

## **Elwick Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 28 April 2014 at Elwick School**

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

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

**Also present:** Paul & Sue Little, Paul's Travel

**1. Apologies for absence:** None received

**2. Public Forum:** Mrs. Pat Harrison raised concerns about the grass cutting in North Lane and also the problem of cars parking on the grass verges near the school. **Action:** The Chairman, Cllr Loynes and Cllr. R. Thompson agreed to make a site visit to assess the problem.

**3. Bus Service 65:** Paul's Travel was invited to present the case for further funding requirements from the Parish Council. A request for a subsidy of £2,500 was made on the basis of a service running 3 times per day, for four days per week (with a new Saturday service introduced from June). Other funding would be sourced from concessionary fares, and subsidies from Rural West Ward Councillors, Dalton Piercy Parish Council and Hartfields Residential Village. Questions were asked as to the viability of the Saturday service and why no 30p minimum charge was being made to those travelling at times outside the concessionary fare scheme. It was **agreed** that a decision would be made and forwarded to the company within 24 hours. Mr. & Mrs. Little left the meeting.

Following a brief discussion, with concerns expressed about the drain on reserves, it was proposed by Cllr. Banks, seconded by Cllr. H. Thompson, and **agreed** unanimously, that Elwick would be prepared to agree a subsidy of £2,500 for the current financial year subject to the service being run on four days per week, as discussed, from June 2014. Until that date, payments would be at the same rate as 2013-14 with a small increase for inflation. **Action:** The Clerk to confirm this with Paul's Travel and to issue a contract to include Dalton Piercy and West Park as well as Elwick.

**4. Declarations of Interest:** None

**5. Minutes of 31 March 2014:** Draft minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**6. Matters Arising:**

a. (7a) **Parking around the Green:** It was noted that 98% of respondents were against the proposals for resident only parking, although the issue of a disabled parking bay outside the WI hall, and extending the yellow lines to the west end of the green were still to be agreed. This discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

b. (7c) **Church Bank steps:** No responses received as yet to tender requests; agreed that a 6" gravel board is required along the bank side of the cinder path.

c. (7d) **CCTV:** Mr. Mailen has accepted an offer of up to £200 from the Parish Council towards the costs of reinstating his CCTV camera. **Action:** Clerk to apply to the Property Act Fund, mentioned by the Police Commissioner at the last meeting, for the costs of reinstating the camera.

d. (7e) **IT Training:** Cllr. H. Thompson has negotiated with TVRCC for 6 laptops and a trainer to be available for weekly sessions in the WI hall. It was agreed that a pilot should be run for 6 weeks from mid-June to end of July to ascertain interest, and recommencing in September if sufficient interest was shown. **Action:** Cllr H. Thompson to negotiate times and dates with TVRCC and WI.

e. (7f) **Village Farm** – tree roots will be pruned as soon as possible.

f. (11) **Data Protection & Freedom of Information Act Training** – deferred until after the elections.

**7. Chairman's Report:**

The local Neighbourhood Watch has reported that the 20 mph signs are insufficiently distinctive.

**Action:** Cllr. Loynes to request a bright yellow background be added.

## 8. Ward Councillor's Report:

- (a) Heavy Goods vehicles driving through the village – now being monitored;
- (b) Lights around the green have been repaired;
- (c) Potholes near the Playing field have been repaired; however, it was noted that the road surface is still poor;
- (d) Bin collection in Martindale – the elderly residents have been advised and now have Assisted Bin Collection, which mean they no longer have to take their bins beyond their own property to a central point for collection. It was noted that the rubbish bin opposite the Playing Field still has a broken lock and the door is swinging in the wind and also that there is a similar problem with the bin outside the school. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to raise this with the relevant officer.

## 9. Village Maintenance Group:

- (i) Cllr H. Thompson reported no further progress with the proposed bollards, but that this would now be implemented as agreed.
- (ii) The benches around the village are now in urgent need of attention. **Agreed:** British Garden Services be invited to quote for the work. **Action:** Cllr. H. Thompson to contact BGS.

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

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Bank Interest	11.79	Bus Service (DD)	470.00
Reimbursement of Rural Plan expenses	<u>40.00</u>	Administration	60.00
		Cheque cancellation charge	<u>10.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>51.79</u></b>		<b><u>540.00</u></b>

The Clerk also presented an up-to-date statement of transactions against budget, to the end of the financial year and to the date of the current meeting; all reports **accepted**.

## 11. Correspondence:

- (a) A request from the Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group for information about community assets, aspirations for the future and any dates of events taking place later in the year. Noted that much of this had already been provided, but that any events planned would be notified.
- (b) A request from Sarah Scarr, HBC for further nominations of structures or spaces of local significance, particularly in relation to WW1. **Action:** Clerk to request information from David Self.
- (c) Notice of training events: Village Greens – Tuesday 3 June, 17.30 pm County Hall, Durham; Paper Chase, who can do what and how – Tuesday 15 July, 9.00 –16.00, Ceddesfeld Hall, Sedgfield. It was **agreed** That the Clerk and any Councillors interested and available should attend the Village Green event.
- (d) TVRCC – notification of a new Henry Smith Charity North East Grants Fund – noted.

## 12. Planning: None

## 13. AOB: Gratitude was expressed to the Chairman, Cllr. Banks, for his four years of leadership, which had been extremely constructive, and to Cllr. Londesbrough for her contributions over the same period. Both are standing down at the election.

## 14. Date of Next meeting: 7.00 pm Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Elwick School **NB:** This will also be the Annual Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.