

## Elwick Parish Council

### 1. Minutes of Meeting held at 6.30 pm on Monday 29 September 2014 at Elwick School

2.

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

4. R. Thompson

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

6. **Also present from 7.00pm :** Adele Young, NHS Ambulance Trust (for item 5b); Cllr. Jo Grylls, Dalton PC

7.

8. 1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. A. Waugh

2. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present

3. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Hutchinson, Irving and Musgrave in Item 12a, and Cllrs Hutchinson and Musgrave in Item 12f.

Item 12 was taken at this

juncture.

The Chairman then welcomed Cllr Grylls, who gave apologies on behalf of Cllr Alan Timothy, Chairman Dalton Piercy PC, and Adele Young, NE Ambulance Service. He asked the meeting to accept a change in the order of the agenda in order to allow Adele Young to make her presentation first (Item 5b), as she had come to demonstrate the Defibrillator. This was unanimously **agreed**.

4. **Minutes of 29 July 2014:** Agreed and signed

### 5. Matters Arising:

(a) **Church Bank:** The Clerk reported that further research had identified Church Bank as part of the Registered Village Green, and therefore the Parish Council was legally responsible for maintenance. Cllr. Loynes reported a quote from the Borough Council for undertaking the refurbishment of the steps as just over £6,500. Cllr. H. Thompson reported a local businessman, who wished to remain anonymous, had offered to pay for the repair of the steps. The Clerk suggested that, as there were a number of pieces of work requiring substantial expenditure within the Conservation area, she seek funding before committing to any work, and requested that the anonymous donor be asked if he would be willing to have this donation used as 'match' money, thus increasing the pot available. This was **agreed**. The urgency of clearing the Cinder path of debris was raised and it was **agreed** that Affordable Landscapes be asked to undertake the work immediately.

**Actions:** Cllr, H. Thompson to discuss with the potential donor, Clerk to seek funding for a number of Conservation projects and to contact Affordable Landscapes in regard to the shuttering, with Cllr. Hall overseeing this.

(b) **Defibrillator:** Adele Young demonstrated the use of the proposed defibrillator and explained that HBC was investigating the best purchase price. The unit used a minimum of electricity to maintain a steady temperature in extreme frost, otherwise the only running cost was replacement of the lithium battery every year or so. Adele emphasised that the unit needed to be checked on a weekly basis (**agreed** that this would become part of the Maintenance Sub-Committee's remit), and asked whether agreement had been reached as to where the unit was to be placed – the Clerk informed that discussions were currently ongoing. Adele was thanked for her presentation and left the meeting.

(c) **Wildlife Garden:** Cllr Irving reported that a site visit had taken place with Ian Bond, HBC Ecologist and the Elwick Wildlife Group. All had agreed on the necessary actions, which included the re-siting of some small trees, temporary removal of some key plants and the killing off of overgrowth around much of the outer garden, as well as hedge/tree thinning, and hand weeding of the two island beds. Once the growth

had died, sub-soil would be placed on top and the garden replanted with wild flowers to be found in Elwick Parish; an area of marsh planting would be developed to the rear of the garden. The overall aim was to make the Wildlife garden a BioBank of plants only to be found in Elwick, within the Tees Valley and an educational resource. It was anticipated that the work would take two years to complete. The report was warmly welcomed and it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would meet the cost of weed killing. Cllr. Irving then reported that Mrs. Shiels, a householder living on one side of the Wildlife Garden, strongly objected to the plans and wished to have the area grassed over or planted with pretty plants. The objection was **noted** but Councillors unanimously **agreed** to maintain the Wildlife Garden as an asset to the village. **Action:** Clerk to arrange for weed killing (under supervision of Cllr Irving) and to write an article for the next Village Life.

(d) **Trees:** It was noted that Derek Wardle, the Borough's Arboriculturalist, had advised that the cherry tree in The Walk needed pruning, and a small tree removing; also Mr & Mrs Kenny had requested that the tree overarching their garden be pruned back. Cllr Hall also raised concerns about the lower branches of the Horse Chestnut on the Green causing obstruction to visibility lines for drivers exiting the green. The Clerk informed that planning permission would be needed for any work on the tree on the green. **Agreed** that action should be taken immediately on all these issues. **Action:** Clerk to arrange for the tree pruning and to apply for planning permission to prune the lower branches of the Horse Chestnut tree.

(e) **Community Right to Bid:** The Clerk informed that some progress had been made with the seven applications, but that she was still awaiting Land Registry information from the Borough Council on three of the properties.

(f) **Computer Club:** The club was being well supported with regular attendance of 10 or more. The application to HBC for a grant (£400) to purchase a WiBe had been approved. The Clerk requested approval to make a bid to other funders for some laptops and necessary peripherals, software and storage, in order to expand the club to include an evening session for young people and those unable to attend during the day. **Unanimously agreed.** **Action:** Clerk to seek funding.

(g) **Policies:** The Clerk reported that on reviewing the current policies she had noted the lack of a Health & Safety Policy. Having checked with the Borough Solicitor, she was now working towards the development of a policy and necessary procedures to support this. The Clerk also noted that it was a requirement that an Annual Meeting be held, at which the Parish Council's presented an Annual Report and to which other village organisations be invited, also to report on their activities. It was **unanimously agreed** that this be implemented from 2015 onwards.

Cllr Musgrave left the meeting.

**6. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman apologised to colleagues that he had missed the July meeting with the Leader of the Borough Council, as he had been unaware that it was taking place. **Action:** Clerk to ask HBC to ensure that future meetings are notified to the Chairman.

**7. Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Loynes reported as follows:

(a) all adopted areas in the village were inspected during September and will be actioned; (b) the footpath between Elwick and Dalton Piercy had been cleared; (c) the sandbags had been removed from North Close (d) the Anti-litter campaign with the school would be arranged shortly; (e) the request for a salt bin to be placed at the west end of the village green had been turned down due to cost; (f) the gully outside Mount Pleasant had been cleared of debris – Cllr Hall informed that this was already blocked again.

The Chairman again raised concern about the speed of traffic through the village, which seems to have increased considerably since the 20mph static signs were erected and the 30mph flashing signs removed. Concern was expressed by several Councillors about the dangerous driving they had personally observed. Cllr Hall stated that the only effective method of slowing traffic would be the introduction of speed bumps. Cllr Loynes agreed to look into this issue again, and it was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to Police Commissioner. **Actions:** Cllr Loynes to raise the issue with officers, Clerk to write to Police

Commissioner.

### 8. Maintenance Sub-Committee Report:

(i) Cllrs Hall and Irving reported that 6 new flower tubs were needed to replace those which had deteriorated beyond repair. Together with the 4 required for the west end of the village green, this meant that 10 would need to be purchased. **Agreed** that Cllr. H. Thompson obtain these. Some tubs were clearly not being maintained, and it was **agreed** that Cllr Irving to write an article for Village Life requesting volunteers to adopt a tub. **Actions:** Cllr H Thompson to purchase 10 oak tubs, Cllr Irving to write article for Village Life.

(ii) Cllr Hall wished to put on record his appreciation for the excellent work undertaken by Craig Mullooley in refurbishing the benches around the village, which all now looked very smart; he noted that some of the benches were being damaged by grass trimmers. Cllr. R. Thompson agreed to obtain some aluminium flashing to be attached to the legs of those benches standing in grass. **Action:** Cllr R Thompson to obtain aluminium flashing for the bench legs.

(iii) Mr. & Mrs Banks had reported that the weeds in the cobbled area opposite their house had not been treated and removed as agreed. Cllr. Hall also noted that, although the weeds in the gutters around the village green had been treated with killer, they had not been removed, although at the site visit in August this had been promised. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to investigate why the work had not been completed.

**9. Financial Report:** The Clerk presented the record of financial transactions since the last meeting, together with the Actual against Budget report to date.

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
VAT Refund (2012/13 & 2013/14)	<u>5,245.78</u>	Bus Service	
1,150.00			
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,245.78</b>	Grass cutting	
1,200.00			
		Maintenance	
3 75.00			
		Information Commissioner's Office	
35.00			
		Bank Charge	
<u>10.00</u>			
<b>3,515.00</b>		<b>Total</b>	

Both reports **accepted**.

**10. Rural Plan / Village Design Statement:** Cllr H Thompson updated on progress of the Rural Plan, which had now reached the second consultation stage; road shows had been held in every parish and questionnaires distributed to every household. Cllr Hall offered his congratulations to the Rural Plan Steering Group for the excellent presentation of the Plan's Vision, Aims and Objectives at the event held in Elwick. A village design statement would be needed before the Plan was finalised.

11. Correspondence:

(i) Rob Smith, HBC – re Hartlepool Regeneration Masterplan Consultation – noted

(ii) Safer Hartlepool Partnership – notice of 'Face the Public' event, 5.30 – 7.30 pm Thursday 16 October at FE College. **Action:** Clerk to attend.

(iii) NE Air Ambulance – request for donation. Declined. The Clerk suggested that perhaps coffee & cakes could be sold at the launch of the Village Atlas book and Interpretation map event, with the proceeds going to the Air Ambulance. This suggestion warmly supported.

- (iv) County Training Partnership – notice of 3 training events to be held for Parish Councillors and Clerks, cost £27 pp. **Agreed** Clerk to attend the event on Policies, Social Media & the Press, H&S Risk Assessments, 10 November. Councillors to inform her if they also wished to attend.
- (v) Joan Cook, HBC – Review of Polling Stations – Clerk had already responded.
- (vi) Insignia Ltd – offer of WWI commemorative items for sale – noted.

12. Planning:

- (a) H/2014/0326 – Crookfoot Farm – unanimous agreement that HBC be requested to uphold their original decision to require the demolition of the cabins as part of the granting of permission for the house
- (b) H/2014/0346 – 16, Manor Fields, Wynyard – no comment
- (c) H/2014/0395 – 9, Saville Close, Wynyard – no comment
- (d) H/2014/0404 – 5, Sheepdene, Wynyard – no comment
- (e) H/2014/0363 – outline planning for 12 houses at Wynyard – no comment at this time
- (f) H/2014/0439 – Amerston Hill – no objections

13. AOB:

- (a) Cllr Loynes reported that Cleveland Fire Authority were to build their new HQ and Training Centre at Queens Meadow
- (b) Cllr Hall asked for the criteria used by Thirteen to allocate their housing in Elwick – he was concerned that local people were not being given priority. **Action:** Clerk to write to Thirteen to request information.

14. Date of Next Meeting: 7.00 pm, Monday 27 October at the WI Hall

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm