

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 22 May 2017 at Elwick WI Hall

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

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

1. **Apologies:** None received
2. **Public Forum:** No issues raised.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Hutchinson declared an interest in Planning Application 0197
4. **Minutes of 24th April 2017:** Agreed and signed.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - (a) **Elwick Parish fête** – Cllr. H. Thompson reported on second meeting of the Steering Group. 650 fliers were to be circulated approximately 10 days before the event. Cllr R. Thompson had agreed to draft this and the Clerk was obtaining a quote from a printer recommended by WRA, for both colour or black & white. Cllr Musgrave offered to help with the children's games.
 - (b) **Annual Parish Meeting** - It was agreed that the programme should include information on the Red Gap Community Fund, the Rural Community Transport Scheme and the Parish Plan. The latter would include new play equipment for the Playing Field, renovation of the cinder paths at each end of the village green, and the resurfacing of the road to the south of the green, with a surface more in keeping with the historic setting. Electors at the meeting would be asked for other suggestions.
 - (c) **Play equipment** – deferred to June meeting.
6. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr. Hutchinson reported that the old well on Church Bank had opened, due to the vibrations of heavy traffic, leaving a large hole, full of water. The Clerk had called out the Highways engineers who recommended having it filled in. As it was almost on the road, and a potential hazard for vehicles and children, he had authorised the Clerk to take immediate action to get this done. Councillors expressed their approval for the emergency action taken.
7. **Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Loynes reported that the bend sign on the Hartlepool road had now been done; the pruning of trees in North Lane had not yet been completed as a car was always parked beside it, blocking access; the street light had been repaired and were being painted and the yellow lines had been completed. Cllr Loynes was asked if the Ward Councillors were making a contribution to the Community Rural Transport Scheme this year – she responded that she was not yet sure, but would let the Clerk know as soon as possible. Cllr Loynes was thanked for her support.
8. **Village Maintenance Group Report:** Cllr Hall stated that the village green grass cutting was not good enough and that the cutters needed to be lowered; he had received several complaints that the grass left after cutting needs to be cleared up. Cllr R. Thompson disagreed with this view, and felt the green looked much better with the grass slightly longer. The green is cut every two weeks, normally on a Monday (unless it is a Bank Holiday). The Clerk explained that the new cutters were a different type to that used by the previous contractor and didn't chop the grass as finely, but were less likely to scalp the green. Following a discussion, it was **agreed** that the Clerk should contact Mr.

Pearson, to ask that the grass be cut the week of the Fete, and inform him that complaints had been received about the grass being left. Cllr H, Thomson reported that a small tree on the Walk, looked dead. It was **agreed** that, if the tree was dead, it should be removed. Cllrs R. Thompson and Hall agreed to deal with this. Cllr Hall then reported that the split in the bark on horse chestnut tree near Holmlea was worsening. The Clerk noted that the Borough Arboriculturalist had inspected the tree in 2016 and had explained that bark splitting was common and did not mean the branch was diseased. **Actions:** Clerk to discuss the grass cutting issue with Mr. Pearson. Cllrs Hall and R. Thomson to remove the dead tree.

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

Income		Expenditure:	
VAT Reclaim	1,966.77	Broadband Line	30.48
Total	1,966.77	Rural Community Transport	2, 128.00
		Clerk's salary underpayment (2016/17)	250.00
		Room Hire	20.00
		Wildlife Garden	100.00
		Total	2,528.48

10. Annual Return: (a)The Clerk presented the completed Annual Return together with the Internal Auditor's report, Balance Sheet and Bank Reconciliation for the year. These were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

(b)The Clerk reminded Councillors that his was the last External Audit to be conducted by BDO, and that, provided that turnover in any year was below £25,000, the accounts would now be subject to an Independent Examination only, though the format of the Annual Return would still be followed and accounts put onto the website. In future any item of expenditure of £100 or more, would need to be separately identified.

11. Red Gap Community Fund: Councillors were asked to consider what the Parish Council might apply for on behalf of the village. Suggestions included: Mowing equipment and Storage shed; Play equipment for the Playing Field; a village pond. It was **agreed** to put these suggestions to the Parish Meeting and ask for approval and/or other suggestions. It was noted that applications would have to be made by early July.

12. Correspondence: (i) SLCC – Clerk's Annual Membership subscription due - **agreed** to pay; (ii) SLCC - Regional Training Seminar, 19th July at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield. **Agreed** Clerk should attend, as there was much of interest on the programme, such as a legal update; (iii) AON Insurance offering 10% discount on annual Insurance. **Agreed** to remain with Zurich, as AON has proved very expensive in the past, but to inform Zurich of AON's offer. (iv) Chris Banks informing that the 'No Horses' sign at the bottom of the cinder path on Church Bank had been wrenched off, pulling the screw heads through the sign and leaving it badly bent. He had managed to straighten it, but could not re-attach. **Agreed** that Cllrs. Hall and Hutchinson would deal with this. (v) Application from Barrie Smithson, on behalf of the Teesside Yesterday Motor Club, to use the Green for a Classic Car and Motorbike Rally on 19th June, between 5.30 and 9.00pm. The Clerk informed that the application form had been completed and an up-to-date insurance policy seen. **Agreed.** (vi) The Pensions Regulator – Auto Enrolment. The Clerk had written to herself (on behalf of the Parish Council) to inform of possibility of joining a Pension Scheme, and had written back (as the employee) to say, 'No Thanks'. She would now need to confirm on-line the the PC was compliant. **Actions:** Cllrs Hall & Hutchinson to replace the 'No Horses' sign; Clerk to book place at Seminar, confirm agreement for the car rally, confirm compliance with Pensions Regulator and pay both SLCC membership and Zurich insurance fee.

13. Planning Applications:

H/2017/0051 - change of land use Hillcrest – Strongly support; improve the visual

environment

H/2017/0197 - agricultural storage shed, Stotfold Moor Farm – no objection

H/2017/0238 - 29, Wellington Gardens, Wynyard – no objection

H/2017/0244 - 25, Wellington Gardens, Wynyard – no objection

H/2017/0185 - 38 new dwellings, Wynyard Village Extension – no objection

H/2017/0153 - variation of condition to later roof, Middleton House Farm – more information required.

H/2017/0265 - Plot 7, The Beaumont, Wynyard – no objection.

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors: Cllr. H. Thompson informed that a resident had been intimidating and abusive to her, about her challenging a van driver who had parked on the green whilst making a delivery to a house he owned. It should be noted that ***it is not acceptable*** for anyone to behave in this way when a Councillor is carrying out their duties, and asserting local Bye-Laws. Cllr Irving noted that Chris Gilbert had offered to adopt a flower tub on the green, and offer gladly accepted. **Action:** All to continue with the replacing of the old flower tubs around the green at 6.00pm on Thursday 1st June, Clerk to write to Mr. A. Thompson to thank him for the compost he had provided free of charge. The Clerk informed that Mrs. P. Heslop had asked that a large stone be placed on the corner of the access road across the green, opposite her house, to reduce the damage caused by vehicles to her flower tub and the green. **Action:** Cllr. Hutchinson to obtain stone and to ask the Young Farmers to paint the stones around the green before the Parish fete.

15. Date of Next Meeting: 7.00pm, Monday 26th June at WI Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.