

Elwick Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 31 March 2014 at Elwick School

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

In Attendance: Ward Cllr. B. Loynes, Mrs. West (Parish Clerk)

Also present: Cleveland Police Commissioner Barry Copping & his assistant, Bob Swainson, Red Gap

1. **Apologies for absence:** PC. K. Robinson & CPSO C.Jones
2. The Chairman welcomed **Barry Copping, Cleveland Police Commissioner** who updated Councillors on his work over the last year. These included attending 146 residents' meetings, hosting a 'Criminal Justice Volunteers Fair' and launching the 'Property Act Fund'. Together with the Durham and North Yorkshire Commissioners, a regional strategy has been developed to tackle violence against women and girls. He has launched a 'Cleveland Safe Places' scheme to provide support to vulnerable people who were being abused or bullied, introduced an assessment process to protect people with mental health issues which have contributed to their offending behaviour and supported the 'Safer Future Communities Network'. He has also launched 'Restorative Justice' allowing victims a say over punishment, promoted 'Community Payback' and a screening model to engage with young people entering custody to divert them from reoffending. He has launched the annual 'Community Safety Awards'. Mr. Copping said he recognised the lack of resources in the rural area but said that Cleveland Police had to undertake a 25% reduction in budget by 2015. However he hoped to recruit up to 200 Special Constables in the next year, and to develop the cadets scheme. He hoped both would provide opportunities for people from rural communities to engage in police work. Mr. Copping was warmly thanked for his attendance.
3. **Bob Swainson, Red Gap** gave an update on progress on the new wind turbine site; construction work was due to begin later this year but would not generate until at least late 2015. Community Funding would become available once the turbines were generating electricity to the grid. It was noted that Cllrs. Hutchinson and Musgrave were to represent Elwick on the Liaison Group.
4. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present.
5. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Musgrave declared an interest in Planning Application 0117.
6. **Minutes of 25 February 2014:** Draft minutes were amended as follows: Item (5c) – 'The amended quote for the extra work, received from Mark White for the rebuilding of the steps was considerably higher than his original estimate;' and Item (9) change name of firm to Willow Crete. Minutes were then signed by the Chair.
7. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. (2) **Parking around the Green:** It was noted that consultation with residents finishes on 7th April.
 - b. (5b) **Bus service:** Following discussion on a letter received from Paul's Travel, it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would continue to support the service for the next 2 months, at the same cost as in 2013-14; any further support for the service would only be given on the basis of a written contract which reinstated West Park. It was noted that Paul's Travel proposed introducing a Saturday service. The proposals meant a significant increase in cost to Elwick PC, over and above that incurred by the Saturday service, and would take over 65% of the annual precept, which was unsustainable. It was therefore agreed that clarification of the revised costs would be sought before any commitment was agreed. **Action:** Clerk to write to Paul's Travel and issue 2-month contract as agreed.
 - c. (5c) **Church Bank steps:** No further information received as yet.
 - d. (5e) **CCTV:** It was agreed, in the interests of security in the Village, that the Parish Council would contribute to the cost of CCTV outside the Post Office up to £200. **Action:** Chair to discuss the matter with the Postmaster.
 - e. (5f) **IT Training:** The Clerk informed that the WI were willing to host a Broadband connection but could not fund it. Before incurring costs, it was agreed potential demand should be determined. It was therefore **agreed** that Cllr. H. Thompson should contact TVRCC to see if Broadband is necessary in order for the IT training to commence. **Action:** Cllr. H. Thompson to contact TVRCC in regard to Broadband requirement.

f. (7iv) **Village Farm:** Cllr. Hutchinson had met with Miss Harrison and resolved the issue of skip placement which would not require the skip lorry to encroach upon the Green. It was therefore **agreed** to permit the placement of a skip for a short period on the site discussed.

8. Chairman's Report:

- (i) **Rural Broadband:** An e-mail received from Isra Hussein, HBC, indicates that the bid has been successful. Details not yet known.
- (ii) **November 5th:** A positive meeting was held with the publicans and shop owner, and agreement reached over the publicising of future events and prior permission being sought for events on the Village Green.
- (iii) **Heavy vehicles:** The Chair was concerned about a considerable increase in the number of heavy vehicles using the village. Cllr. Loynes agreed to raise this with officers. **Action:** Cllr. Loynes
- (iv) **Police Report:** CPSO Jones had e-mailed a report to the Chair, which was noted.
- (v) **Rural Planning Group:** The Chair informed colleagues that he had resigned, with immediate effect, from the Rural Planning Group, for personal reasons. Councillors offered their warm appreciation of all the considerable work he had put into the development of the draft Rural Plan over the past four years, and expressed their gratitude for his dedication to this task.
- (vi) **4 The Green:** The border outside the house was once again encroaching on the Green and needed cutting back. The chair proposed that a letter be sent to the owner advising him that the Parish Council intends removing all the plants. **Action:** Clerk to write to owner. Chair to arrange work.

9. **Ward Councillor's Report:** (a) Church Bank work almost completed; (b) The culvert to the north of North Lane has now been constructed; (c) There was no material available to resurface the parking area by the Playing Field. (d) An issue regarding grey bins in Martindale Close and Manor Close not being emptied had been raised – she had taken this to the relevant council officer and the matter was resolved.

10. **Village Maintenance Group:** Cllr H. Thompson reported that a representative of Willow Crete had attended a site meeting with the group and P.C. Chairman, and that he had advised that three or four concrete bollards, without chains or boards, would be sufficient to protect the corner of the Green. A quote of £80 per post, if a minimum of four posts were to be purchased, was provided. It was **agreed** to proceed with this work as soon as possible, with actual placement of the four posts to be agreed with the supplier. Benches around the village would be re-varnished once the weather improved. The need for a holding board to be placed along the cinder path down Church Bank was now becoming urgent; **Agreed** that tenders for this work should be invited.

Action: Cllr H. Thompson to liaise with the Clerk to progress the contracting of the work with Willow Crete and to invite tenders for the Church bank boarding.

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

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Rural Plan funds	<u>13,080.00</u>	Bus Service	430.00
		Paths for Communities (new footpaths)	20,329.60
	13,080.00	Clerk's salary (3 months)	<u>375.00</u>
			21,134.60

The Clerk also presented an up-to-date statement of transactions against budget; both reports **accepted**. It was also **agreed** that an allowance of £5.00 per month should be paid for 2013-14 for Clerk's expenses. The Clerk reported on the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts, which raised several issues of concern which may have financial implications for the Council. It was **agreed** that the Borough Council be contacted with a view to holding an information session for all Parish Councils. The Clerk informed that the external audit would take place on 21st July 2014.

12. **Correspondence:** a) Communication from Borough Council regarding Nomination Packs for the Parish Council elections. **Agreed** to obtain these and make available at the village shop. **Action:** Cllr. R. Thompson.
b) Communication from Borough Council to state that the Hartlepool Green Infrastructure SPD and Action Plan had been approved – noted.

13. Planning:

H/2013/0055 – Middle Stotfold Farm - no comment.

H/2014/0098 – The Ghyll – no comment

H/2014/0102 – Scoping Opinion - South West Extension – no comment

H/2104/0110 – Scoping Opinion - High Tunstall – no objection in principle, however, concerns about the quantity of traffic such a development would bring, which might then use the road through the village to access the A19, unless an alternative access route to the A19 is made.

NB: Cllr. Musgrave left the meeting.

H/2014/0117 – Pawton Hill Farm – no objection provided it can be justified for agricultural purposes.

14. **AOB:**

(a) Cllr. Hutchinson reported that the roots of the tree outside Village Farm would be trimmed shortly.

(b) The Clerk presented an initial design concept for the new Parish Notice Board/ Village Atlas Interpretation map. Optional designs for villagers to view at the 'Picnic on the Green' event, 5th May, would be prepared before the Parish Council makes a final decision. Councillors **agreed** to the proposal.

15. **Date of Next meeting:** 7.00 pm Monday 28th April at Elwick School.

The meeting closed at 9.44 pm.