

Elwick Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 23rd February 2015 at Elwick School

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

In Attendance: Mrs. M. West (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies: Ward Cllr. B. Loynes

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

3. Declarations of Interest: None made.

4. Minutes of meeting of 26th January 2015: **Agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising: (a) The Clerk reported that the bid to the Lottery **Awards for All** had been successful. The Clerk was congratulated on her efforts to obtain funds for the benefit of the village. The Clerk further reported that, due to the inclement weather in January, numbers attending the Computer Club had not been sufficiently high to meet the cost of rental of the WI Hall. After a brief discussion it was unanimously **agreed** to make up to £60 available to the Club to meet the costs of rent for January and February. It was noted that BT has been contacted regarding the supply of a Broadband line to the WI hall, and a tender document will be developed for the purchase of the equipment, in accordance with Financial regulations.

(b) **Church Bank:** Mr. Mike Seymour has kindly offered his help with the development of the tender document for the works on Church bank. **Noted.**

(c) **Whelley Hill Farm:** Following receipt of the site information, Councillors agreed that there were no grounds for refusal of planning permission for the proposed wind turbine, although Councillors wished to have it put on the record that they felt Elwick had now reached saturation point in regard to such developments. **Action:** Clerk to notify Hartlepool Borough Council Planning Officers.

(d) **Bus service:** Cllrs Hutchinson and R. Thompson reported on the meeting called by Mrs. Little in the Central Library on 18th February, with regard to the future of the bus service. It was noted that other funders had offered, at this meeting, to contribute sufficient funds to enable the bus service to continue, with Elwick Parish Clerk managing the contract on behalf of funders.

6. Chairman's Report: (i) The chair reported difficulty in sourcing a wooden tree guard for the Jubilee Tree. It was therefore **agreed** that a metal tree guard be purchased and placed in situ by the chairman. (ii) A number of large stones on the green had been disturbed by heavy vehicles and were in need of replacing. The Chairman **agreed** to undertake this on Saturday with the help of the Village maintenance Group.

7. Ward Councillor's Report: In her absence, the Clerk read the written report submitted by Cllr Loynes in regard to actions undertaken since the previous meeting. Although Cllr. Loynes had reported all the matters raised to relevant officers, it was noted that still outstanding were actions on:

(a) the street sign for The Paddock

(b) potholes at both the top of the village and at the entrance to Manor Close

(c) the 'Medical Parking Only' sign was still missing from the designated site in Manor Close

(d) Fly tipping was on the increase with a mattress having been dumped at the top of Craddon Bank, and old tyres along Coal Lane. **Action:** Clerk to ask Cllr. Loynes to request the long-term loan of 'high-visibility jackets' and 'litter-pickers' from the Borough Council, to enable the verges/hedges to be kept litter free.

8. Village Maintenance Group Report: Most matters had been already covered under the Ward Councillors report however it was noted that the Wildlife Group would be most grateful to have the use of the old notice board for the Wildlife Garden. Cllr. H. Thompson reported that she had, after consultation with the Clerk, purchased 20 oak half-barrels for the village at a greatly reduced cost of £10.50 each. Cllr. Hutchinson is storing these at his farm until needed for flower tubs.

9. Village Fete: A proposal to hold a May Bank Holiday picnic on the green again was put to Councillors. It was felt by some that there was no specific 'hook' for the event as was the case last year, with the Village Atlas exhibition and, further that it might conflict with other events run by the EMA and Friends of Elwick School later in the year. The matter was put to the vote and rejected, with one vote in favour, two abstentions and three against.

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:	£
Reparation for damage to the green	150.00	Bus Service	575.00
		Skips	<u>312.00</u>
Total	150.00	Total	887.00

11. Correspondence:

- (a) HMRC- due to the poor quality of the paper and spelling mistakes, Councillors deemed this to be a scam and ordered the Clerk to **ignore** it.
- (b) Police & Crime Commissioner requests an invitation to meet the parish Council to present his annual report – **agreed**, Mr. Coppinger to be invited to next meeting.
- (c) Hartlepool Borough Council – notice of the Parade by the Band & Bugles of the Rifles on Saturday 21 March, commencing in Victory Square at 10.30 am – **noted**.
- (d) Request for co-operation in an on-line survey on Local Councils, from Akiko Takeoka, Associate Professor in Sapporo University, Japan, who is studying community governance in the UK. **Clerk to complete**.
- (e) Mrs. Banks reported cars parking illegally on the double yellow lines, on the access junction to the pubs/shop, causing a severe hazard to elderly pedestrians and drivers turning onto the main road; photographic evidence was supplied of the offending vehicles. This matter has been passed to both the police and Borough Council

12. Planning: No applications

13. Matters of concern to Councillors:

Cllr Hall expressed his ongoing concern about traffic speeding through the village; whilst the flashing 20mph signs have made some impact, especially on villagers, others are still ignoring the speed limit and driving dangerously fast, especially up the road through the green towards Hartlepool.

Cllr. H. Thompson wondered if anything could be done to ameliorate the loss of newspaper provision in the village, now the shop no longer sold these. After some discussion it was felt that the issue was very complex and not really within the remit of the Parish Council.

Cllr. R. Thompson noted that the Coroner's report on the A19 fatality at Dalton Piercy recommended the closing of the junctions at both Dalton and Elwick.

14. Date of Next meeting: 7.00 pm Monday 30th March, at the W.I. hall.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.