

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 31 October 2016 at Elwick School

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

In Attendance: Ward Cllr. B. Loynes, M. West, Clerk; 4 members of the public

1. Apologies: Cllrs. R. Musgrave, J. Sturrock - accepted.

2. Public Forum: **1. Post Office:** Residents wished to know what was happening vis-a-vis a Post Office service, as the status of the shop was unknown, and appears to have closed. The Clerk reported a letter had been received from the Post Office, stating that the closure was temporary, whilst alternatives were being investigated. After a brief discussion it was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to the Post Office asking if they would be willing to rent the shop premises in the interim. **Action:** Clerk to write to PO.

2. Parking on the Green: (Agenda Item 6) The Clerk reported that two letters had been sent to residents of Pathways & Chantry Cottage informing them of the Bye-Laws and asking them to cease parking on the green. The residents at Chantry Cottage had responded positively and immediately ceased parking in front of their house; the residents at Pathways continue to park several cars, not only in front of their house, but also in front of Potters Farm, and on the grass. It was agreed that the local police officer be asked to call on them to make clear that they were committing a criminal act. Cllr Loynes affirmed that crossing the yellow lines was in itself a criminal act. Mr Pearson, of Chantry Cottage, asked why residents at Nos 8 and 14 are allowed to park in front of their houses, as maps show the village green runs up to the front of their properties as it does with his. Councillors **acknowledged** that this was an anomaly that needed clarifying and asked the Clerk to investigate. **Action:** Clerk to identify who has/has not rights to park in front of their property on the north side of the green, and to seek advice from the Borough Solicitor if necessary, before involving the police.

3 members of the public left at this point.

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Minutes of 3 October 2016: Cllr H. Thompson noted that the postponed date was in fact 26 September. With this correction the minutes were accepted as a true record and signed & dated by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising:

(a) Rural Transport – The Clerk reported that the new Rural Community Transport Scheme had commenced. To date 63 residents had joined the scheme, including 4 from Dalton and 2 from West Park. The Clerk requested advice on a request to join the scheme from a lady who spends several nights a week at a residence in West Park and who has relatives in Elwick; however, she lives in Seaton Carew. Councillors **agreed** that as she was not a resident of the areas contributing to the cost of the service, regretfully her request was declined. **Action:** Clerk to write to inform of the decision. The Chairman reported on an e-mail received from Sue Little requesting a meeting; Councillors **agreed** that he should not respond to this as it had already been agreed that no further communication would be had with Paul's Travel on the issue of the bus service.

(b) Flower tubs – Cllr Irving reported that several tubs around the village had now been removed. Turf was required to fill the spaces left behind.

(c) Rights of Way – The Clerk presented a report from the HBC Officer and map of the rights of way to the west of the village, which clearly showed that none existed around the Playing Field. The Chairman informed that Mr. Grieves had notified him of a hole in the hedge around the Playing Field and asked the Clerk who was responsible for its maintenance. **Action:** Clerk to

investigate.

(d) Paving around the Notice Board – Cllr. H. Thompson reported that Paul Coulson was too busy to undertake this work. The Clerk informed that John Pearson had agreed to do it in the week commencing 7 November, at a cost of £300. This was **agreed**.

(e) Millstone – The Clerk reported that the millstone ordered to commemorate the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II had been collected and was now at Stotfold Moor Farm. The carved lettering of Elwick required painting black before its installation, by the Chairman, at the North Lane entrance to the village. The paint will need to be mixed with a binding agent as the millstone is made of sandstone; ideally this should be done by a professional to ensure accuracy! The Chairman then stated that he wished to donate the millstone to the village. Parish Councillors wished to record their thanks for this generous act.

Action: Clerk to organise painting of the lettering and organise a commemorative plaque.

6. Parking around the green – already covered under Public Forum minute.

7. Chairman's Report: (a) The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting he had: moved a heavy stone outside No 1, The Green, which had been displaced and was a traffic hazard; removed the flower tubs; collected the Millstone and had spoken with Fred Grieves about the Playing Field.

(b) He had attended the Parish Liaison meeting and raised a number of issues, including: North Lane pavements, potholes on Church Bank, damaged street lights, road signs and asked advice about parking on the village green.

8. Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Loynes reported that: the lamp cover outside No 28, The Green had finally been replaced; a new lamp post had been ordered to replace the one at the east end of the village damaged in a traffic accident, and another to replace the damaged one on Church Bank; the pavements in North Lane and the road down Church Bank are to be resurfaced this year; the lights in North Lane that are shaded by trees will be dealt with ASAP; the HBC Enforcement Officer will be contacting the company involved in sending heavy vehicles through the village and that the road sweeper comes every third Tuesday. She wished to know where Councillors preferred to site a new winter grit bin at the east end of the village, as HBC officers had proposed a site next to the Millstone. Councillors disagreed with this proposal and, following discussion, suggested that behind the BT box on the green might be more appropriate, as grit was needed for outside the WI hall and on down that road, which could get very slippery in snow/icy conditions due to the stream crossing the road, on the slope. This venue would also allow residents higher up the village towards Hartlepool to obtain grit.

She was informed that: the grit bin on the middle road across the green was badly damaged; numbers on the electronic speed sign in North Lane are still not showing; the old waste bin in the Playing Field had still not been removed; the road sign on the road towards Hartlepool had not yet been repaired, that the 'Slow' signs on the road here needed repainting and that the edges of the green needed to be tidied up – Cllr Loynes stated that HBC no longer had the manpower to do this, although she would ask for the gutters to be sprayed with weed killer. The Wynyard Residents' Association representative requested: a speed data logger to the north side of the west hand loop at Wynyard Wood, and dog waste bins. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to follow up on all these items.

9. Village Maintenance Group Report: Cllr Hall reported that: the ivy in Greenlea had been cut back; the hedge in North lane had been dealt with and Martindale front garden tidied.

10. Remuneration Working Group: Cllr. H. Thompson regretted that she had not had time to call the required meeting, but would do so ASAP. It was **agreed** that she, Cllrs Hutchinson and Sturrock would meet in the week commencing 7th November. **Action:** Cllr H. Thompson to call meeting.

11. Financial Report: (a) The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were accepted.

Income:
Wayleaves
Total

£
25.00
25.00

Expenditure:

Bank service charge 18.00
Broadband Line 30.48
General maintenance 78.95
Skips 336.00
Wildlife Garden maintenance 200.00
Miscellaneous (Millstone) 394.80
Total 958.23

(b) The Clerk then reported that an invoice for £80 had been received for the workshop on 'Family History Research On-line', given by Hartlepool Libraries; unfortunately, only 4 people had attended. Further, although she did not charge for her time in running the Computer Club, it was struggling to pay the rent on the WI hall with such low numbers and was in danger of having to close. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would pay the invoice, and the Clerk was asked to promote the Computer Club as widely as possible, including with local villages, the library and perhaps an article in the Hartlepool Mail. **Action:** Clerk to promote the Computer Club

(c) The Clerk presented a draft Expenses Policy as requested at the last meeting. This was unanimously **accepted**.

12. Budget: The Clerk asked Councillors to consider what they would wish to see in the budget for 2017-18 and to bring proposals to the November meeting. **Action:** All to bring budget proposals in November.

13. Correspondence: (a) Thank you note from Cllr Sturrock for the Get Well wishes and flowers- **noted**;

(b) E-mail from G. Carr re parking – comments **noted**;

(c) E-mail from C. Banks re Christmas Lights – **agreed** HBC to be asked to fit and turn on lights 1st December;

(d) Great North Ambulance Association request for donation – regretfully **denied**;

(e) Greenfingers flier re Grounds maintenance – **agreed** to include them on invitation to tender for grass cutting.

14. Planning Applications:

H/2016/0448 - single dwelling, Plot 5, Rose Garden Lane, Wynyard - no comment

H/2016/0373 – 30 dwellings at Site B, Wynyard - no comment

The Clerk tabled a map of the proposed new Elwick By-pass, provided by HBC Planning Dept. She stressed that the final decision on the route had not yet been made. Councillors were relieved to see that the route appeared to swing well north of the village. Councillors concerns about the impact on local farmers of having the By-pass cut through their properties were **noted**.

15. Matters of Concern to Councillors: Cllr H. Thompson reported on several concerns raised by Miss V. Harrison vis: several stones at points around the west end of the green need repositioning – the Chairman offered to do this; the road and path signs at the bottom of Church Bank are in need of cleaning – **agreed**. **Action:** Cllrs Hall and Hutchinson to clean notices and reposition stones.

No other matters were raised.

Date of next meeting: 7.00 pm, Monday 28th November 2016 at Elwick school.

Meeting closed at 9.42 pm.

Clerk's note: No request for a bonfire on the green had been requested and no permission granted.