

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 26 March 2018 at Elwick WI Hall

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

In Attendance: Cllr B. Loynes, Nicky Fothergill, (WRA), Mrs. M. West, Clerk, 7 residents

1. Apologies: Cllr. Musgrave

2. Public Forum: (a) The Chair of the Elwick Village Association, Louise Parks, requested that, as the EVA had 'run out of steam', the Parish Council set up a formal Sub-Committee to organise social events for the village. She stated that, at the AGM of the EMA it had been agreed that, if the PC were willing to do so, and commit to running the Summer Fete and children's Christmas Party, then the EMA would close and transfer the balance of their funds to the Parish Council, to be ring-fenced for events; some current members of the EVA would be willing to serve on such a Sub-Committee. The Clerk informed those present that a decision could not be made immediately, but that the matter would be put on the agenda for the next meeting, thus giving other members of the public, not present this evening, the opportunity to contribute before a decision was made by the PC. It was **unanimously agreed** that this should be done and the Clerk was asked to draft Terms of Reference for such a Sub-Committee. **Action:** Clerk to put item on next agenda and to draft terms of reference.

(b) Chris Banks raised concerns that the Parish Council was even considering car parking on the village green; he felt that this would set a dangerous precedent and open the door for others such as residents of The Terrace to demand the same treatment. He stated that the preservation of the village green was already being threatened with an increasing number of pub tables now on the green all year round, and the enclosure of land on the north side of the green, which was against the law, as this was part of the registered village green. Cllr Hall noted that the viability of the WI Hall rested on being able to rent out the Hall and, whilst he empathised with the Spotted Cow, there was clearly no obvious solution to the parking problem.

(c) It was noted that the bank at No 1 The Green, is being eroded due to a combination of heavy vehicles and blocked drains. Although the drains had been cleared some time ago, they were once again in need of clearing through. Cllr Loynes agreed to take this up with the relevant officer at the Borough Council. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to raise this with Kieran Bostock.

(d) The issue of vehicles speeding down Church Bank was raised. Families living on Church Bank had to cross the road to reach the walkway up to the green, as there was no pavement outside their houses; they were deeply concerned about vehicles coming around the blind corner at speed (even though this is a 20mph zone), and the risk to their small children.

(e) Cllr R. Thompson asked Cllr Loynes to note that it was not acceptable that, at the Consultation event on the Elwick By-Pass, run by HBC officers, no mention had been made about the proposal to close the crossings on the A19. He stated that even with these closures, Elwick and Dalton Piercy will continue to be used as 'rat runs' by traffic heading southwards, and there would be major problems for traffic from the south wishing to access Elwick having to use the A179/A19 junction once the traffic lights were installed.

(f) A resident of Wynyard expressed grave concern at the lack of pedestrian crossings over the A689. Traffic is travelling at 70mph through the Wynyard area, and it is very dangerous for residents to cross the dual carriageway on foot, especially with prams/push chairs and small children, and asked if a 50mph speed limit could be introduced. Cllr Loynes explained that the Borough Council was still seeking solutions to this problem. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to continue pressing the Borough Council to take urgent action.

(g) It was noted that HGVs are cutting the edges of the village green at the corner of Church Bank and North Lane, and that construction vehicles are **still** coming through the village – these include fully laden concrete mixers and wagons pulling trailers filled with aggregate or soil, from the building site at Elwick Rise, starting at 7.00am and continuing throughout the day. Chris Banks proposed that, in the absence of any action by the Borough Council, villagers themselves should sit on the green and note the vehicle numbers and names of companies, time and date, in order that the firms could be prosecuted. Several residents and Parish

Councillors volunteered to help, and Mr. Banks agreed to draft a 'pro-forma' for recording the vehicle details and to initiate the vehicle watch rota.

Action: Mr. Banks to draft pro-form and arrange rota.

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Minutes of 26th February 2018: These were **agreed** as correct and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising:

(a) Litter Pick: The original date had been cancelled due to the weather and it was **agreed** to hold the litter pick on Saturday 7th April between 9.00am and 11.00am.

(b) Car Parking on the green: The Clerk read out the e-mailed response from Sarah Scarr, HBC Conservation Officer, in which she stated that she would not wish to see the green compromised, and the suggested installation of plastic grids should be considered only as a last resort - there was no easy solution.

6. Future Parish Council Meetings: The Clerk reported that there was no barrier to the Parish Council changing the date of its meetings, but that the Standing Orders would need to be amended to reflect any change agreed. Consultation amongst current Councillors had identified Thursday as being the one day on which all were available. Cllr H. Thompson proposed, with Cllr. Hall seconding, that from May 2018, Elwick Parish Council meetings should be held on the last Thursday of each month, excluding August and December. This was **unanimously agreed**.
Action: Clerk to amend the Standing Orders and change the hall bookings.

7. Chairman's Report: Cllr. Hutchinson reported that he, Cllr Thompson and their two sons had removed the old swing frame from the Playing Field, in readiness for the new equipment to be installed. Both were warmly thanked.

8. Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Loynes reported:

- (i) the replacement grit bin had been ordered;
- (ii) more weight limit signs had been requested;
- (iii) at Sedgefield they had wooden boxes to narrow the road, forming a chicane – this might be considered as a way of slowing traffic;
- (iv) the Coal Lane crash barrier – the officer considers it would be better placed on the opposite side of the road – Cllr Musgrave agreed to discuss this with him. She also raised concerns about the proposed design of the By-pass at its eastern end and asked why the route had changed from the original proposal to take it to the Dalton/Hart crossroads, to having to end at the top of Craddon Bank? The current design would be dangerous for pedestrians and riders of both cycles and horses.

(v) A contractor has been appointed to resurface the rural roads, particularly Hart Back Lane, as soon as possible after Easter.

(vi) Rural West Ward Councillors had agreed to contribute a total of £1,500 from their Ward budgets to Paul's Travel to support bus Service 65.

Cllr Loynes was informed that: the chevron at the east end of the village has been knocked down, fly-tipping of bricks and carpet in North Lane had still not been removed after three months of reporting it. The large pothole outside North Urn farm had been filled in the day after the Elwick By-Pass consultation event, when Cllr H Thompson had mentioned it to Peter Frost, but now another one had opened up. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to raise these issues with officers.

Cllr R Thompson noted that, although Rural West ward was the largest in Hartlepool, no mention of the villages is made in Hart Beat, the Borough Council's newsletter, and Rural West Ward Councillors are not mentioned either. **Action:** Clerk to write to HBC PR Dept about this.

The Clerk queried why the Parish Council had not been informed of the Boundary Commission's review. Cllr Loynes explained that HBC had requested of the Boundary Commission that the number of ward Councillors be increased to 36 in the hope that they would be allowed to retain at least the current 33 places – once there were 48.

Cllr. Loynes left the meeting at 8.12 pm.

9. Village Maintenance Group Report: Cllr Hall reported that the flower tub outside the WI hall had been smashed by a vehicle on Sunday morning – the vehicle appeared to belong to someone attending an event at the hall. **Action:** Clerk to write to WI President to inform her of this and ask who hired the hall that day, in order that they may be asked to fund the replacement. All other matters had already been covered earlier in the meeting.

10. Wynyard Matters: Mrs. Fothergill noted again residents' concerns about the lack of A689 crossings. The Clerk informed that the requested Parish Council notice board had now been ordered and paid for.

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

Income	£	Expenditure:	£
Tees Valley Taxis (restoration of Village Green)	<u>100.00</u>	Elwick WI Hall (room hire)	30.00
		D. M. Ireland (salary 3 months + back-dated pay)	721.62
		HMRC (PAYE)	<u>37.98</u>
Total:	100.00	Total:	789.60

12. Playing Field Project: The Clerk informed that Streetscape had now installed the frames for the new equipment they were providing. The other equipment was to be installed in May, once the soft-fall area had been extended as required. She provided Councillors with a sketch map showing where the equipment would be placed. The Clerk was asked to inform those residents present of the total amount of grant aid she had brought in towards this project: £20,700. Cllrs remarked on the Clerk's remarkable ability to access grants, and she was warmly thanked.

13. Correspondence: NALC questionnaire in regard to proposals for a review of the Standards for Local Councillors. **Action:** Clerk to complete.

14. Agenda for Parish Meeting: It was **agreed** that officers of the Borough Council be invited to make a presentation on the A19 crossing closures and other road infrastructure plans. All village groups to be invited as well as Wynyard Residents Association, the school and Ward Councillors. Suggestions for future bids to the Red Gap Community Fund be sought – An all-weather games pitch on the Playing Field was suggested by Cllr Hall, whilst Cllr Irving suggested a village duck pond on the green. **Action:** Clerk to extend invitations and obtain costings for the two suggestions.

15. Planning Applications:

- H/2017/0150 - 13 residential dwellings to north of A689 (The Lyndhurst) - No Objection
- H/2018/0079 - Plot 2, Beaumont, Wynyard – No Objection
- H/2018/0066 - Plot 18, Manorside, Wynyard – No Objection
- H/2018/0067 - Plot 5, Musgrave Garden Lane, Wynyard – No Objection
- H/2018/0069 - 19, Wellington Gardens, Wynyard – No Objection
- H/2018/0091 - Plot 7, Duke of Wellington Gardens, Wynyard – No Objection
- H/2018/0093 - Plot 6, The Beaumont, Wynyard – No Objection
- H/2018/0098 - C of E Primary School, Wynyard Woods, Wynyard – No Objection
- H/2018/0099 - Wynyard C of E Primary School, Wynyard Woods, Wynyard – No Objection

16. Matters of Concern to Councillors: No further matters raised.

Date of Next Meeting: 7.00pm, Monday 30th April at WI Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.52 pm.