

Elwick Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 26th January 2015 at Elwick School

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

In Attendance: Cllr. B. Loynes (from 7.53 pm), Mrs. M. West (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies: Cllr. A. Waugh

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

3. Declarations of Interest: None made.

4. Minutes of meetings 24 November 2014 & 7 January 2015: Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising:

(a) In setting the **Budget** for 2015/16, Councillors had regretfully decided that, with the demand for major maintenance work required this coming year, together with the limited usage of the bus by Elwick villagers, the Parish Council could no longer continue to provide financial support for a bus service. **Action:** Clerk to write to Paul's Travel to advise that the contract would not be renewed in April, to undertake research over the next two months into potential alternative travel options, and to write an article for Village Life.

(b) The **Precept** demand had been submitted to the Borough Council by the Clerk; this equates to an average increase of £2.00 per annum per household.

(c) Seven formal '**Community Right to Bid**' applications had been submitted in December, no response as yet from the Borough Council.

(d) A bid to the Lottery **Awards for All** had been made, requesting funds for equipment and tutor support for the Computer Club and for a children's Wildlife Garden Arts project; news awaited.

(e) **Church Bank:** The Clerk requested permission to seek independent help with developing the tender document for the works on Church Bank. **Agreed**

(f) **Plaque for Jubilee tree:** this has now been produced and is to be placed in situ, along with a tree guard. **Action:** Chair of Maintenance Group and PC Chairman.

(g) **Village Design Statement:** The Clerk had requested Cllr. Brian Walker, Chairman Greatham PC, speak on how they developed their Statement; he offered a number of dates, which were cross referenced to availability of the WI hall. Councillors **agreed** to hold the event on Thursday 12 March from 5-7.00pm. **Action:** Clerk to write an article for the next edition of Village Life and place notices around the village at least one week before the event.

(h) **Whelley Hill Farm:** Councillors again noted that the exact location of the proposed wind turbine at Whelley Hill was not available. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to be asked to investigate and provide the information.

(i) **Playing Field Litter signs:** a final quote had been received and agreed by the Clerk; three posters to be produced, with the artwork submitted to the Parish Council before printing.

(j) **Defibrillator:** The units were due to be delivered to the Borough Council on 26th and should be installed very soon. The Clerk has requested that the Council officers liaise directly with the landlord of the Spotted Cow over the installation. Once installed, further training for villagers will be organised.

6. Chairman's Report: The Chairman noted that he had raised the issue of the unsafe pavements in Martindale and Manor Closes, at his meeting with the Leader of the Borough Council. He was not

aware of anyone from the Council having yet been to assess the work required. **Action:** Cllr Loynes asked to pursue this issue.

The Clerk noted that Mrs. Banks had raised concerns about the overflowing litter and dog refuse bins around the village; several Councillors supported this concern. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to raise with the relevant officers.

7. Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Loynes listed the actions she had taken since the last meeting she had attended.

8. Safeguarding Policy: The Clerk presented a Draft Safeguarding Policy for consideration. She explained that this had been reviewed by the Borough Council's Safeguarding Team Supervisor, and her comments integrated into the draft presented. Councillors commended the Clerk and **agreed** adoption of the policy.

9. Village Maintenance Group Report: Cllr Hall reported that:

Councillors expressed concern that this was an increasingly challenging situation, with ever-larger vehicles using the village side roads. The Clerk noted that the Managing Director of Niramax had finally agreed to pay for the damage caused by one of his vehicles last June. Cllr Hall further reported:

(b) the poor state of pavements in North Lane and

(c) that a street light in North Lane opposite the access to Hillcrest was not working (The Chairman informed that this had not worked since the new light bulb had been fitted).

(d) the 'Medical Staff only' parking signs in Manor Close which had been removed, had still not been replaced and that a local villager was now using these parking spaces.

(e) a nut was missing from a bolt on the swing logs in the playing Field and

(f) the street sign in The Paddock had fallen off and was now resting against the stand.

Action: Cllr Loynes to raise all these issues with the relevant officers.

Cllr H. Thompson reported that 'Wyvale' Garden Centre at Eaglescliffe had oak tubs available at 2 for £40.00. It was agreed that, subject to these being of a similar size to the originals, Cllr Thompson be authorised to purchase 10 tubs immediately.

It was noted that the old PC Notice Board was still in the car park of the McOrville. The landlord to be asked to store this whilst a new role for it was investigated (possibly at Playing Field or Wildlife Garden?)

10. Financial Report: The Clerk presented reports on financial transactions completed since the last meeting and the comparison of Actual to Budget report, with a projection to the end of the year. Both reports were **accepted**.

Income:	£	Expenditure:	£
Wayleaves	65.00	Bus Service	1,150.00
Durham CC (Limestone Landscapes Project)	9,901.25	Differentia Design (Village Atlas book & Notice Board)	11,301.25
Interest	<u>9.43</u>	Village Maintenance (Church Bank shuttering)	500.00
		Clerk's Training (CiLCA reg fee & H&S training)	277.00
		Tree work	500.00
		Clerk's salary (Oct-Dec)	375.00
		HBC (Land Registry searches)	<u>55.00</u>
Total	9,975.68	Total	14,158.25

11. Correspondence:

(a) Unity Trust Bank – re: change of payment processing service provider - noted

(b) Walkers – re: charges for 2015 grass cutting season – **agreed**. **Action:** Clerk to check that they will include the village green land along the Hartlepool Road.

(c) SLCC Co Durham & Cleveland Training Partnership – preliminary notice of training event on Elections 2015 - noted

12. Planning: Councillors reiterated their decisions of 7 January:

H/2014/0553 – 18, Manor Fields, Wynyard – no objections

H/2014/ 0579 – North Farm, Elwick – whilst supporting the development of the site, Councillors expressed their on-going concerns about the proposed access to the site, especially as traffic had increased considerably since the original plans had been submitted and, with some very dangerous driving being seen around the proposed access point, with some drivers overtaking others here since the introduction of the 20mph limit. It was felt that should the Council be minded to approve the application this should be subject to traffic calming measures being introduced beforehand. Councillors also felt that, in the light of the Village Design Statement, about to be produced, any developer should be required to comply with this statement.

H/2014/0587 – Sycamore House, Elwick – no objections

H/2014/0563 – Pawton Hill Farm, Elwick – no objections.

13. Matters of concern to Councillors:

Cllr Hall expressed grave concern about the future of the village shop and Post Office, a view with which all Councillors concurred.

14. Date of next meeting: 7.00 pm Monday 23rd February 2015