

Elwick Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 27th October 2014 at Elwick WI Hall

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

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

Also present: 7 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence: None received

The Chair welcomed Cllr Waugh to his first meeting.

He requested the meeting's permission to take Item 12a under the Public Forum, as this was of wide concern, and welcomed Messrs. Welch and Cullingford, residents of West Park and Naisberry, and Cllr A. Timothy, Chair of Dalton Parish Council and Clerk, M. Holt who had all come to discuss planning applications.

2. Public Forum:

Mr. Welch asked for the Parish Council's support in raising objection to the application for 81 homes on Quarry Farm, noting that objections had to be with the Planning Inspectorate by the end of the week, in triplicate. He then explained the nature of his own group's objections which, in summary, included the impact on traffic, flooding, breaking of the town boundary, on the A19/Sheraton junction and environmental considerations. Mr. Cullingford supported this and added that the proposal for 2,000 homes at High Tunstall Farm should also raise similar concerns, as should the clear lack of an employment strategy for the town – 2,000 new homes with no major employer providing opportunities within the town, would mean the likelihood of any new residents having to travel outside the town to work and more than likely to shop. Others raised concerns about Elwick and Dalton Piercy villages becoming 'rat runs' for drivers from these new estates wishing to access the A19, as well as the ability of the A19 to cope with the extra traffic, from the town, either to the north or south. It was further noted that, as at today's date, there were 2017 homes for sale in Hartlepool; there is very little demand for new homes for the foreseeable future that could not be met through the use of available brown field sites within the town and that the developer did not have a track record, having been trading for only 12 months and his company had zero net worth according to Companies House. It was felt that, should the Borough Council be minded to approve the application, despite objections, then it should demand a bond of at least £10m before giving approval.

Cllr. R. Musgrave left the meeting at 8.00 pm.

Elwick Councillors **agreed** their support for the groups objecting to these proposals, having already been proactive in raising awareness of the issues amongst local residents. **Action:** Clerk to write to the Planning Inspectorate (in triplicate) in regard to the Quarry Farm development; to draft a response to Application H/2014/0428 and circulate to Parish Council members for comment before submission to the Borough Council.

Members of the public then left the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest: Cllrs P. Hutchinson and B. Irving in Item 12b – Crookfoot Farm.

4. Minutes of 29th September: Agreed and signed.

5. Matters Arising:

a. (5a) **Church Bank:** The Clerk informed that work was to start this week on the shuttering along the Cinder path, the tender having been agreed by the Chair of the Maintenance Group. A discussion with an officer of the Heritage Lottery Fund indicated that an application for the refurbishment of the steps would be unlikely to be successful.

- b. (5b) **Defibrillator:** The Clerk reported that Mr. K. Sanderson, landlord of The Spotted Cow, had agreed to having the defibrillator placed on the external wall of the pub; Councillors expressed their gratitude for the community spirit demonstrated. Free training sessions have been arranged with the North East Ambulance Service, to take place on Tuesday 2 December between 2.00-4.30 and 6-8.00pm, at the WI hall, notices to this effect have already been placed in Village Life and will also be placed on the notice board.
- c. (5c) **Wildlife garden:** Cllr Irving reported that she and Cllr Hall had met with John Pearson who had agreed to undertake the killing of the weeds and pruning back of the hedges, for which he would only charge for 2 hours. She had registered for some free wildflower seeds being made available by a national organisation, as had the Clerk. Cllr Irving stated that she had again met with Mrs. Shiels to explain the plans and invited her to attend the PC meeting to state her concerns, invitation declined. Cllr Irving then proposed that, in recognition of all his sterling work on the wildlife garden over many years, the garden be named in his honour. **Agreed unanimously.**
- d. (5d) **Trees:** The Clerk reported that under Section 154, 1980 Highways Act, permission was not required for the trimming back of the Horse Chestnut tree on the green, and that Acklam Tree Services had been contacted about the other tree work required.
- e. (5e) **Community Right to Bid:** The Clerk reported that seven draft bids had been submitted to the Borough Council; she was awaiting further information before finalising these.
- f. (5f) **Computer Club:** The Clerk reported that she was about to make a bid to Awards for All for equipment, software and a tutor as previously agreed, and asked if she could include the new signage and equipment required for the Wildlife garden in the same bid. **Agreed. Action:** Clerk to make bid.
- g. (5g) **H&S policy:** Still in development.

6. Chairman's report: No action since the last meeting.

7. Ward Councillor's report: Cllr Loynes reported:

- * 20 mph 'light up signs' have been ordered
- * The anti-litter campaign with the school will go ahead as soon as the school responds
- * Gully outside Mount Pleasant has been cleared (though it was noted that it is again blocked with leaves)
- * Planning Department officials are considering the possibility of informing Parish Councils of objections to Planning Applications before these go to Committee
- * Jon Wright and his team will be dealing with the weeding and moss growth around the village – **action:** JW to be asked to contact Cllr Hall before he next comes to Elwick
- * Thirteen Housing Association's criteria for housing in Elwick. Councillors raised concerns that local residents were not being prioritised.

8. Maintenance Sub-Committee: All tubs have been reviewed and plants removed from those not currently looked after by a named individual. 5 replacement tubs will be needed together with 4 for the east end of the green. **Action:** Cllr H. Thompson to order these.

The cobbled area to the entrance to The Walk is urgently in need of attention – the Borough Council has not responded to requests to clear this, therefore it was **agreed** that a Councillor working party be formed to clear the area – to meet at 11.00 am on Sunday 2 November, Mr. & Mrs. Banks having given permission for access to electricity and water for a high-powered hose to be provided by Cllr Hutchinson. **Action:** Councillors to participate.

Several potholes have appeared, one near No 2 The Green, another at the bottom of Church Bank. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to inform officers.

9. Financial Report:

The Clerk presented the report on transactions since the previous meeting and the actual against budget report.

Income:		Expenditure:	
	£		£
IT Grant HBC	<u>400.00</u>	Bus Service	575.00
Total	400.00	Grass cutting	600.00
		Maintenance	910.00

Skip Hire	312.00
External Audit	294.00
Room Hire	<u>20.00</u>
Total	2,711.00

Both reports accepted. The Clerk reminded Councillors that first thoughts on the 2015/16 budget would need to be discussed at the next meeting.

The Clerk then presented the External Auditor's report, which was accepted, comments duly noted. **Action:** Clerk to place notice of audit on Notice Board.

10. Rural Plan / Village Design Statement: Agreed to postpone to next meeting.

11. Correspondence:

- a) Letter of acknowledgement from the Police & Crime Commissioner who has forwarded our letter to the Cleveland & Durham Joint Roads Policing Unit.
- b) e-mail from Sue Little regarding closure of Saturday bus service at the end of November – noted.

12. Planning: H/2014/0428 – High Tunstall Farm – discussed under Item 2.

H/2014/0481 – Crookfoot Farm – no material change in new application, original reasons for objection still stand; Borough Council should demand demolition.

H/2014/0488 – 8, North Lane – no objections

13. AOB: The Clerk noted that the application for use of the Village Green by the PTA for a Christmas market, is now complete – approval **agreed**.

Cllr. H. Thompson raised concern that the rails on Church Bank, damaged some weeks ago, had still not been repaired although Council officers had placed a security barrier around them. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to follow up.

Cllr R. Thompson requested reimbursement of costs incurred in leafleting the village about the High Tunstall farm application – some £40 + VAT. **Agreed**

14: Date of next meeting: 7.00 pm 24 November 2014 at Elwick School.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm