

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 24 July 2017 at Elwick WI Hall

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

In Attendance: Mrs. M. West, Clerk; Ward Cllr. B. Loynes, Mrs. K. Flockart (WRA), Mrs. J. McColm (TVRCC)

1. Apologies: None

- 2. Public Forum:** Mrs McColm wished to raise awareness of the 'Step Forward Tees Valley' Project, a European funded project for unemployed people over the age of 29 who would like to work but who feel excluded due to a number of factors, such as, for example: lack of confidence, lack of relevant skills, a medical condition or disability, lack of transport, etc. The Project will provide such individuals with whatever support is needed – training, placements with employers, volunteering opportunities to build confidence, access to transport etc. Mrs. McColm is also seeking placements for such individuals, in any field of employment; she confirmed that there would be no cost to an employer who offered a placement. Anyone who would be willing to help, either by identifying someone in need of help or offering a placement, may contact her on 01642 213852.

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Minutes of 26th June 2017: Agreed and signed.

5. Matters Arising:

(a) Wildlife Garden complaint – the Clerk reported that no response had been received, as yet, to her letter. Cllr. Loynes thought this might be due to staff changes/holidays, and offered to investigate; meanwhile the Clerk was asked to send an e-mail copy of the letter to the department ASAP.

(b) Wynyard Community Building – Mrs Flockart reported that the Diocese was unwilling to give a written commitment that the community would have access to facilities at the school during school hours; as they could overrule any agreement with the Headteacher, Residents' Association members felt that they needed to progress their original idea for a community building. At this moment, not everyone was sure of the best position for this; the land offered to them was not central and might have limitations such as inadequate space for parking. Councillors reaffirmed their support and **agreed** to ringfence the monies identified in the budget for this purpose until further notice.

- 6. Chairman's Report:** Cllr. Hutchinson reported that Cllr H. Thompson had attended the Parish Liaison meeting on 12th July, as he was unable to attend, and invited her to report, which she did as follows: Greatham had asked for training for Parish Councillors on Planning Regulations. Hart had raised the issue of Fly Tipping and the inadequate response to their Fol request; (Cllr Loynes reported that HBC spends £6-800k per annum on clearing up rubbish, and took the matter very seriously. In many cases fly tippers were identified and being prosecuted). Dalton Piercy had asked for an update on the proposed Elwick By-Pass and had been informed that it was to cost between £14-18m. £10m had already been applied for and it was expected that the work would start in 2018 and be completed by 2020. Cllr Thompson herself had raised the issues of the state of the pavement on the east corner of North Lane and the Green, also the street lights on Church Bank which were remaining on during the day. She was pleased to report that the lights were fixed the following day and that she had been informed that an inspection of

the pavement would be undertaken very soon. Other items discussed had been the Rural Plan which, if the Steering Group agreed to the Examiner's proposals, would go to the Sept/October Planning Committee at the same time as the Local Plan; the final stage of a referendum would then take place. Tony Hanson, Assistant Director Environment, would now take the Liaison meetings and only if an issue was deemed sufficiently important would this be escalated to the Leader. (Parish Councillors felt that this was inadequate as the meetings had been initiated to allow the democratically elected leaders of the Parish Councils to raise issues directly with their opposite number at Borough level). Finally, on the issue of Rural Transport, the Chief Officer of TVRCC had met with Mr. Hanson and briefed him on the availability of 2 x 16-seater minibuses for community, but not commercial, use. This information was to be taken to the South & Central Community Forum on 18th October where volunteer drivers would be sought.

- 7. Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Loynes reported that the chevrons were on order for the corners near to Mr. & Mrs. Swainston's house and Pudding Poke Farm, and that the hedge at the entrance to Greenlea had been cut. The Clerk reported that the rusty tin bath was still on the Playing Field, was a danger to children and needed removing as a matter of urgency. Cllr Hall raised concern as to the overgrown state of the footpath between Elwick and Dalton Piercy, which was virtually impassable due to 4ft high nettles. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to raise these issues with the relevant Officers.

- 8. Village Maintenance Group Report:** Cllr Hall commended all those who had adopted flower tubs around the village, which were looking very good. Cllr H. Thompson noted that the dead tree on the Walk had been removed so carefully by Cllr Hall that it was difficult to see where it had been; Cllr Hall was thanked for his efforts. Cllr Hall raised the issue of the hole in the Playing Field fence, and felt that it should be mended as soon as possible to prevent it being made larger. Others felt that it would be better to leave it as it was, as no doubt, if mended it would be cut again. Cllr Hall demurred. After some further discussion, Cllr R. Thompson **proposed**, and Cllr Musgrave **seconded**, a motion 'that the situation be monitored closely to ensure that the hole was not enlarged'. The motion was **carried** and Cllr Hall was asked to monitor the situation. **Action:** Cllr Hall to monitor fence.
- Cllr Irving stated that some of the benches around the village needed mending and/or re-varnishing. It was **agreed** that the Maintenance Group should inspect all the benches ASAP and, as they had a budget, to then ask Craig Mullooly to deal with those that required attention. **Action:** Cllrs Hall and Irving to inspect benches and negotiate with Mr. Mullooly.
- Cllr Sturrock volunteered to paint the stones at the east end of the green. Cllr Hutchinson agreed to supply the paint. **Action:** Cllr Sturrock to paint the stones.

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

Income	£	Expenditure:	£
Miscellaneous (Plant tub repayment)	<u>14.00</u>	Clerk's Conference Fee	82.80
		Grass Cutting	711.00
		Miscellaneous (Parish Meeting)	33.43
		Maintenance (Martindale)	365.00
		Playing Field (bins)	<u>103.91</u>
		Total	1,296.14

The Clerk reported that an invoice had been sent to Mr. Adamson with regard to the removal costs of the garden at Martindale, together with the previous outstanding debt. A deadline for receipt, of 31st July had been given. It was **agreed** that, if the full sum was not received by the due date, then action to recuperate the monies through the Small Claims Court should be initiated.

The Clerk reported that a surplus of just over £63 had been made at the Parish Fete.

At this point the Chairman agreed to amend the order of remaining agenda items and Cllr Loynes left the meeting.

12. Planning Applications:

H/2017/0261 - 14 dwellings on land to south-east of Poppy Close, Wynyard – No Objection

H/2017/0262 - landscape bund, land to north of A689 – No Objection

H/2017/0369 - Wynyard Village extension (Phase c) – No Objection in principal, but concerns about volume of traffic using this access road and suggest new access road off A689

H/2017/0370 - Plot 26, Manorside, Wynyard – No Objection

H/2017/0381 - Vane Meadows, 8, Manor Fields, Wynyard – No Objection

H/2017/0389 - Plot 16, Manorside, Wynyard – No Objection

H/2017/0390 - Stotfold Crest Stables – site visit requested. **Action:** Clerk to contact owner to request visit Wednesday 4.30pm; Cllrs Hutchinson, Irving, Musgrave, H. Thompson **delegated** to make visit and decide action.

H/2017/0340 - Boat House, Crookfoot Reservoir, Elwick – No Objection

H/2017/0417 - 1003Up Lattice Tower, Black Moor, Greenfield, Middle Swainston Farm, Wynyard – insufficient information. **Agreed** Chairman's action.

Mrs Flockart left the meeting.

- 11. Correspondence:** (i) Civic Voice Press Release on 50 years of Conservation Areas – noted; (ii) Steven Carter, HBC requesting someone be nominated to make weekly check that Defibrillator unit is in good working order. **Agreed** that the Clerk should be the nominated person.

Cllr H. Thompson left the meeting.

- 10. Red Gap Community Fund:** The Clerk had obtained quotes from five companies, three of whom had made site visits. She provided a table of comparisons between them for each item of equipment, including installation costs, together with recommendations as to what to purchase and from whom. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Fund would only support 80% of the total cost, the £25,000 limit for Transparency, above which a full audit would be required, and advised on Budget availability. Councillors discussed the information provided and agreed with most of the Clerk's recommendations, although Cllr Hall wished to have two ordinary swings added to the list as well as the basket swing. Cllr R. Thompson **proposed** that the Clerk should continue the excellent work she had already done, negotiate the best deal with her recommended supplier, and complete and submit the application to the Fund. The proposal was **seconded** by Cllr Irving and **carried unanimously**.

Action: Clerk to contact supplier and negotiate best deal before making the application.

- 14. Matters of Concern to Councillors:** None

- 15. Date of Next Meeting:** 7.00pm, Monday 25th September at WI Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.16pm.