

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 30 January 2017 at Elwick School

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

In Attendance: Ward Cllr. B. Loynes, M. West, Clerk; Kelly Flockett, Wynyard Residents Association (WRA);

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr. R. Musgrave - **accepted**. Councillors wished her well and a rapid recovery. Mrs. D. Atkins, WRA and PC Robinson

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Mrs. Flockett who would now attend instead of Mrs. Atkins, to represent the views of Wynyard residents living in Elwick parish.

- 2. Public Forum:** Mrs Flockett agreed to raise her issues under Item 5

- 3. Declarations of Interest:** None.

- 4. Minutes of 28 November 2016: Accepted** as a true record and signed & dated by the Chairman. The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint from Mrs. Little of Paul's Travel in relation to Minute 13(d), the letter from the Dept of Transport, which she read out. Councillors agreed with the Clerk's response to Mrs. Little, that she had misread the minute, which had not been about loss of rural transport but the waste of monies on new bus stops around the Borough. **Agreed:** NO Action.

5. Matters Arising:

(a) Millstone – lettering has now been painted. A brushed steel plaque is on order. Chairman to arrange placement at North Lane entrance to village.

(b) Computer Club – The Clerk reported that she had now closed the club as, despite wide promotion, the number of users was too low for sustainability. An alternative, Thursday evening session, is currently on offer through Village Life, but to date only two people have expressed interest.

(c) Parking around the Green – the Clerk reported no further progress as yet.

(d) PO/Shop – the Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the Regional Manager of the Post Office, indicating a commitment to re-opening a service in the shop should new owners be interested; in the meantime she was hoping to be able to provide a one-hour per week PO mobile service, possibly on Wednesday. The Clerk had offered the use of the Manor Close parking space if this were to be agreed.

(e) Wynyard issues – Mrs. Flockett reported on progress with the issues raised in November, viz:

(i) Traffic Calming – HBC are to undertake a traffic survey, though this is weather dependant

(ii) A689 Pedestrian Crossing – HBC officer Peter Frost has informed that this is in the pipeline though funding is the main issue.

(f) Church Bank cinder path – the Clerk reported that this had now been repaired.

- 6. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting, he had attended a Parish Councils Liaison meeting with the Leader and the Head of HBC Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Department. He had raised the Wynyard issues and, on enquiring as to the availability of Section 106 monies, had been informed that HBC had received NO Section 106 monies from developments in Wynyard.

- 7. Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Loynes reported that: (i) The resurfacing of Church Bank has been completed. (ii) A new salt bin is on order to replace the damaged one on the green. (iii) Two blocked gullies in North Lane had now been cleaned out. (iv) The faulty 20mph sign in North lane has now been repaired. (v) Two sections of pavement in North Lane are to be resurfaced in this financial year. Councillors were VERY unhappy with this news, as they felt the pavements along both sides and the whole length of North Lane from the green to the A19 were in a parlous state. Cllr Loynes stated that lack of funds was the issue. Cllrs Hall and Irving

raised concerns that the road and pavements in Manor Close had recently been resurfaced, badly, with tarmac being laid on top of moss and left as a trip hazard. They asked why, when the PC had clearly identified North Lane pavements as the priority, monies had been spent on Manor Close which was nowhere near as bad, and had not been requested. (vi) Dropped kerbs were to be installed as requested, but Peter Frost needed to know exactly where these were needed. (vii) She understood that the Greenlea parking issue had been resolved locally. (viii) Traffic calming measures on the main road through the village will not happen until, at the earliest, the new village by-pass is open, and then may not be needed. She then asked if Councillors had any other issues. Cllr Hall reported that the lantern top of the light on the green, opposite the WI hall, had not been replaced since it was removed in early December, and that the lamp posts around the green were in need of repainting. The Clerk noted that the road signs on the road out of the village towards Hartlepool were in need of repainting. Cllr Loynes then reported that the damaged lamp post on that road, would be replaced once insurance monies had been received.

- 8. Village Maintenance Group Report:** Cllr Hall reported that: (i) two trees were shading the street lights in North lane, one outside the school, the other near the 20mph sign. (ii) Playing Field equipment had been inspected by HBC and the swings declared unsafe due to rotting supports. (iii) The Playing Field fence needed urgent repair. The Clerk reported that she had received two tenders for this work. These were discussed and it was **agreed** to offer the job to Mr. Bell who had given the most competitive quote. (iv) There were numerous molehills all over the playing field making football difficult and (v) road signs on Church Bank still needed cleaning. Cllr Irving added that the large Christmas Tree appeared to be dead at the back, and asked if it should be removed to allow the smaller one to flourish? She also reported receiving many complaints about the way the Christmas lights had been displayed – down the tree instead of around it.

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

Income:		£	Expenditure:		£
Contribution from Sale of History Books		<u>23.15</u>	Bank service charge		18.00
			Broadband Line		60.96
			Clerk's salary & back pay		980.00
			General maintenance		100.00
			Grass cutting/strimming		315.60
			Rural Community Transport		3,192.00
			Laptop etc (Transparency Fund)		468.98
			New Bench for Wildlife Garden		<u>350.00</u>
Total		23.15	Total		5,485.54

(b) The Clerk reported that a second application to the Transparency Fund could not be made, as in the previous financial year turnover had been in excess of £25,000.

(c) Grass cutting tenders: The Clerk reported three tenders received. These were fully discussed and the pros and cons of each debated, before a final decision to grant the contract to Affordable Landscapes, on the basis of 14 cuts per year. **Action:** Clerk to inform all applicants of outcome.

- 10. Budget 2017/18:** The Clerk firstly presented a draft budget, which excluded income from the Precept, in order to allow Councillors to agree items to be included; this covered core PC administration, Elwick village activities undertaken on behalf of the Borough Council and those to be met from Precept as well as activities requested by Elwick parish residents living in Wynyard. Once this had been agreed, then a number of alternative scenarios for the Precept were presented, from a nil increase up to a 25% increase. All indicated a substantial deficit for the year ahead. The Clerk advised that for every 5% increase in the Precept, the PC would receive only £400 increase in income and that, whilst reserves could be used as a one-off to meet any anticipated deficit this next year, this could not be repeated in future years. After much discussion, Cllr H Thompson proposed a 25% increase, with Cllr Irving seconding. This was put to the vote and carried with five votes in favour and one abstention.

- 11. Correspondence:** None other than dealt with earlier.

12. Planning Applications:

H/2016/0521 - Sheraton West Grange Bungalow – Noted
H/2016/0504 - Outdoor classroom, Wynyard School – No objection
H/2016/0527 - Plot 25, Manorside, Phase 1, Wynyard – No objection
H/2015/0372 - Land at Wynyard Park (Site A) – No objection
H/2016/0539 - Elwick Windmill, Benknowle Lane – Strongly support
H/2016/0524 - Plot 19, Manorside, Phase 2, Wynyard – No objection
H/2016/0497 - Plot 13, Manorside, Phase 2, Wynyard – No objection
H/2017/0011 - Plot 26, Manorside, Phase 1, Wynyard – No objection
H/2017/0034 - Plot 10, Manorside, Phase 2, Wynyard – No objection

13. Matters of Concern to Councillors: Cllr H. Thompson reported a loose paving slab outside Grenville, Manor Road, and that someone has already tripped over this. Cllr Sturrick reported a grate in Manor Close in need of urgent attention. Cllr Loynes suggested that she ask Peter Frost to make a site visit, to see the issues for himself, this was **agreed** by all. **Action:** Cllr. Loynes to arrange site visit with Peter Frost.

Date of next meeting: 7.00 pm, Monday 27th February 2017 at Elwick school.