

Elwick Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 27 January 2014 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: Ward Cllr. B. Loynes, Mrs. West (Parish Clerk).

1. **Apologies for absence:** None
2. **Public Forum:** A resident raised the issue of parking outside the McOrville and damage caused to residents' vehicles as a result of poor parking, including parking on the double yellow lines and pavements. She asked if the Parish Council could assist. The Chair noted that this issue is the subject of ongoing discussion with officers of the Borough Council. **Action:** Cllr. Loynes to organise a further meeting between the relevant officers, the Parish Council and those affected by the parking issue, including the pubs, shop and residents.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **Minutes of 25 November 2013:** Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. (4d) **Spotted Cow.** Retrospective planning permission had been given for the new lights but no response from Marstons Brewery. The Chair reported that two windows of the former cottage at the east end of the pub have been blocked in and painted over. This is within the conservation area and has changed the character of the building, yet he was not aware that any planning approval had been applied for. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to investigate with Conservation Officer.
 - b. (4e) **Bus service:** Paul's Travel remains unable to give an indication of the level of financial support required to ensure the service for 2014/15 as they await financial information on ENCT support. It was noted that Ward Councillors may be able to provide some limited funding, subject to minor route changes. **Action:** Clerk to write to Paul's Travel.
 - c. (4j) **Steps on Church Bank:** The Contractor had suggested refurbishing all the steps and path and given a provisional quote of £1,000 for the work. **Action:** Cllr. H. Thompson to seek a detailed quotation from Mr. White.
 - d. (4k) **Trees on the East end of Green:** Permission for the work on the two sycamores has been received. The Clerk had obtained three quotes for the work. **Agreed** that the job be given to J. Grundy Tree Services. Only one quote had been received for the root trimming outside Village Farm. **Action:** Clerk to inform Mr. Grundy and ask for a quote for the root trimming work.
 - e. (8a) **Website:** The Chairman is taking action on this.
 - f. (6) **Woodland Trust:** Mr. Grieves has given permission for the planting of small native trees along the fence in the Playing Field. **Action:** Clerk to apply for free trees in the autumn.
6. **Bonfire:** Members expressed concern that, although the previous bonfires had been small scale village events, last year significant publicity by the two pubs, advertising in the media and on social networks, had resulted in a much larger event creating public safety issues. Since permission had not been sought for the bonfire or the fire walking on the Green, the event was neither stewarded nor insured. Promotion of the event appears to have been by both licensees and it was **Agreed** that they be informed that the Parish Council did not and will not insure this activity. **Action:** Clerk to write to Licensees regarding this.
7. **Chairman's Report:** (i) **Vintage Car Rally** – requested that this be held on the Green on 23 June 2014, subject to the usual conditions re: insurance, stewards etc. **Unanimously agreed.**
(ii) **Flood map:** The Parish Council has been asked by the Borough Council to identify areas of flooding in the parish; these were noted it was agreed that the Chair would speak to HBC. It was also agreed HBC be informed that that the sewer pipe in North Lane is only 9" in diameter, and probably insufficient to cope with all the residences built since it was laid.
(iii) **A19/A179 Junction:** The new restrictions at the junction imposed by Durham County Council are causing significant back-up onto the A19 from the slip road which is clearly dangerous. As a result, more vehicles are coming through Elwick Village to avoid the junction. The Chairman has written to the Borough Council and Highways Agency on behalf of the Parish Council expressing concern and has been informed that the Highways Agency is now investigating.
8. **Rural Plan:** The first draft is now in preparation, based on feedback from the consultation, and will need to come before the Parish Council for approval. The Clerk informed that the DCLG has awarded the Rural Planning group £5,850.00 to pay for a Planning Consultant to produce the final document; the grant may only be given to a statutory body or registered company and therefore permission is sought to accept and manage this money on behalf of the Rural Planning Group. **Agreed unanimously.**

9. **Village Maintenance Group:** Cllrs H. Thompson and L. Parks presented a list of items in need of attention by either the Borough or Parish Council; this included: trip hazards, mossy and/or overgrown paths, damage to the Green, benches and flower tubs. It was agreed that the group should prioritise the tasks and implement them as funding allowed, using the budget allocated earlier in the financial year. It was further agreed that the group should investigate the costs of placing heavy concrete posts and chains around those corners of the green most constantly damaged.

10. **Finance:** The Clerk presented the list of receipts and payments made since the November meeting as follows:

Income		Expenditure	
Rural Plan expenses	116.00	Bus Service	860.00
Wayleaves	<u>55.00</u>	Contribution to Rural Broadband Bid	500.00
	171.00	Village Atlas	360.00
		Clerk's Salary (3 months)	375.00
		Village maintenance	140.00
		Rural Plan	<u>116.00</u>
			2,351.00

The Clerk also presented an up-to-date statement of transactions against budget; both reports **accepted**. The Clerk reported that the invoices for the development of the new footpaths agreed previously, and funded by the Paths4Communities Project and the Borough Council, would be received in the coming month; such monies had to be paid by the Parish Council and then reclaimed from the Project before the end of the financial year. It was **agreed** that this was acceptable.

11. **Correspondence:**

- HBC - **Precept Demand Form** – completed and submitted.
- HBC – invitation to **Hartlepool Vision Launch**, 29 January – noted.
- Hartlepool Community Safety Team – Consultation open until 23 February on **Community Safety Plan 2014-2017** – noted.
- CE & CM Walker Ltd – Notice of rates for **grass cutting** season 2014 – accepted.
- Stockton BC – **Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document** – noted.
- Spinal Injuries Association – request to place advert for Great British Fish & Chip Supper, 16 May fund-raising event on Notice Board – denied.

12. **Ward Councillor's Report:**

- Church Bank repair to take place towards the end of March;
- 20 MPH road signage now all completed;
- No contact for some time from Bob Swainston, Red Gap, she will be following up;
- Bushes opposite Elwick Rise have now been cut back, gutters now need cleaning of mud and debris to make the road fully usable again.

13. **Planning:** H/2013/0557 – wind turbine at Dovecote Farm: no comment

H/2013/0616 – Screening opinion for above: noted

H/2013/0605 – extension to car park at Wynyard Woodland: agreed

H/2012/0525 – variation of conditions: noted

H/2013/0027 - amendment to application H/2010/0679 – erection of a dwelling house:

Not clear what this is – Clerk to investigate.

H/2013/ 0043 – residential development of 780 dwellings, a retirement village of up to 220 dwellings etc at Wynyard: Strong objection – road capacity issue and do not understand the application.

14. **AOB:** a) Cllr. R. Thompson noted the number of break-ins in the village recently and noted that the CCTV at the Village PO was no longer working and proposed that the Parish Council consider contributing to its repair. **Action:** Chair to consult Steve Mailen about the CCTV and investigate costs.

b) Cllr. H. Thompson reported that at a recent TVRCC event she understood that ACRE were developing a national bid for IT training for rural communities. She noted that TVRCC had a number of laptop computers that they were willing to lend to the Parish Council, and would also fund a trainer, to help set up a Silver Surfers/IT Club in the village. **Action:** Cllr. H. Thompson to investigate potential of funding for Broadband for WI Hall and progress IT offer with TVRCC.

c) Cllr. H. Thompson reported on the TVRCC Bus Brokerage Scheme, and that Stockton BC were investigating the potential of introducing something similar.

d) the Chair reported that CPSO Catherine Jones had e-mailed him with a request for volunteers to join a Badger Watch Scheme.

15. **Date of Next meeting:** 7.00 pm Monday 24 February at Elwick School.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.