

## ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 25 September 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, PCSO C. Jones and PCSO A. Douglas

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. J. Sturrock – **accepted**; Mrs. K. Flockart (WRA).
2. **Public Forum:** No members of public present
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017:** Acceptance proposed by Cllr. H. Thompson, seconded by Cllr. B. Irving and **unanimously agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman then invited the police representatives to speak. PCSO Jones reported that there had not been a lot of crime in and around the village of late, other than fly tipping and bike theft. Gates are to be made available to farms where quad bikers are causing trouble. These will be provided free of charge to farmers, although they will have to fund the placement of the gates themselves. Councillors again raised the issue of speeding traffic through the village and the increasing number of heavy goods vehicles using the road, which has a 7.5 ton weight limit. An example of the problems caused was given – e.g the abnormal loads which were recorded only the previous week, and which stopped traffic accessing both Church Bank and North Lane whilst they were manoeuvred round the bend at the west corner of the green. The CPSOs recommended that, wherever possible, the company names and registration details of any heavy vehicles using Elwick as a through road to/from Hartlepool and the A19 should be sent to the Traffic Commissioners Northern Area.

The police representatives left at 7.18pm and Ward Cllr B. Loynes joined the meeting at this point.

### 5. **Matters Arising**

**(a) Benches** – Cllr Hall reported that he had been unable to get any response from Craig Mullooly over the summer. He asked if it would be acceptable for his grandson to undertake the work at minimum wage rate – approx. 1 hour per bench. This was **unanimously agreed**. Cllr Hall offered to obtain the necessary materials such as sandpaper and varnish. **Action:** Cllr Hall to ensure benches are refurbished as soon as possible.

**(b) Red Gap Community Fund** – The Clerk reported that she had just heard that the Fund's Trustees had awarded the full sum requested for the upgrading of the play facilities. She was asked to proceed with obtaining full and final quotes from the relevant suppliers, with a view to having the new equipment installed in the new year, once the winter weather allowed safe access to the site.

6. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr. Hutchinson reported that he had already informed the Traffic Commission Northern Area of the abnormal loads incident and that, other than this, had nothing further to report.
7. **Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Loynes reported that she believed that all actions agreed at the last meeting (July) had been completed. She noted that the overhanging trees on

Church Bank, recently reported, appear to have been cut back. Councillors responded that:

- \* the rusty tin bath was still on the Playing Field
- \* the footpath from Elwick to Dalton Piercy is still very overgrown, despite the Council having cut the overhanging growth.
- \* the light at the bottom left-hand side of Church Bank was still remaining on, well into daylight.
- \* there is a great deal of rubbish lying along every verge around the village and into the town, making the town look uninviting to visitors and locals alike. Cllr Loynes explained that anyone cleaning up the verges had to have traffic management in place, at £1,000 a time, in order to meet H&S requirements.
- \* the promised chevrons at Pudding Poke corner had still not been installed.

Cllr Loynes agreed to follow up on these issues before leaving the meeting at 7.50 pm.

**8. Village Maintenance Group Report:** Cllr Hall wished to record thanks to Cllr Sturrock for painting the stones around the east end of the green, which now looked very good. Cllr Sturrock agreed to continue working her way around the green as and when the weather allowed. She was thanked by all.

Cllr Irving reported that that the hole in the Playing Field fence was no larger, that a metal strut was missing from the entrance gate to the Playing Field, that the ramps to the bridges over the stream in the ghyll are badly damaged and dangerous (horse damage?), and that the carved bench in the Wildlife Garden was in urgent need of attention as it had turned black in places. She noted that the loose panel in Mailen's fence onto the Wildlife garden needed a batten or two placing over it to secure the garden, and asked if it would be possible to increase the number of flowering plants in the meadowland section of the garden. Finally, she had not yet had time to check to see if the dead tree in the garden had been removed. **Actions:** It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Chris Scaife, HBC Countryside and Access Officer in regard to the footpath and bridges, the woodcarver, David Gross, in regard to the carved bench and the Wildlife Gardeners in regard to the other issues related to this.

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

Income	£	Expenditure:	£
Wayleave (2016)	<u>5.00</u>	Clerk's Salary & PAYE (3 months)	660.00
		External Audit	204.00
		Grass Cutting (4 cuts)	1,300.00
		Annual ICO fee	35.00
		Skips	<u>336.00</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2,535.00</b>

BDO had finally completed the External Audit. Some minor issues had been raised with regard to the documentation, but the finances were accepted as a true record.

The Clerk reported that Mr. Adamson had agreed to pay the outstanding invoice, before the initiation of legal action had proved necessary.

The Parish Council was now fully compliant with the requirements of the Pensions Regulator; the problem in finalising our compliance report had been entirely due to an issue with their website, which refused to accept the PC's VAT number (Hart PC had the same problem). The issue had been finally resolved after many attempts, once the Pensions Regulator's office had understood and accepted that the problem lay at their end, and the Compliance Statement had been completed orally over the phone.

A credit note, for £9., had been received from XLN (who had provided the Broadband service for the Computer Club). The amount bore no resemblance to the amount the

Clerk felt was due to the PC, as 2 payments of over £38 each had been taken from our account after the contract had been cancelled. **Agreed** that the Clerk should contact XLN again in regard to this matter.

- 10. Correspondence:** (i) Stockton Borough Council – Draft Local Plan consultation dates/times/venues – felt to be important that we check to see how this might impact on our Wynyard residents. **Agreed** that those Councillors available would attend the event at Billingham Library between 4.00 and 7.00pm on Thursday 19 October.  
(ii) SLCC – government launch of a multi-million-pound tree planting fund – noted.  
(iii) Northern Powergrid – a request for an amendment to the wayleave agreement to allow a new underground cable in land opposite The Terrace. The Clerk had signed this off after consulting the Chairman, and the work had already been completed.

**11. Planning Applications:**

**H/2017/0495** - Plot 17 Wellington Close, Wynyard – No Objection

**H/2017/0459** - Plot 10, Manorside, Wynyard – No Objection

**H/2017/0479** - Plot 12, Manorside, Wynyard – No Objection

**H/2017/0474** - Plot 23, Manorside, Wynyard – No Objection

**H/2017/0503** - 8, Sweetpea Close, Wynyard – No Objection

**H/2017/0287** - Gas powered electricity generator on land to east of Worset Lane – this application had been received just after the July meeting. The Clerk had contacted Councillors for their views, and a strong Objection had been submitted. Hart PC had received the application earlier and had voted strongly to Object. The application had now been referred to HBC Planning Committee and Elwick PC had been invited to speak. As no Elwick Councillors would be available, it was **agreed** to ask Cllr. Britcliffe, of Hart PC to speak on our behalf. **Action:** Clerk to ask Cllr Britcliffe to speak for Elwick, as well as Hart.

For information:

**H/2017/0390** – Stotfold Crest Stables – despite strong PC support, application refused.

**H/2017/0417** – 1003Up Lattice Tower, Black Moor, Greenfield, Middle Swainston Farm, Wynyard – application withdrawn.

Cllr H. Thompson left the meeting.

- 12. Matters of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr Hall was pleased to note that Paul's Travel have been able to continue to provide a service to the Village. This view was warmly endorsed by all. Cllr Irving asked if she could purchase the two remaining plastic flower tubs, at the cost paid by the PC. This was **agreed**. She had written a short piece for Village Life on behalf of the Parish Council, thanking those who had adopted the flower tubs; if this was acceptable, she asked that the Clerk type it up and forward it to the editors – **agreed**. **Action:** Clerk to forward the Thank you to the editors of Village Life.

The Clerk asked if Councillors would consider inviting young people in the village to form a 'Shadow' PC to advise the PC on matters of particular relevance to them. Hart PC had just taken this step. It was **agreed** to wait and see how this project developed in Hart, before making a decision.

- 13. Date of Next Meeting:** Cllr Irving informed colleagues that the Clerk intended to drive through the night following the next planned PC meeting at the end of October, in order to be available to look after her grandchildren in Devon for a few days. She asked that Councillors consider meeting earlier that day. After a brief discussion, it was **agreed** to instead, bring the next meeting forward one week.  
7.00pm, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at WI Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.