

Elwick Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 2 June 2014 at Elwick School

Present: Cllrs. J. Hall, P. Hutchinson (in the Chair), B. Irving, R. Musgrave, H. Thompson and R. Thompson

In Attendance: Ward Cllr. B. Loynes, Mrs. West (Parish Clerk), outgoing Chairman C. Banks

Also present: Stephen Pardue, Differentia Designs.

The Chairman welcomed new Councillors, John Hall and Barbara Irving.

1. **Apologies for absence:** None received
2. **New Parish Notice Board / Interpretation Map:** Steve Pardue was invited to present his ideas for the new Parish Notice Board. He explained that this was to double-sided and made of metal, one side would be an Interpretation Map of the Village, using information gained from the Village Atlas project, the other the Parish Notice Board. It would be considerably larger than the current notice board and would be placed facing north:south, with paving stones around it, inset into the green at intervals, to allow for access. The board would have a header panel depicting iconic elements of the village. Steve presented draft drawings of the header panel and Interpretation map for comment. These were examined and discussed at length; Steve agreed to develop the resultant ideas further and bring a final draft to the Council for approval. He was warmly thanked for his beautiful designs and clear advice on materials.
3. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
5. **Chairman's Report:**

With the agreement of the Chairman, C. Banks presented the report as outgoing Chairman:

a. North Lane: Removal of the border has now been completed and the area turfed. No 12 are to have gas put in, which will involve drilling through the verge, but have undertaken to rectify any damage and Mr. Alan Musgrave has agreed to maintain the grassed area in future.

b. Church Bank: As the cost of placing a gravel board at the base of the bank beside the cinder path would be a minimum of £2,000, John Pearson, Affordable Landscapes, has suggested using a 6" tannelised fencing bar instead, at a cost of £6-700. Cllr. R. Thompson believed that there was no need to fence the whole length. It was **agreed** that the Maintenance Sub-Committee should investigate the requirement and that BGS be requested to undertake the work, subject to a revised estimate being agreed. **Action:** Maintenance Sub-Committee.

c. Church Bank Steps: Quotation received for replacement would increase the number of steps considerably and cost over £2,000 – **agreed** that this was not acceptable. Whilst the steps were becoming increasingly hazardous, it was noted that responsibility for them actually belonged to the Borough Council – inherited from Cleveland County Council who had built them. **Action:** Clerk to write to vicar of St. Peter's requesting support for work on the steps, and a possible contribution towards the cost. Cllr. Loynes to raise the issue with relevant officers at the Borough Council.

d. Clearance of the garden at No 4, The Green: No response had as yet been received from Mr. Adamson; clearing the planting, and making the footpath accessible again, would cost £80. Cllr. R. Thompson noted that Mr. Adamson rarely visits and asked that another letter be written, which he would deliver personally to his workplace, before the Council incurred any costs. This was **agreed**. **Action:** Clerk to write a further letter as discussed, with a 10-day deadline for response; if no response received, then the garden would be cleared by the Parish Council and Mr. Adamson required to reimburse the cost.

e. Stones on the Green: A Niramax vehicle had been observed displacing a large stone on the triangle; Niramax had been informed that the Parish Council would reinstate the stone and charge the cost of so doing to the company. It was noted that Ron Perry Test & Tune had recently paid the costs of a similar incident and proposed that Niramax be charged the same. **Agreed. Action:** Cllr Hutchinson to arrange repair, Clerk to invoice Niramax. Cllr Hall expressed concern about some

damage to the green at the east end, outside Home Farm, caused by a very large delivery vehicle trying to access the farm entrance. He also noted that a large stone beside the new BT box was causing concern and needed repositioning – Cllr. Hutchinson agreed to deal with this. **Action:** Cllr Hutchinson.

f. Use of Village Green: The Friends of Elwick have advertised an event in Village Life, to be held on the Green on Saturday 21 June, without having first sought permission from the Parish Council. Permission to hold the annual Veteran Car Rally on the Green on Monday 23 June had been given some months ago; whilst there was no major problem, it does mean that the Friends will have to clear the green on Sunday 22nd. The Clerk suggested that a protocol was required for booking use of the green, giving the Parish Council a minimum notice period. **Agreed. Action:** Clerk to advise Nick Watson of need to clear the green, and to draft a protocol to be brought to the next meeting. **g.**

Meeting with the Leader of the Borough Council: Concern about the impact of increased traffic through the village, as a result of proposed new developments closer to the town, had been raised with the leader, who was sympathetic and stated that the villages needed to be protected.

h. Defibrillators: HBC wished to place defibrillators in key public places around the Borough, as part of their community health programme, and would like the support of the Parish Council. (Outside the shop and the WI Hall were potential placements). **Agreed** that the initiative be supported.

Action: Clerk to write to Denise Ogden in support.

i. Rural Broadband: Although DeFRA has agreed to fund the extension of broadband provision, Wynyard does not yet appear on the BT schedule, and therefore it is unlikely to happen before 2016/17. **Agreed** that Parish Council needs to keep up the pressure on BT.

j. Bus Service: Considerable difficulty in getting any response from the Chairman of Dalton Piercy PC, as to whether they wish to be part of the overall contract with Paul's Travel. It was therefore **agreed** that the June bus service should be paid for at the same rate as April & May (£440), and that, unless DPPC respond in the next week, a contract excluding Dalton be issued. **Action:** Clerk to inform Paul's Travel and to redraft contract to start revised service from 1 July.

k. Christmas Tree Lights: Mr. Banks still held these and was willing to continue to do so on behalf of the Parish Council.

Mr Banks was thanked for his report and left the meeting at 8.30 pm.

6. **Minutes of 28 April:** Agreed and signed.

7. **Matters Arising:**

- a) **Grass cutting in North Lane:** There appears to be nothing obvious that can be done to ameliorate the situation, though Cllr. Loynes is awaiting formal feedback from officers, the flooding problem has hopefully been resolved by the new culvert.
- b) **Bus service:** see Chairman's report.
- c) **Parking around the Green:** after some discussion it was **agreed** that further yellow lines and a disabled parking bay next to the WI Hall were not in the interest of the village as a whole. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to pass this information to the relevant officers.
- d) **Church Bank:** See Chairman's report
- e) **CCTV:** Grant application form acquired, though still awaiting information from Steve Mailen before this can be submitted.
- f) **IT Training/Computer Club:** a flier has been circulated around the village, with a proposed September start. NB: possible grants available from Hartlepool Borough Council. **Action:** Clerk to follow this up.
- g) **Data Protection & Freedom of Information Act training:** 25 June at 5.00 pm – venue yet to be agreed. Cllrs P. Hutchinson and R. Thompson expressed interest in attending with the Clerk. **Action:** Clerk to inform of venue once known.
- h) **Broken bins:** Cllr Loynes informed that these have now been replaced. It was felt that a notice needed to be displayed at the playing Field asking the public to use the litterbins or take their litter home. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to ask if the Borough Council could supply this.
- i) **Bench maintenance:** Cllr. H. Thompson apologised for not having yet actioned this matter.
- j) **Structures and spaces:** None identified. **Action:** Clerk to inform relevant officer

k) NALC training – no interest.

8. **Councillor vacancy:** The Clerk informed that the vacancy was now advertised on the Parish Notice Board.

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

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Precept & Concurrent expenditure	11,906.00	Bus Service (DD)	880.00
Paths4Communities	17,833.00	General Maintenance	352.64
Village Atlas	1,149.48	Grass Cutting	600.00
Wayleaves	13.05	Insurance	278.49
Miscellaneous	<u>100.00</u>	Room Hire	10.00
Total	<u>31,001.53</u>	Rural Plan	149.50
		Village Atlas	<u>730.59</u>
		Total	<u>3,001.22</u>

The Clerk also presented an up-to-date statement of transactions against budget, to the date of the current meeting; both reports **accepted**.

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

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Loynes and congratulated her on her re-election – the sentiment endorsed by the full Council. Cllr Loynes stated that most items had already been covered during the meeting, however:

- (a) The 20mph signs – officers will be monitoring speeds before deciding what should be done.
- (b) The light outside the McOrville should now have been repaired.

11. **Maintenance sub-committee report:**

Bollards have been placed as agreed; other items covered earlier.

12. **Planning:**

H/2014/0198 – Leenvale, The Ghyll – single storey extension – no objections;

H/2014/0176 - Wynyard – no comment;

H/2014/0203 – land to north of A689 and A177 roundabout and west of Stockton Road, Sedgefield, outline planning permission for 300 dwellings – no comment.

13. **AOB:**

a) Cllr. Hall raised concerns about the overgrown footpath to Dalton Piercy which was now hazardous.

Action: Cllr. Loynes to request this be cut as a matter of urgency.

b) Cllr. H. Thompson requested permission for the EMA to use the green for a fundraising fair on 7 September, and to hold the Scarecrow competition between 14 and 22 June. **Agreed.** Cllr H.

Thompson also requested that Mr. George Howe be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the future of the Wildlife Garden. **Agreed. Action:** Clerk to extend invitation to Mr. Howe.

14. **Date of next meeting:** 7.00 pm Monday 30 June.

NB: A Planning training session for Councillors will be held at 6.30 pm, before the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.