

## ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 25 April 2016 at Elwick School

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

**In Attendance:** Ward Cllr. B. Loynes, M. West, Clerk

**1. Apologies:** Cllrs. R. Musgrave & A. Waugh, PC K. Robinson, CPSO C. Jones - **accepted**.

The Clerk informed members that Cllr Waugh had now formally tendered his resignation as he and his family have left the village. Action has been initiated to advertise for a co-option to the Parish Council.

The police report that overall crime is very low in the village with nothing of note occurring. Cath has been dealing with people's concerns over the HGV access and liaising with our partners and passing on people's thoughts.

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

**3. Declarations of Interest:** None.

**4. Minutes of 21 March 2016:** Accepted as a true record and signed & dated by the Chairman.

#### **5. Matters Arising:**

- (a) Awards for All** - The Clerk tabled the final report on the grant expenditure, to be submitted to the Lottery; this indicated that considerably more had been achieved than originally anticipated. The report was accepted. Councillors wished to have put on record their appreciation of all the Clerk's hard work and diligence in making the most of the monies to the benefit of the parish community.
- (b) Dog Stencil** – this is still awaited. Cllr Loynes informed that it would be done as soon as the weather permitted.
- (c) Clerk's Appraisal** – Cllr H. Thompson reported that this has not yet been completed as still one outstanding response. It will be completed by the May meeting.
- (d) Salt bins** – Cllr Loynes informed that the new bin on Hartlepool Road is to be moved to the requested site at the top of the bank; it was noted that the other salt bins have yet to be repaired/replaced.
- (e) Road Sweeper** – the sweeper has at last been through the village. Cllr Loynes reported that this should happen on a monthly rota, but was informed that this was not in fact happening. Concern was expressed about the frequency being inadequate to deal with the clogging of drains after heavy rainfall, due to run-off from fields around the village.
- (f) Bee Cottage** – Cllr Loynes reported that officers were clear that Bee Cottage recycling should be collected as with other residences in the village – it was definitely not down as a farm. Cllr Hutchinson reported that the bins at Amerston Hill were still not being emptied, some 6 months after the matter was raised, and that fly-tipping was on the increase. It was noted that builders and house clearance rubbish had been dumped in Coal Lane, Dalton Piercy and Hart back lanes over recent weeks. Cllr Loynes was asked to raise the issue of charges at the recycling depot being counter-productive. **Action:** Cllr. Loynes.
- (g) Bus service** – the Clerk reported that she had now received the £3,000 donated by Ward Councillors towards a rural transport scheme; a meeting between Elwick, Dalton Piercy and Greatham PCs and TVRCC had been arranged for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> at 4.30pm in the WI hall at Elwick to discuss options.
- (h) Martindale Farm** – Cllr Loynes reported that both the Borough Council and police had made formal objections to the proposed HGV access.
- (i) Pavements** – the Clerk reported that she had met with John Carroll, the HBC Highways Inspector, to review the pavements in Martindale Close and North Lane. He stated that the flags in Martindale Close would be re-laid/replaced as necessary as a matter of urgency, and that he would recommend a complete replacement of the pavements along both sides of North Lane from the school to the A19. Cllr Irving requested that the whole of the North Lane pavement on the east side be replaced

as the area at the junction with the Green was also very worn. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to request.

- 6. Chairman's Report:** (a) Potters Farm – BT states that the **telephone line** in the tree on the green outside the farm is not their responsibility but that of the tree owner, as the tree needs pruning. The Clerk asked to investigate if this is correct. Cllr. Hall also raised concerns about the tree near Holmlea which has a large branch with a severe crack in it. **Action:** Clerk to contact HBCs Arboriculturist. (b) The Chairman has now collected the **leaf blower** owned by the Parish Council which had been held on our behalf by Mr. Banks, the former Chairman. This is to be passed to Cllr Hall, who will use it to clear Church Bank steps etc.
- 7. Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Loynes stated that most items on her list had already been covered. It was noted that the light cover on the lamp outside No 28 The Green had still not been replaced and also, that the top of a lamp to the east of Holmlea is leaning over. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to refer to officers. She reported that wild flowers had now been sown at the Dalton crossroads; she was asked if the entrances to the village off the A19 could also be sown. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to request.
- 8. Village Maintenance Group Report:**
- (a) A length of rope on the Walking Plank in the Playing Field needs replacing.
  - (b) The waste bin lid at the playing field has still not been replaced and the bin is full of water.
  - (c) The road sign into Greenlea/The Walk has fallen off - the Clerk noted that she had already raised concerns about this particular sign with officers, as it was misleading delivery drivers, who thought they were delivering to Greenlea, when in fact they were leaving parcels at homes in The walk or North Lane. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to raise all these issues with relevant officers.
  - (d) Several flower tubs are in need of replacement. More tubs will now need to be purchased.
- 9. Parish Meeting:** The Clerk reported that she had booked the school hall for 7.00pm on 10 May. Invitations to all village organisations, and to ward Councillors, would be issued this week. Following discussion, it was **agreed** that a similar format to the previous year be followed, with refreshments available. All organisations would be invited to speak about their year and plans for the future, the PC would present ideas for a 3-year plan of works and aspirations, the Village Design Statement and the Rural Plan Policies. Mention would also be made of the Queen's Birthday celebration event and the possibility of an annual flower tub competition. **Action:** Clerk to organise refreshments, and to draft presentation by PC.
- 10. Financial Report:** The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Parish Council's insurers with regard to the loss of the Notice Board, and had been advised that a claim could be made. Councillors **agreed** that this should be done. **Action:** Clerk to make insurance claim. The Clerk then presented the financial reports, which were accepted.

Income:	£	Expenditure:	
Precept	8,288.00	Broadband Line	23.94
Concurrent Services	6,818.00	Bus	624.00
Ward Councillors' contribution to Rural Transport	3,000.00	Wildlife Garden maintenance	100.00
Transparency Fund Grant	1,457.00	Wildlife Garden – notice board, signs	2,843.66
Contribution to replacement Flower Tub	30.00	Wildlife garden – plants & hedgehog house	96.84
Bank Interest	9.75	Computer Club – screen, genealogy site	319.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,602.75</b>	PAT Testing of IT equipment	63.36
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4,071.78</b>

# 11. Correspondence:

- Complaint about children playing football on the green space in The Walk. **Action:** Clerk to notify complainant that the situation would be monitored.
- SLCC Conference, Wed. 6 July at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield – updates on legal and financial issues facing Parish Councils and workshop on protecting Historic environment, and grants available. **Agreed** 3 places be booked under the 3 for 2 early bird offer with other PCs in rural area invited to take up a place. **Action:** Clerk to book 3 places and invite other Parish Councils to take up a place.
- Durham County Council – (letter sent to Mr. J. Harrison). Notification of withdrawal of Local Plan and invitation to remain as a consultee. **Agreed** to withdraw. **Action:** Clerk to notify Durham CC.
- Unity Trust Bank – notification of introduction of new monthly charges. **Action:** Clerk to research

alternative banking.

**12. Planning Applications:**

HBC/2014/0579 – notice of approval of North Farm development - 14 dwellings

HBC/2016/0154 – substation at Red Gap - no comment

HBC/2016/0169 – Vane Meadows, Wynyard – no comment

HBC/2014/428 – High Tunstall Farm – notice of reduction to 1,200 dwellings from original 2,000.

Strongly object on the grounds of increase in traffic flow through the village.

**13. Matters of Concern to Councillors:**

- Cllr Hall raised again the issue of speeding through the village and the need for stronger traffic calming measures to be introduced immediately.
- Several Councillors raised the issue of rubbish in the hedgerows around the village.
- Cllr R. Thompson raised concern over the state of the road surface through the village.
- It was noted that the bollard at the top of the road leading down to the Ghyll had been snapped off, probably by the waste collection lorry reversing. **Agreed** not to replace.

**14. Date of next meeting:** 7.00 pm, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 at Elwick School

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm.