

Elwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 29th June at Elwick School

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

In attendance: Mrs. M West (Clerk), Mr & Mrs. Lister

The Clerk was given a warm welcome back by all present.

1. Apologies: Ward Cllr B Loynes, PC K. Robinson, CPSO C. Jones

2. Public Forum: Mr & Mrs. Lister, Benknowle Lane, raised a number of concerns including: a letter received recently from HBC regarding waste collections – these to be now jointly collected once a fortnight, but bins to be taken down to the A19 as the nearest highway. Two Parish Councillors who live outside the main village had also received this letter. No-one objected to the fortnightly joint collection of refuse and recycling, however the Clerk was asked to write to Ward Councillors raising the following concerns: the policy was felt to be discriminating against those living in very rural areas, H&S issue for the elderly having to move heavy bins a considerable distance, the very great danger of empty bins being blown over onto a major highway.

Mrs. Lister also referred to an item she had raised at the Parish Meeting, that of having a mirror placed at the top of the bend on Church Bank to improve safety, which Cllr Martin-Wells had promised to look into, but nothing had been heard since. **Action:** Clerk to write to Ward Councillors regarding these issues.

The Listers both declared their opposition to the latest application for a further extension to an agricultural building at Benknowle Farm (see 12).

The Listers were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

3. Declarations of interest: Cllr. R.Musgrave – Item 12.3

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st June 2015 were amended as follows: Item 5(a) replace 'HCFE' with 'The Wharton Trust', and then signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising:

a) **Declaration of Interest Forms:** Three Councillors have not yet returned their completed forms and are requested to do so as a matter of urgency. **Action:** HT, RT, AW.

b) **Computer Club & Wildlife Garden:** The Clerk informed that Sophie Barker had been unable to continue as tutor and that Janine Dobbin, an independent IT tutor had stepped in and accepted an initial 10-week contract; she is proving very popular. 11 members had already paid the fees with more expected tomorrow. The Lottery have agreed to allow any balances, accrued through careful purchasing, to be used for further equipment/software etc and the Clerk has therefore already purchased mice and mouse mats for the 10 laptops and replacement toner cartridges for the printer. The bill for the electrical work is still outstanding. The lottery has also been informed that the Wildlife Garden Arts Project has had to be postponed until September due to the Clerk's sick-leave, and are willing, if necessary, to extend the period of the grant. The wood carver and designer have both agreed to the postponement. Cllr. Waugh has contacted his colleague, Jonathon Gibson, who is available to look at the garden on Wednesday 1st July, between 10.00am and 2.00pm, with a view to undertaking its professional restoration. Cllr Irving and the Clerk stated they could be available between 10.00 and noon and Cllr Waugh was asked to arrange a meeting at this time. **Actions:** Cllr Waugh to arrange meeting between 10.00am and noon on 1st July with Mr. Gibson, Cllr Irving & Clerk to attend meeting.

c) **Bus Service:** HBC officers have now confirmed that £900 is to be made available by Headland & Harbour Ward Councillors and £500 by Victoria Ward Councillors, bringing the total available for the bus service to £7,400. A draft contract has therefore been issued this afternoon to Paul's Travel, commencing 1st July and ending 31st March 2016. Once the signed contract, together with a copy of the proposed timetable and bank details have been received, a Standing Order will be made to Paul's Travel, for monthly payments in arrears. **Action:** Clerk to finalise contractual arrangements with Paul's Travel.

- d) **Defibrillator:** This is now fully functional. Further training will be arranged.
- e) **Ownership of land outside Rudby House:** Cllr Waugh has checked with the Land Registry and stated that maps are not conclusive, although it appears that all the land beside the road, from The Ghyll down to the end of The Terrace, with the exclusion of that outside the Post Office and McOrville, does not appear to belong to the properties abridging the road, neither is this part of the registered village green. It must therefore be assumed that, unless property owners have deeds which prove otherwise, the land did indeed become the property of the Borough Council when they adopted the road.
- f) **Mr Gilhespie's seat:** The Clerk will continue to liaise with Mr J Gilhespie about the installation of a seat on the green to the east of the entrance to The Ghyll.
- g) **Stones around the green:** Following some discussion it was **agreed** that a decision on painting of the stones be deferred to the next meeting and that, in the meanwhile, some stones should be cleaned with wire brushes, and another painted in an off-white colour, to ascertain which looked better. It was further **agreed** that Councillors would undertake this at 7.00pm on Tuesday 7th July. It was also reported that a tractor and trailer, driven by a man employed by Mr. Cowan of Dovecote Farm, had been observed on Thursday 25th June, to knock down the very large stone outside no 1 The Green, whilst trying to turn down Church Bank from North Lane, and to leave this in the road thereby causing a hazard to other vehicular traffic. It was **agreed** that the Clerk follow the Parish Council's policy of charging for the cost of reparation work and write to Mr. Cowan on this matter. **Actions:** Councillors to be available for working party at 7.00pm on 7th July; Clerk to write to Mr. Cowan.
- h) **Fence rail on Church Bank:** It was noted that the Borough Council had now replaced the poor quality fence with a matching post and rail, as per the original. Thanks were expressed to the Council officer responsible.
- i) **Grass cutting around the village:** There have been several requests received this year, for grass areas within the village not currently being cut by our main contractor, to be maintained by the Parish Council. The contractor was asked some time ago to supply a map of the area he is currently contracted to cut, but this has not yet been received. It was **agreed** that ownership of these pieces of land needs to be ascertained before the Parish Council undertakes the maintenance of them. **Action:** Clerk to request the map as a matter of urgency and to investigate ownership of various grassed areas around the village.
6. **Church Bank Steps:** The invitation to tender for the refurbishment of the steps was sent to five potential suppliers on 11th June. To date only two have responded, one to indicate he did not have the time available this year and another made a site visit with Cllr. H. Thompson and the Clerk on Tuesday last. His tender was expected today, but had not arrived in time for the meeting. It was **agreed** that the Borough Council should be contacted to check whether they planned to tender, as they has originally given an unofficial quote. Given the urgency of the matter, the Chairman, together with the Maintenance Group members, were authorised to make a decision on any tenders received by 5.00 pm on 3rd July. **Actions:** Clerk to contact HBC as soon as possible. Chairman and Maintenance Group members to make decision on any tenders received.
7. **Chairman's Report:** Further news was awaited from HBC vis-a-vis the graveyard wall repair and the drains outside no 1 The Green. The Chairman reported that he had replaced several stones around the green, including the very large one outside No 1 The Green, which he found in the road on Church Bank. He also reported that the Vintage Car Rally had been postponed to 13th July due to inclement weather.
8. **Ward Councillor's Report:** None received.
9. **Village Maintenance report:** Cllr Hall reported that: the growth on Church Bank has been cut back and the waste removed – John Pearson had done an excellent job. The litter notices had not yet been replaced as agreed; Cllr R. Thompson explained that his drill bit had broken when drilling one of the notices, but that he would complete the task as quickly as possible. It was **agreed** that the second notice, which is currently still outside the school, should be placed near to the litter bin at the bottom

of the steps up to the church. Cllr Hall was to paint Jack Smurthwaite's bench himself; the cobbles at the entrance to The Walk had been sprayed by Mr. Banks to very good effect. The bus shelter was in need of clearing up as it was full of straw – Cllrs Thompson stated that this was the responsibility of the EMA as the straw had been provided for their Scarecrow Competition, and that they would ensure its removal. Cllr Hall stated that the bus shelter was in need of painting. The salt bin at the west end of the green had been badly damaged by a lorry and was in need of repair or replacement. Cllr Irving reported that several flower tubs were still in need of painting. She further reported receipt of a request to have two tubs in Manor Close moved closer to the bungalows to allow for easier maintenance, one of these tubs was also in need of replacement. Cllr Hutchinson **agreed** to move these tubs on Tuesday 7th July. It was also noted that the 'No Parking' signs were still missing.

Actions: Cllr R Thompson to move anti-litter signs as soon as possible; Cllr Hall to paint bench; Cllrs Thompson to arrange removal of straw from bus shelter; Clerk to inform HBC of damaged salt bin; all available Cllrs to help with painting and/or moving of flower tubs.

10. Financial report: The Clerk was only able to provide an oral report on financial transactions, as she had no access to the bank whilst in hospital. The only transactions since the last meeting had been a payment of £312 for skip hire and the monthly DD for the broadband service for the Computer Club.

11. Correspondence: (i) Mrs. M. Ashton requesting the Parish Council take over the cutting of the grass on the bank outside No. 1 The Green, previously undertaken by Mr. Ashton, as the bank was now becoming very steep due to water and vehicle damage. **Agreed. Action:** Clerk to reply.
(ii) Miss V. Harrison regarding her replacement windows; the content of her letter was **noted** and she was referred to the minutes of 1st June 2015. **Action:** Clerk to reply.
(iii) HBC regarding Public Path Diversion Orders for Footpaths 2, 3 and 4 – **noted**.
(iv) Mrs. H. Hall regarding the painting or not of the stones around the green – **noted**.

12. Planning Applications: H/2015/0162 – 39 dwellings on land off Coniscliffe Road – Clerk to respond with PC's concern about likely increase of traffic through Elwick.

H/2015/0169 – Orangery, single storey extension at No 2 The Green – Clerk to respond - awaiting further information as requested by Conservation Officer.

H/2014/0557 – Benknowle Farm - further extension of agricultural building; it was noted that this been extended several times in the past, and that previous objections by the Parish Council had been overruled by planners. The current proposals looked to be making the building appear even higher as it appeared to extend over land which naturally falls away. Clerk to inform planners of concerns that previous planning permissions appear to have been exceeded, and of concerns about actual height from the ground of the planned extension.

H/2015/0233 – land to the north of Potters Farm – screening opinion for solar farm. No objections to solar farm but concern about access to site for construction vehicles, if this requires them to cross the village green.

H/2015/0254 – Low Stotfold Farm – agricultural building – No objections.

H/2015/0195 (Cllr Musgrave excluded herself for this Item) – full planning permission for bungalow for farm worker - No Objections.

13) Matters of Concern to Councillors: None.

A brief report had been received from PCSO Jones: 'There has not been a lot of activity in the area , which is a good thing: 1 civil dispute, 1 suspicious circumstances and 1 concern for safety'.

14) Date of Next Meeting: 27th July 2015 at Elwick WI hall.