

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 29 January 2018 at Elwick WI Hall

Present: Cllrs. P. Hutchinson (Chair), B. Irving, R. Musgrave, J. Sturrock, H. Thompson, R. Thompson (from 7.45pm)

In Attendance: Ward Cllr B. Loynes, Diane Atkins & Nicky Fothergill, (WRA), Mr. M. Seymour, Mrs. M. West, Clerk

1. Apologies: Cllr J. Hall

2. Public Forum: Mr. Seymour came to explain that he was going to attend the HBC Planning Committee on 31st January, at which Planning Application H/2014/0428 – for 1200 dwellings at High Tunstall Farm, to which he had objected, was to be heard. Mr Seymour informed Councillors that he had been told that the proposed Elwick By-pass was now considered to be part of the national Strategic Road Network and that HBC will have to wait to find out if national government wish to be involved in its design. As a result, the By-Pass was likely to be delayed until 2022. He wished to know if the Parish Council wished to speak against the application as only 4 minutes in total were allocated for all objections, and there was already an objection on behalf of Quarry Farm residents, leaving him with only two minutes. Councillors felt that Mr. Seymour's objection, based on the design & route of the By-pass, reflected the views of the Parish Council, and were happy to leave him the time. Apparently, Highways England had informed HBC that only if the main crossings were closed would they agree to 400 dwellings being built at the Quarry Farm site, before the By-pass was completed. Work to install traffic lights at the Sheraton Flyover on the A19 would commence in March.

Cllr Musgrave informed that she and Cllr Hutchinson had attended a site meeting, on 15 January, held in Coal Lane, earlier in the month, with Peter Nixon, HBC, at which he has informed them that the A19 crossings at Elwick and Dalton Piercy were to be closed in August, with only farm crossings left. Cllr Hutchinson explained that farmers felt it wrong to leave the farm crossings open, as they would be used by other traffic as short-cuts or to make U-turns and thus be very dangerous.

Mr Seymour explained why, as a civil engineer, he felt that the proposed design of the By-pass was flawed. There was to be a road around the west of the proposed development at High Tunstall Farm; this road would probably connect to the road around the South-West development of the town, and bring traffic from the A689 on to the Elwick road. The By-pass should therefore commence at the Dalton crossroads, which should be converted to a roundabout, and then pass to the north of North Urn Farm and so to the A19. This would be a much safer option than the present design, which only allowed for a T- junction at the top of Craddon Bank, and would reduce the amount of potential flooding on the new road, from streams which rise along the high ground around and to the west of North Urn Farm, HBC officers believed that the extra cost involved would not be met by the High Tunstall Farm developers, but Mr. Seymour disagreed, as it would only add £1,000 to the Section 106 contribution already required from each dwelling, so the Section 106 agreement should be reviewed – a view endorsed by Councillors. Mr. Seymour was thanked for his contribution.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to Ministers, Highways England and Mike Hill, MP expressing these concerns. **Action:** Clerk to write to all as agreed.

Mr. Seymour left the meeting at 7.32 pm.

3. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Hutchinson – Item 13 (vi).

4. Minutes of 27th November 2017: Unanimously **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

(a) Gas-Powered Electricity sub-station – The Clerk reported that Planning Permission had been officially granted on 21 December 2017.

(b) Play equipment Inspection – The Clerk read a letter received from Chris Wenlock, HBC, in reply to the Parish Council's response to the Safety Inspector's Report. In it he suggested that, if the Parish Council did not wish to meet the actions required by the Inspector, then perhaps EPC should consider appointing their own Inspector rather than accepting the one used by HBC. The Clerk informed that, as she now had a five-year plan in place for the renewing of all the play equipment, as well as the provision of new items, this should meet the concerns of the Safety Inspector. It was agreed that the Clerk should

inform HBC that Elwick wished to continue with the annual safety inspections they provided. **Action:** Clerk to write to Chris Wenlock.

- 6. Chairman's Report:** Cllr. Hutchinson reported that he had attended the site meeting in Coal Lane, mentioned earlier, and invited Cllr Musgrave to report on it. She explained that, as nothing appeared to be happening in regard to the replacement of the chevrons and installation of crash barriers on the bend near Pudding Poke Farm, which had been requested since May 2017, she had asked Peter Nixon for a site meeting. As well as she and the Chairman, also in attendance had been the Swains, John Pearson and Ian Appleton. It was explained that although HBC had replaced the posts to support the chevrons, (but not the chevrons themselves), these had since been 'wiped out' by yet another vehicle cutting the corner. Mr. Nixon had then stated that he had not received a request for a crash barrier to be placed opposite the chevrons, but this was challenged by both Councillors.

Cllr R. Thompson joined the meeting.

The Chairman reported that he had been informed of a taxi having landed on top of one of the stones on the triangle opposite Village Farm, at approx. 4.00am on Friday/Saturday morning, and having to be lifted off by a breakdown vehicle. He had the name of the taxi firm and felt that they should be required to pay for the reparation of the village green. This was unanimously **agreed**. **Action:** Clerk to request reparation from taxi firm.

7. Ward Councillor's Report:

Cllr Loynes reported that the gullies have now been cleared on the side roads in the village; the Clerk noted that the Parish Council had not been informed in advance as requested. Mrs. Loynes was informed that the brick rubble and other fly-tipped rubbish had still not been removed from North Lane, and Cllr Musgrave reported considerable fly-tipping still in Coal Lane. Cllr R. Thompson reported that heavy construction vehicles were still coming through Elwick to and from the Quarry Farm site, ignoring the weight limit on the road. Mrs. Atkins reported that Wynyard residents were complaining about construction vehicles leaving the roads, on both developments to the north of the A689, very muddy. She also noted that the dog bins were still not in place, to which Cllr Loynes responded that she understood that these had been ordered. Mrs. Atkins informed that David Bailes, Stockton BC, had said that HBC must allocate Section 106 monies to the provision of crossings on the A689. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to raise all these issues with officers.

Wynyard Matters: The Chairman invited Mrs Atkins to raise any issues from Wynyard, which she did as follows:

- a. Elwick Parish Council was requested to hold at least some of their meetings in Wynyard – probably in the temporary school buildings.
- b. The closing date for the next Wynyard Matters newsletter was 15th February.
- c. WRA requests Elwick Parish Council's support for splitting off Wynyard (in Hartlepool Borough) into a separate parish.
- d. No further progress had been made in the development of a community centre for Wynyard; currently under consideration was the adoption of the temporary school buildings when they become vacant.

8. Village Maintenance Group Report: Cllr Irving reported that:

- (i) the pavements just south of the former council houses in North Lane is in really poor condition, with a 2 sq.mtre patch, close to the turning, especially poor.
- (ii) the site of the bonfire is to be re-turfed by Mr. D. Cooper, landlord of the McOrville, on Friday, at his own expense.
- (iii) she had been informed that children felt unable to enter the Wildlife Garden as they were not welcome. Councillors re-iterated that this was NOT the case, and that no-one had the right to stop children from playing there.
- (iv) the place where the phone-box had once been had been left in a mess by BT. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to BT asking for a contribution to the reparation of the green, and that a 'traditional red telephone box should be placed in this position, to act as a free book exchange, subject to a successful application to the Red Gap Community Fund.
- (v) the salt bin on the middle road across the green, near the well, had not been replaced when HBC removed the broken one.
- (vi) whilst Mr Cooper had agreed to maintain the 2 flower tubs outside the McOrville, the 4 at the west

end of the green still needed adopting.

Councillors asked that the McOrville be asked to reduce the number of tables on the green to three, as per the earlier agreement, and both pubs be asked to keep the land near their entrances clean and tidy – at present they were littered with used cigarette stubs, and looked very scruffy.

Cllr H. Thompson said that she had a box of some 400 daffodil bulbs, donated by the Wharton Trust, in urgent need of planting, along the left-hand side of North Lane going out towards the A19. It was **agreed** that a working party should convene at 11.00am on Sunday 4 February, at the site in North lane, and that any bulbs remaining were to be planted at other entrances to the village.

Actions: Cllr Loynes to raise issue of pavement in North Lane and the missing salt bin with relevant officers. The Clerk to write to BT requesting reparation. **All** – to join bulb planting working party on Sunday.

Cllr Sturrock raised concern about a resident's response to her husband's planning application, discussed by the parish Council in November. The response had been placed on HBC's Planning Portal, with the writer's name redacted, but she felt that part of the response was libellous to both herself and the Parish Council. Councillors were extremely concerned about this, noting that Cllr Sturrock had declared an interest and taken no part in the discussion, or decision, and asked the Clerk to make a formal complaint to the Senior Planning Officer and request that this section of the letter be redacted immediately. **Action:** Clerk to make formal complaint.

Cllr Loynes left the meeting at 8.43pm

Mrs. Atkins noted that EPC had agreed to the purchase of a Notice Board for Wynyard, of a particular design approved by the Wynyard Estate and costing £1,450. The Clerk had not been able to action this as she had not yet received from Mrs Atkins the relevant information as to supplier and design/colour required. **Action:** Mrs Atkins to forward the required information to the Clerk who would then order the notice board.

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

Income	£	Expenditure:	£
		Affordable Landscapes (tree pruning)	95.00
Total	0.00	Total	95.00

The Clerk had tabled a formal, written request for a review of her salary, to put her on a par with other Clerks in neighbouring parishes, and in line with national guidelines. It was **agreed** to hold a Remuneration Group meeting to discuss this before the next Parish Council meeting.

10. Annual Budget Precept: The Clerk presented Councillors with a draft expenditure budget, which she then went through, item by item, giving her rationale for the figures, including anticipated expenditure on village improvements and an allocation for Wynyard. Councillors **agreed** the figures. The Clerk then explained the basis of the income figures, which included a 2.5% increase in Concurrent income from HBC, (the maximum allowed) and grant income to meet 80% of the cost of village improvements. The difference between the anticipated expenditure and income would be the Precept demand, unless Councillors were willing to set a deficit budget on the understanding that the deficit would be met from reserves. Cllr Irving proposed that the Precept be set at £10,000, seconded by Cllr H. Thompson – this would leave a deficit of approximately £2,000. Before voting on this, Cllr R. Thompson proposed a precept demand of £12,000 and made the case for preserving the level of reserves to meet unexpected contingencies; this was seconded by Cllr Hutchinson. The proposer and seconder of the first proposal withdrew their proposal and Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the £12,000 Precept demand. The form was completed, dated and signed by the Chairman, Cllrs R. Thompson and B. Irving and countersigned by the Clerk. **Action:** Clerk to submit Precept demand to HBC on 30th January.

11. Persistent, Vexatious Complaints Policy: The draft had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and was adopted without amendment.

12. Correspondence:

- (i) Letter from Highways England – no quiet road surface until 2021/22, and then only if funds available.

- (ii) Letter from Mr. R. Howell – requesting further, more detailed information, in regard to EPC offer to plant hedging along A19 border of Fishponds Field, to reduce noise pollution for residents of North Close.
- (iii) HMRC – early notification of pending change in VAT registration number.
- (iv) CDALC – dates for training with Mazars on new audit requirements – Clerk has already booked a place.

13. Planning Applications:

H/2017/0555 - Plot 11, Wellington Gardens, Wynyard – No Objection
H/2017/0557 - Plot 8, Wellington Gardens, Wynyard – No Objection
H/2017/0601 - Land adjacent to Wynyard C of E Primary School, Wynyard Woods – No Objection
H/2017/0623 - Plot 5, Musgrave garden Lane, Wynyard – No Objection
H/2017/0636 - Forrester's Lodge Roundabout, Hartlepool Road, Wynyard – No Objection
H/2017/0637 - High Stotfold farm, east Trunk Road A19, Elwick – No Objection
H/2017/0639 - Phase F. Wynyard Woods – No Objection
H/2017/0666 - Site B, Wellington Gardens, Wynyard – No Objection
H/2017/0640 - Plot 13, The Beaumont, Wynyard – No Objection
H/2017/0675 - Annex at Sunrise Cottage, Benknowle Lane, Elwick – No Objection
H/2018/0004 - Manorside, Hanzard Drive, Wynyard – No Objection

Action: Clerk to ask HBC that all Wynyard Planning Applications only be approved subject to an improved broadband and mobile service being available.

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors: Cllr H. Thompson noted that the village was in urgent need of a litter pick.

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

Meeting closed at 10.06 pm.