

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 27 November 2017 at Elwick WI Hall

Present: Cllrs. J. Hall, P. Hutchinson (Chair), B. Irving, R. Musgrave, J. Sturrock, H. Thompson, R. Thompson (from 8.02pm)

In Attendance: Ward Cllr B. Loynes, Mrs. K. Lofthouse, (WRA), PCSO Cath Jones & colleague, Mrs. M. West, Clerk

1. Apologies: Mrs. D. Atkins (WRA), Mrs. K. Flockart (WRA);

2. Public Forum: Mrs. Lofthouse informed that (i) Mrs Flockart had now resigned her office with WRA, due to increasing work commitments, though she still remained a member and that the WRA was seeking another Hartlepool/Wynyard resident willing to attend Elwick PC on their behalf. (ii) HBC had now agreed to fund the dog bins for Wynyard, therefore there was no longer a need for EPC to retain funds for this budget item. Mrs Lofthouse further informed that Wynyard, Stockton, currently part of Grindon parish, was to be parished independently from May 2018, and asked EPC to consider supporting a proposal to parish Wynyard, Hartlepool.

The Police officers informed that there had been a rise in the number of break-ins and vandalism of garden sheds recently and advised residents to keep sheds, garages and outbuildings locked at all times. Two cars had been stolen from the village, as had some shotguns and ammunition, but all had been recovered. Two armed robberies had taken place in town, the culprits had been caught. The police asked that residents take advantage of a FREE facility they provided – goods including mobile phones, computers, bicycles, etc can be etched with an identifying mark such as a postcode or telephone number, using a DOT-PEEN machine.

PCSO s left the meeting at 7.18pm.

3. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Sturrock – Item 12 (a); Ward Cllr Loynes, Item 12.

4. Minutes of 23rd October 2017: Unanimously **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

(a) Wildlife Garden – The Clerk reported that Wildlife Gardening Services had re-seeded the meadow with flowering plants; she was unsure whether Mr. Gross had refurbished the bench as weather had been inclement on the day he had planned to come.

(b) Gas-Powered Electricity sub-station – The Clerk reported that the formal complaint had been made and that an internal investigation was now underway. Hart has now asked that this be undertaken by an independent investigator, from outside the Tees Valley.

(c) Parish Liaison meetings – The Chairman reported that he had been in contact with Cllr Walker, Chairman Greatham PC, who had expressed a similar concern about the apparent down-grading of the Liaison meetings and a need to review their purpose. The Clerk had, as requested, sent a letter to Gill Alexander, CEO HBC, copied to himself, no response received to date, some four weeks later! Mrs. Lofthouse reported that Grindon PC (which currently covers that part of Wynyard within Stockton Borough) had also not been aware of any Masterplan for Wynyard, and she felt that perhaps such a plan was still in conceptual stage rather than an actual plan; she had been assured that both Parish Councils, as well as Wynyard Residents Association (WRA) would be invited to the inaugural meeting to be held jointly by the two Borough Councils, once it was arranged.

6. Chairman's Report: Cllr. Hutchinson reported that he had been contacted by two residents reporting flooding incidents – in front of the Spotted Cow, and in North Lane; he had, as a consequence, contacted Cllr Loynes who had then requested an urgent investigation by HBC Engineers; Cllr Loynes stated that no news on this yet available.

7. Ward Councillor's Report:

Cllr Loynes had nothing further to report.

The Clerk reported that the public telephone kiosk had been removed from the green last Thursday, without any prior notification. On contacting BT to ask why, she had been informed that it was part of 'street rationalisation', and that HBC had been consulted about the planned removal back in September

2016. She asked why the PC had not been informed by HBC of the plans/consultation and suggested that this was yet another example of how the PCs were being ignored by HBC.

Mrs Lofthouse informed that there were considerable amounts of mud being left by construction vehicles along many of the roads at Wynyard. Developers were causing a dangerous situation for other road users, and asked if HBC could do anything about it? She did not herself know which roads had already been adopted by the Council and which were still the developers' legal responsibility. Cllr Loynes **agreed** to raise this with officers.

Cllr Musgrave raised again the issue of missing 'bend' and crash barriers on Coal Lane which she had reported several times before, and also fly-tipping of bricks and black bags of cannabis waste.

Action: Cllr Loynes to raise all these issues with officers.

Cllr R. Thompson joined the meeting at 8.02pm.

- 8. Village Maintenance Group Report:** Cllr Hall had nothing to report. Cllr Irving reported that that the rusty tin bath had at last been removed, after 6 months, noting that it had taken several further calls from the Clerk to HBC since the previous PC meeting, before this had finally happened.

Cllr Loynes left the meeting at 8.10pm

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

Income	£	Expenditure:	£
Miscellaneous (XLN repayment)	66.96	Clerk's salary	534.00
Wayleaves	<u>10.00</u>	HMRC (PAYE)	132.00
		Gen Main't (benches and well planting)	105.40
		Wildlife Garden	<u>100.00</u>
Total	76.96	Total	871.40

The Clerk reported that Mazors LLP had been appointed as External Auditors for 2018/19.

- 10. Annual Budget Proposals:** The Clerk reminded that Items currently under consideration were:

- Repairs to the roads crossing the north side of the green
- A bonded gravel surface on the road down the south side of the green, to be more in keeping with the Conservation status of the green
- Refurbishment of the cinder paths at each end of the village
- New flower tubs to replace the remaining oak tubs
- Benches in the Playing Field and at the top of North Lane at the edge of the village
- A hand Gritter (to allow pavements to be gritted in winter)
- More play equipment for the Playing Field
- Somewhere to store equipment owned by the Parish Council.

A further suggestion received from Mrs Banks had been to resurface the car park opposite the Playing Field.

After some discussion it was agreed to omit the gritter, equipment store and bonded gravel surface on south side of green. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should ascertain costs for all other items, with a final decision to be made at the January meeting.

Mrs Lofthouse was invited to put forward suggestions for Wynyard in Hartlepool. She began by explaining that there were no affordable community facilities at all in Wynyard, the Golf Club and Hall both charging commercial rates for use of their buildings, and the Durham Diocese refusing to allow use of the school; this meant that there was nowhere for meetings or activities; whilst they urgently needed a community centre, and she thanked EPC for ring-fencing monies for a planning application, this could not be progressed until an appropriate body had been incorporated, which was proving a challenge. In the meantime, she asked the PC to consider providing Wynyard Residents' Association with funds to run a summer play scheme, one-day per week for 6 weeks, costing £7,200, with costs apportioned pro rata (83% to Grindon PC and 17% to Elwick PC). The play scheme would require the hire of a marquee and a professional play leader She also requested funding for two children's Christmas parties at a cost of £500 to EPC and a further £500 as a contribution to the printing of the quarterly 'Wynyard Matters' newsletter which is distributed to all Wynyard residents by volunteers. A notice board for the north side of the village, onto which could be placed information about Elwick parish and events would cost around £1,400. Councillors **agreed** to take these requests into account before agreeing the 2018/19 budget.

The Clerk reported that only three of the original play equipment suppliers had responded to her request

for a full and final quote to meet the identified needs and funds available from the Red Gap Community Fund, and for installation in early spring 2018. One of these had yet to submit a detailed quotation, but had stated that it could not be done within the budget available; another had come in at some £6,000 over budget. The third had made a further site visit and had met Cllr Irving. This latter firm had since submitted a proposal, and offered a discount if the PC were to purchase all the equipment they proposed, to bring the costs down to within budget, and also suggested other sources of grants available. The Clerk proposed that she send out the comparisons once information from all suppliers had been received. Several Councillors felt that this was not necessary, as both Cllr Irving and the Clerk had been impressed with the final supplier's representative, who had proved most helpful. It was **agreed** that Streetscape should immediately be offered the contract to supply and install the equipment proposed to meet the grant, with a decision on which supplier to use for further equipment to be made once all information had been received. It was further **agreed** that an application be made to Awards for All, to fund more equipment for the Playing Field.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for all items on budget proposals list, to inform Streetscape of decision to award them the contract for play equipment, and to make an application to Awards for All.

11. Correspondence:

- (i) Letter re External Auditor – (see item 9)
- (ii) Report from HBC on Annual Playground Inspection – this was a very substantial report, received only that afternoon. It identified a great many issues. It was agreed that the Village Maintenance Group, together with the Chairman, should meet at the Playing Field at 9.00am on Sunday 3rd December, to go through the report on site.
- (iii) HBC – consultation on Pharmacy Services - **Action:** Clerk to place information on Notice Board.

12. Planning Applications:

H/2017/0487 - Home Farm – agricultural building – (Mrs Sturrock declared an interest). Cllr H. Thompson expressed concern as to effect on the visibility of the village on approaching from Hartlepool, which has always been hidden in a dip, but Clerk explained that its position was such that it should not be visible from the road into the village. No Objection

H/2017/0559 – Plot 27, Wellington Gardens, Wynyard – No Objection

H/2017/0606 – road access from approved Dere Street development to link to residential development in Stockton part of Wynyard. No Objection in principle, however, when the Dere Street development is taken alongside the SBC approved development underway south of the Wynyard Woods loop road, there will be too much pressure put on the Wynyard West Gate A689 roundabout, which is already dreadful, at peak times in particular. It is conservatively estimated that an extra 1320 vehicles will come in and out of Wynyard estate twice every day. It was also noted that the current footpath, running parallel to the A689, which connects to the Castle Eden walkway, is in a very poor state, and unsuitable for use by either pedestrians or cyclists - it needs upgrading. As it runs along the northern edge of the Dere Street development, would it be too much to ask the developers to undertake this as a condition of planning approval? **Action:** Clerk to request an upgrade of the footpath, possibly funded by developer as a condition of planning consent.

13. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Irving raised concern about the Christmas Tree lights, which were both inadequate and badly hung last year. The Clerk informed that the lights were to be installed on 30th November, and that she had requested that she be informed when the engineers were coming in order that someone from the PC could be available to supervise the installation. It was **agreed** that more lights should be purchased immediately. **Action:** Clerk to purchase lights for tree.

No other issues raised. The Clerk informed Councillors that she had made a suggestion to HBC that, as the police had no objection to traffic speed controls in the villages, and all the rural villages were affected, the PCs purchase rubber speed bumps, (which were relatively cheap) and install them in liaison with HBC. No response yet received to this proposal.

14. Date of Next Meeting:

7.00pm, Monday 29th January at WI Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.