

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 30 April 2018 at Elwick WI Hall

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

In Attendance: Cllr B. Loynes, Mrs. M. West, Clerk

1. Apologies: Cllrs J. Sturrock and H. Thompson

2. Public Forum: No members of public present

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Minutes of 26th March 2018: Item 8 (iv) Coal Lane crash barrier – insert ‘had’ after Cllr Musgrave. With this amendment the minutes were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising:

(a) Litter Pick: The litter pick held on Saturday 7th April had produced 15 black bags of rubbish collected from the two roads into Elwick off the A19, North Lane and Church Bank and also the Playing Field. Those Councillors and the one resident who took part were warmly thanked. It was clear that much of the rubbish is being thrown from cars as they leave the A19, and also around Discount Equestrians store. It was suggested that a more regular litter pick be instigated, perhaps monthly. It was **agreed** that this should be on the first Saturday of the month, starting in June, and run from 10.00-12 noon. Volunteers would be welcome to join in, all to meet outside the shop. Cllr R. Thompson proposed that the PC should purchase some black bin ‘rings’ to hold the bags open whilst being filled; this was felt to be a good idea and the clerk was asked to obtain costings and bring to the next meeting. **Action:** Clerk to promote in Village Life and on Notice Board and to obtain costings for the bag rings.

(b) Traffic survey: The Clerk had received a report from Chris Banks on the results of several observation sessions noting vehicles breaching the weight limit – this identified three key companies. It was also noted that some coach firms were using Church Bank, in particular one which was going to the school. Results were still awaited from David Woodward. Cllr R. Thompson offered to contact him for the results. Cllr Hall also had information which he agreed to pass to the Clerk. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should collate the results and forward them to Peter Frost, HBC for action. **Action:** Cllr hall to pass his report to Clerk, Cllr R. Thompson to contact Mr. Woodward for his report, Clerk to collate and forward to HBC and the Traffic Commissioners.

(c) Damaged Flower Tub: The Clerk read out the response from Elwick WI. Councillors were very disappointed in the tone of the response.

6. Standing Orders: The Clerk gave the response of the legal advisor at SLCC which was that a PC may set its own date for meetings, but that a change would mean amending the Standing Orders. The Clerk stated she had amended the Standing Orders as suggested, but only to change the meeting venue, as the date of meetings was not identified. The revision was unanimously **agreed**. **Action:** Clerk to forward amended Standing Orders to the web-master.

7. Social Affairs Sub-Committee: The Clerk presented Draft terms of Reference for a Social Affairs Sub-Committee, as requested at the March meeting. It was suggested that specific reference to ‘Christmas parties’ be removed and replaced with ‘activities’. Cllr Irving proposed, with Cllr Hall seconding, approval of the amended Terms of Reference. This was unanimously **agreed**.

8. Chairman’s Report: Cllr. Hutchinson Stated that he had nothing to report.

9. Ward Councillor’s Report: Cllr Loynes reported:

- (i) the potholes near North Urn Farm were to be done; as were those along the road from Dalton crossroads to the A179, and also those on Coal Lane.
- (ii) the chevron at Craddon Bank was to be replaced;
- (iii) the Borough Council had agreed to 'look again' at the current speed signs with a view to replacing them with ones indicating a vehicle's actual speed, and also the possibility of introducing speed humps.

The Clerk expressed concern, on behalf of the Rural Plan Steering Group, that the Rural plan referendum had again been delayed by the Borough Council, and asked the reason for this, and to know exactly when the referendum was to be held. Cllr Loynes **agreed** to investigate. Cllr Hutchinson and Musgrave raised again the issue of flooding in Coal Lane. They both felt that this was entirely due to the ditches and drains being blocked and in need of a thorough clearing out. Cllr Musgrave reported that bags of cannabis residue had once again appeared along the roadside in Coal Lane. Cllr Irving mentioned the fly tipping of carpet and other materials at the bottom of Craddon bank.

Cllr R. Thompson raised the concern of a resident in Manor Close about the lighting outside the old people's bungalows. The current three lights left the pavement in darkness, which was not safe, and he asked that the Borough Council replace the current standard lamp posts with double-headed ones. Cllr Thompson also raised the issue of dog fouling on the south side of North lane near the A19, which had become apparent during the litter pick. The dog bin in North Lane is well used but it is clear that someone is crossing the road to allow their dog to use the grass here as a toilet, rather than cleaning up after it.

Cllr Loynes **agreed** to raise all these concerns with relevant officers.

Cllr Hall raised concern about the closure of the crossings on the A19, which would result in an extra 9 miles for anyone wishing to go north if they chose to go down to the Wynyard roundabout, and an extra 6 miles if they opted instead to go down to Cairnston Road and accessed the A19 via the A179. He understood that this was a decision of Highways England and asked that HBC request it be postponed until the By-pass was opened.

Action: Cllr Loynes to raise the issues identified with relevant officers of the Borough Council, and to investigate the Rural Plan Referendum situation.

Cllr. Loynes left the meeting at 8.22 pm.

10. Village Maintenance Group Report: Cllr Hall, who was standing down in May, wished to put on record how much he had enjoyed being on the Parish Council and especially Chairing the Village Maintenance Group. He offered to continue to maintain the well planting, providing the Parish Council paid for the plants. Cllr Hall was warmly thanked for his contributions over the years.

Cllr Irving stated that a boulder at the corner of the green near Number 1 had been rolled into the road and was a danger to traffic. Cllr Hutchinson immediately offered to bring his machine to replace it. Cllr Irving further reported that she and the Clerk had purchased another 10 plastic flower tubs for the village, to enable the remaining wooden tubs to be replaced. It was **agreed** that a working party would meet at her home on Thursday 10th May, commencing at 6.30pm. to undertake the transfer of tub contents. The Clerk asked whether the parish Council would be willing to sponsor a flower tub competition, as this would encourage villagers to maintain the tubs. It was **agreed** to do this, with a single prize of a £50 Gardening Token.

The Clerk asked when the soft fall area of the Playing Field was to be extended as the remaining play equipment was to be installed commencing 7th May. Cllr Thompson stated that he and his son Jamie, would do this over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Actions: Cllr Hutchinson to Supply water and compost for the flower tubs, to replace boulder near No.1 The Green, Cllr. Thompson and son to extend soft fall area at Playing Field; ALL to join flower tub working party, Clerk to contact Andrew Thomson about bark for the soft fall area., to promote Flower Tub Competition in Village Life and ask for someone to adopt the 4 tubs at the western end of the village green.

11. Wynyard Matters: No-one from Wynyard was present. The Clerk informed that 7 Wynyard

residents were standing for election to Elwick Parish Council, some of whom did not live in Hartlepool Borough. The Parish Council notice board was now being stored in the garage of the Chairman of WRA, who had requested the Parish Council arrange for its installation. It was **agreed** to deal with this request at the next meeting when there would be Wynyard Councillors.
Action: Clerk to put on agenda for next meeting.

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

Income	£	Expenditure:	£
HBC – Precept, Concurrent & Council Tax Support Grant	19,160.00	Costco (flower pots)	132.00
Total:	19,160.00	Total:	132.00

The Clerk informed that: (a) the revised NJC Scales for Clerks had been issued to take effect from 1 April 2018. (b) She had received notification from HMRC that the Vat registration number was changing, from 1 February 2018, but that the letter was dated 1 April. She had, by the time she received it, already made the VAT reclaim for 2017-18. (c) She had reserved a place at the SLCC Regional Training Seminar to be held in Darlington in September, at a cost of £75 +VAT. This was **approved** by those present.

13. GDPR: The Clerk reported that she had recently undertaken training on the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Whilst the Parish Council did not retain much personal information, other than the that used to identify the Councillors and Clerk, never-the-less ALL records, in both hard and electronic format, would have to be inspected for personal information. This could include such things as someone's e-mail address or the home address of a contractor. In all cases, where the PC wished to retain such information and had a legal right to do so, she would have to obtain the written consent of the individual or otherwise destroy the information. This was going to be a massive undertaking and would take some time. It was also a requirement that all Parish Councils were have to have a Data Protection Officer in place by 25th May when the regulations come into force; this role could not be performed by either the Clerk nor a Parish Councillor. She had been informed only the previous Friday, that the government had agreed to introduce new legislation to remove this requirement from parish councils. ICO would be monitoring the situation closely and, although EPC would technically be in breach of the GDPR, no sanctions would be imposed. Data protection fees were to rise to £40.00 per annum.

14. Correspondence: (a) Sarah Scarr, Conservation Officer – an invitation to nominate to the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee. **Agreed** the Clerk should represent Elwick. Next meeting to be held at 6.00pm at the Civic Centre on 11 July.
 (b) Mrs Graham & Mrs Ballantyne both letters on the same topic – concerns over parked vehicles on the village green blocking access for emergency vehicles to the drive of 'Greencroft' and other residences along that road. Councillors were concerned to hear of the problem. Cllr Thompson agreed to trim back his shrub, although did not believe it was encroaching on the road. The stay on the telegraph pole cannot be moved. It was recognised that vehicles coming from the east had a tight turn to get up the road, but this had been the case for over thirty years – it was believed that the eastern facing entrance had been removed when 'Beam Ends' was built. As trucks and trailers are able to drive up the road, Councillors could not understand why the ambulance driver had been unable to do so. The Parish Council is aware of the issue of potholes on the road, and are seeking funds to resurface the road. The Clerk was asked to write saying how sorry the PC was to hear of the problem, including the points above and stating that Cllr Thompson had observed the ambulance from an upstairs window on this occasion, and could not understand why the driver was unable to negotiate the bend, or even at worst, knock on his door and ask that the cars be moved. **Action:** Clerk to write as advised.

15. Planning Applications: Cllrs Hutchinson & Irving declared an interest in Application 0016.
 H/2018/0084 - 7 Eshton, Wynyard - No Objection
 H/2017/0640 -13, The Beaumont, Wynyard – No Objection
 H/2018/0133 - Plot 11, Wellington Gardens, Wynyard – No Objection
 H/2018/0102 - Wynyard C of E Primary School, Wynyard Woods, Wynyard – No Objection

H/2018/0016 - Crookfoot Farm –The only alteration appears to be to replace the dormer windows with Velux windows. Strong Objection on the same grounds as before.

16. Matters of Concern to Councillors: A19 crossings closure. Cllr R. Thompson said that a resident had raised concern about a growing pile of wood in a field to the north of North Lane as it leaves the village. It was agreed that this was not Parish Council business as it was on private land.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 24th May following the Annual Parish Council meeting to be held at 7.00pm at Elwick WI Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.59 pm.