

Elwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 27th July at Elwick WI Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs. M West (Clerk)

1. Apologies: Ward Cllrs B. Loynes and G. Morris, PC K. Robinson, CPSO C. Jones

2. Public Forum: No members of the public present, however it was reported that Mr. Alan Anderton had requested that the two lime trees near the small car park area in Manor Close be cut back, as he was having to have his car washed more frequently due to detritus from them. Councillors agreed to ask our tree surgeon to inspect the trees and trim them if felt necessary without compromising their shape. It was also noted that another tree in Manor Close had a broken branch and needed urgent attention. It was further reported that Mrs. Marion Tobin had requested that the tree on the green outside Village Farm be trimmed as she hits her head on branches when taking a short-cut across the corner. Councillors felt unable to concur with this, as the tree caused no problems to those using the public footpath. **Action:** Clerk to contact tree surgeon and to write to Mr. Anderton and Mrs. Tobin.

3. Declarations of interest: Cllrs H & R Thompson – Item 5e

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th June 2015 were amended as follows: Meeting commenced at 7.00pm; **Item 13. Matters of concern to Councillors:** Cllr. Irving proposed that an extra skip be procured for June 2016 only, allowing one to be situated in each of North Lane, Manor Close and The Ghyll. This was **unanimously agreed**. Amended minutes agreed and signed. **Minutes of Special Meeting of 13th July:** agreed and signed

5. Matters Arising:

a) **Stones around the green:** The Clerk informed of three letters received requesting the stones be painted white, and read these to Councillors. Following some discussion Cllr Musgrave proposed and Cllr Waugh seconded, a motion to paint the stones masonry white. A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions. It was therefore **agreed** to proceed with repainting all the stones around the green as soon as possible, using masonry white paint. **Action:** Chairman to obtain the paint and request Young Farmers undertake this task.

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

c) **Waste Collections/Mirror on Church Bank:** The Clerk reported that the Borough Council had now withdrawn the demand that residents living outside the main village bring their waste bins to the nearest main road, and would now be going out to consultation on this issue. A once-fortnightly collection would though continue, with residents requested to place both waste and recyclable materials together. Mr. & Mrs. Lister were reported to be very pleased with the outcome and thanked the Parish Council for their intervention in this matter. The matter of the mirror on Church Bank had also been investigated; Cllr. Martin-Wells had informed that it would not be possible to provide this as, because of the type of mirror required, a mirror could lead to accidents.

d) **Bus Service:** The contract had now been signed and a Standing Order was in process.

e) **Church Bank Steps:** The Clerk reported on the discussion with the anonymous donor; he was happy to accept the Parish Council's recommendation as to contractor, but wished to discuss the work with the supplier before commencement. He reaffirmed his willingness to donate £10,000 towards the work. As a result of this discussion, the supplier contacted the donor and agreed a minor amendment to his tender – an anti-slip surface to the concrete; this would be at no extra cost. The Clerk had therefore issued a contract based on the amended tender and Councillors' requirements. The supplier had raised concerns about the penalty clause, as he had to employ external suppliers for the metal work etc. Councillors agreed that, provided the supplier agreed to guarantee the job would be completed once started, they would be willing to forego the penalty clause in this instance. **Action:** Clerk to issue amended contract.

f) **Wildlife Garden:** The Clerk informed that the supplier had been informed of Councillors' decision to accept his tender for the redevelopment of the garden and would be undertaking the work in early August. She had forwarded to him the Village Atlas Wildlife reports and information on the Wildlife Garden Arts project. As requested, he had since submitted an annual maintenance programme together with costings for one half day per month, from March to October at £100 per session inclusive of all materials. Following discussion this was accepted. **Action:** Clerk to issue contract

g) **Paving around Notice Board:** The Chairman informed that he had a supply of used paving available if needed. Concerns were expressed about the long delay in having this work finalised, as samples of stone had been obtained from a quarry at Staindrop, at around £60 per square metre, and a diagram, together with measurements, drawn up by the Clerk earlier in the year. A number of different types of paving options were discussed and it was finally agreed to obtain a less expensive stone from a quarry at Bedale. Cllr. H. Thompson agreed to organise the ordering of the stone and Cllr. Musgrave offered to collect it. It was further agreed that BGS be asked to undertake the task of laying the paving. Cllr. Irving offered to store the stone in her yard until it could be laid. **Actions:** Cllr. H. Thompson to order the stone and liaise with Cllr. Musgrave over its collection. The Clerk to contact BGS in regard to the laying of the stone.

h) **Grassed areas around the village:** The Clerk reported that HBC had confirmed that they owned the grassed areas in Manor and Martindale Closes. The grass-cutting contractors would be asked to ensure that the whole area was mown in future. Cllr Hall raised concern about residents in other parts of the village placing stones around the green areas outside their homes, which compromised the ability of the grass contractors to undertake their task. The Clerk agreed to check the ownership of this land and, if it were either the Parish or Borough Council's responsibility, then householders would be asked to remove the stones or undertake the grass maintenance themselves. **Action:** Clerk to investigate ownership of green areas.

The Clerk informed Councillors that an invoice had been received from the Borough Council for rent of commercial land in Manor Close; as she was not aware of any such lease, she made enquiries. The rent was for the piece of land on which the Parish Council hut had stood and which was reserved specifically for the placement of the skip (and in later years, for the parking of cars by medical or care staff attending residents in sheltered housing in Manor and Martindale Closes). The Borough Council had leased this land to the Parish Council since 1984 and she had now paid the rent up to 2025. She further informed that Cllr. Ray Martin-Wells had asked that HBC replace the Medical Parking only sign immediately.

The Clerk reported that Mr. & Mrs. Lewis had informed her that they had now been allocated a two-bedroomed bungalow in Martindale Close, and wished to express their appreciation to the

Parish Council for their support and endeavours in this matter. Noted with pleasure.

6. Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that he had attended the meeting with the anonymous donor; had offered flagstones for the village green and had been assured that the drainage problem at the junction of North Lane and Church Bank, had now been resolved following engineering works. He noted that the graveyard wall had still to be repaired and, as he would shortly be attending another meeting with the Leader of the Borough Council he would raise this again and asked that any other matters of concern be brought to his attention as soon as possible.

7. Ward Councillor's Report: None received, although Cllr. G. Morris had asked the Chairman about the Parish Council's likely response to a solar farm proposal on Potter's Farm; a screening proposal had already been discussed at the previous PC meeting in June, but until the formal application was submitted the Parish Council would not be able to make a formal response.

8. Village Maintenance report: Cllr. Hall reported that : (a) the anti-litter notices had still not been placed at the Playing Field; Cllr R. Thompson apologised and agreed to undertake this immediately. (b) he had painted Jack Smurthwaite's bench himself, and Mr. Smurthwaite very pleased. (c) the bench at the corner of North Lane and Hillcrest Avenue was in need of attention as one of the seating slats was broken and (d) the climbing frame in the playing field is in need of urgent repair. Cllr. Irving reported that Mrs. Banks had requested the edge of the roadway up to The Walk footpath be cleared of weeds.

Cllr. Musgrave left the meeting at this point due to a medical emergency (8.25pm).

Cllr R. Thompson reported that the rear of the bus shelter roof was showing some deterioration and needs inspecting with a view to possible re-felting, and that the whole was in need of repainting.

Actions: Cllr. R. Thompson to attend to the placement of the anti-litter signs; Chairman to organise the spraying/hoeing of the weeds; Clerk to contact BGS with regard to the bench repair, the bus shelter roof inspection and painting, and HBC in regard to a play equipment inspection. The Clerk also to research the original supplier of the play equipment, purchased under the Play-builders project.

9) Financial Report: The Clerk presented the reports, which were accepted.

Income:	£	Expenditure:	£
Contributions for bus	2,000.00	Broadband Line (2 months)	43.20
Interest	<u>16.67</u>	Skip hire	312.00
Total	2,016.67	Grass Cutting	1,518.00
		Toner replacements for Computer Club	174.58
		Clerk's salary (3 months)	375.00
		Rent of land in Manor Close (2105-2025)	10.00
		Electric work re: Computer Club	23.69
		Tutor fees – Computer Club	300.00
		Emptying of Playing Field Waste Bins	<u>99.38</u>
		Total	2,855.85

10. Correspondence: CPSO C. Jones report on incidents within the parish since the last meeting – noted. Other correspondence had been taken under the relevant agenda item.

11. Planning Applications: None

12. Matters of Concern to Councillors: None. The Clerk reported that she had purchased from

the SLCC a copy The Clerk's Manual as a resource and to help her with the qualification. Cllr. Musgrave felt that the Clerk should not have to pay for this herself and proposed that the cost be reimbursed. This was **unanimously agreed**.

13. Date of Next Meeting: 28th September 2015 at Elwick School.