

Elwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 1st June at Elwick School

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

1. Apologies: M West (Parish Clerk), B Loynes (Ward Cllr)

2. Public Forum: There were no members of the public in attendance.

3. Declarations of interest: None. Cllrs were reminded to return to the Clerk their declarations of Interest forms as a matter of urgency.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th April 2015 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising:

a) **Computer Club:** This will begin again on Tuesday 9th June. Mark Jobson has completed the necessary wiring in the WI Hall. A trainer, Sophie Barker from HCFE will join the group and Cllr H Thompson will oversee the first session if the Clerk is still in hospital.

b) **Wildlife Garden:** Cllr Irving, and two volunteers, are working on this. Cllr Irving was worried that there was far too much work for only three people with some major jobs to do, e.g. trees to move and pond to construct and also that the Junior Wildlife Club was due to start. After much discussion about the various work that there was to do, it was agreed that the Parish Council would employ a horticultural contractor. There is a planting diagram to be followed after the removal of some of the trees. Cllr Waugh has a contact and will follow this up. Cllr Irving will contact the Junior Wildlife Club and let them know that the start of this is delayed. It was also noted that the paths in the garden have not been mowed and it was thought to be the responsibility of whoever mowed the Village Greens.

Actions: Cllr Waugh to contact Horticultural Contractor.

Cllr Hutchinson to address mowing of wildlife paths.

Cllr Irving to contact the Junior Wildlife Club

c) **Church Bank Steps:** There has been no correspondence from Mike Seymour and as the work needs to be done this Summer/Autumn, the Clerk has drafted a letter to go out to contractors. Cllrs agreed to send letters to Seymour engineering, HBC, Mr D Hennels, Jamie Thompson and Mark White.

Action: Acting Clerk Cllr Thompson for M West to send letters out to contractors.

d) **Bus Service:** £2000 is now available from Hart Ward Councillors, but is not in the account yet. The Clerk will issue the contract as soon as it is as this will bring funds up to £6000 – Mrs Little has been kept informed.

e) **Defibrillator:** This is now in place on the side wall of the Spotted Cow. Cllr Irving reported that it still cannot be used as there is a plastic cover which cannot be removed hiding information.

Action: Cllr Hutchinson to contact Ward Cllrs for assistance.

f) **Mr Gilhespie's seat:** He would like a bench similar to the one outside the WI Hall positioned at the top of the Ghyll on the Green outside No 28. Cllr Irving will liaise with Mr Gilhespie re the type and position. The Parish Council will fit the seat although Mr Gilhespie will buy it.

Action: Cllr Irving to liaise with Mr J Gilhespie.

g) **Magna Carta Celebrations:** The 800th anniversary of Magna Carta is on the 14th June. It had

been suggested by Mr S Bedding at the last meeting that the PC might like to organise an event. Unfortunately, many Cllrs are away that weekend. Cllrs H and R Thompson had put it to EMA that this could be our "Scarecrows" theme, but members did not agree to this. There was much discussion about this poignant anniversary, but it was decided that the PC was unable to commemorate it.

- h) **The Parish Meeting, 29th May:** This had been a most successful event and well-attended. Village Groups had given short talks on their organisations and the Parish Council was able to inform residents of our work.
 - i) **Ownership of land outside Rudby House:** Cllr Irving declared an interest at this point. HBC have said that the strip outside Rudby House recently cemented by HBC belongs to the Council. Cllr Irving showed the deeds to her house and this looks to be the case. It was suggested that Mr Rutter of The Forge and the Spotted Cow should also check ownership of land to the front of their properties. Cllr Waugh offered to check with the Land Registry if there is any updated title. **Action:** Cllr Waugh to check title with land registry.
 - j) **Conservation Officer Visit to the Village:** Part of the Village Design Statement being produced for the Rural Neighbourhood Plan involved looking at the summary report of our Conservation Area. Cllr H Thompson and M West, (HNRP working group) were dismayed to find that the Conservation area is at risk because of residents' ignoring recommendations. Cllr Thompson spoke to Conservation Officer, Sarah Scarr, who arranged for an officer to visit Elwick. Mr Paul Burgon walked round the Village with Cllrs and informally discussed issues and some aspirations. **The Parish Council would remind all residents that planning permission MUST be sought before changing doors, windows etc.** HBC's Conservation Office is very helpful and offers advice in many areas.
6. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Hutchinson had attended a Parish Liaison meeting. Regarding the damaged Church wall, HBC said this was PC property. This is not true as the Council took over the closed churchyard in 2001. Sarah Scarr, Conservation Officer is to advise on this.
- Mike Blair has in hand the question of the gully outside No 1 The Green where it is said council workers left parts of machinery in the past causing the drain to cease working and leak. He met with Cllr Hutchinson and took photographs.
- The grass in Martindale Close does not belong to 13 group, but to the PC. Our Greens mower must be contacted to cut this in the future.
- Mrs M Ashton had asked the Chair if she could paint the stones on the Green around her property. Much discussion followed as to whether the stones should be left in their natural state or painted white. Will white deter people from parking in the wrong places? Could some stones be a traffic hazard, therefore white would be more prominent? Might bright, white stones have an effect on speed reduction? Could they be painted in a soft stone colour to blend in more naturally - some thought they were looking very shabby? Cllr R Thompson said there should be a policy for ALL the Village re painting the stones. **The Parish Council will welcome comments from the public on this issue.**
- 7) **Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Brenda Loynes is on sick leave for a few months. The PC has sent flowers and a card wishing her a speedy recovery.
 - 8) **Village Maintenance report:** Cllr Hall told the meeting that all the broken flower tubs had been replaced with new ones. Four are to be placed outside Sturrock's farm at the top of the Green. Some of the tubs may be removed if they are not looked after. The area around the bollards outside the Forge has been turfed. Two of the anti-litter signs designed by school children had been put in the wrong place - at the school instead of the Playing Field and another was too high. They will be re-sited. The path down to The Ghyll has been cut back by HBC with Mr F Grieves permission, as it was blocked by fallen trees. The path down to the Playing Field is

overgrown by weeds – Cllr Hall will ask John Pearson to clear it. Jamie and Jeff Thompson have been asked to source the stone to be placed around the new notice board. The PC was under the impression that Jack Smurthwaite wished to personally maintain his bench on the Green. This is not the case and Cllr Hall will refurbish this himself. Mike Blair has promised to find a solution to the mis-matched railing on Church Bank.

Action: Cllr Hall to refurbish bench outside no.6 The Green and also to contact J Pearson re Playing Field path.

9) Draft Depreciation Policy: It was agreed that this be deferred until the Parish Clerk's return.

10) Financial report: financial transactions completed since the last meeting up to 18th May (when the Clerk entered hospital) were presented to the meeting as follows and agreed:

Income		£	Expenditure		£
Defibrillator electrics	<u>175.00</u>		Defibrillator electrics	175.00	
Total		175.00	Annual insurance		279.57
			Computer Club equipment		3,908.57
			Grass cutting		607.20
			Internal Audit		55.00
			Parish Meeting		<u>44.20</u>
			Total		5,069.54

11) Correspondence: RoSPA asking that the Parish Council books an inspection of the equipment on the playing field. **Action:** Cllr H Thompson to check with the Clerk and book if necessary.

12) Planning Application: H/2015/0147 – temporary School on land at Wynyard Woods. Much discussion ensued, but no objections from Cllrs.

13) Matters of Concern to Councillors:

a) Cllrs Hall and Irving thought that the playing field would benefit from more equipment.

b) Cllrs Waugh and Hall still very concerned at speeding vehicles. The PC is STILL looking at ways to calm traffic. Cllr R Thompson reminded others that we had been told that as the Village is a main route for emergency vehicles we cannot have speed humps.