.

14. AOB:

- a) Cllr. R. Thompson thanked for clearing the Church Bank footpaths of leaves at the weekend.
- b) The Clerk reported several requests for extra steps to be created in the steep slope at the top end of the footpath up to the Church. Agreed that, as it is an urgent Health & Safety measure, the Parish Council should undertake this. Mark White to be approached to undertake this work. **Action:** Cllr. H. Thompson to contact Mr. White and arrange for the work to be undertaken as soon as possible.
- c) The Clerk requested that the Parish Council purchase the recent NALC publication 'Local Councils Explained' at a cost of £55.99 including P&P. **Unanimously agreed**.

15. Date of Next meeting: 7.00 pm Monday 25 November at Elwick School.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.