

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 26 July 2018 at Elwick WI Hall

Present: Cllrs. P. Hutchinson (Chair), D. Atkins, B. Irving, R. Musgrave, H. Thompson, R. Thompson

In Attendance: Mrs. M. West, Clerk, ward Cllr B. Loynes, Ward Cllr M. Young, Mr. C. Banks (resident), 2 representatives of Youth Focus NE Tees Valley Project, PCSO Cath Jones.

1. Apologies: Cllr E. Hurst

Before the formal business on the agenda, the Chairman invited the young representatives of Youth Focus NE to give a presentation. They gave a brief explanation of the government-backed initiative, whose aim is to provide new opportunities for young people aged 10-18 to get involved in their communities, support their personal development and increase their skills and confidence, with several examples of how this could be achieved. Essentially YFNE is willing to support the formation of a Youth Club in Elwick Parish, with funds, ideas and training in youth work skills for those willing to organise and support the club. The Tees Valley group are also seeking a young person (over the age of 14) to become the Hartlepool rep on the YFNE, TV Project's Steering Group. Councillors asked several questions and were keen to see if there was sufficient interest amongst villagers to move the project forward.

It was **agreed** that a questionnaire be developed, with the support of YFNE staff, and circulated to all households in the Parish.

The representatives were thanked by the Chairman for their offer, and assured that EPC was keen to support the idea of a youth club.

The YFNE Reps left the meeting at 7.20pm.

2. Public Forum: No issues raised. PCSO Cath Jones reported that there had been an increasing number of car and shed break-ins recently and encouraged everyone NOT to leave valuables in their cars or in unlocked sheds. She was also concerned that a number of small fires had occurred around the town though to date no serious farm fires had been reported. Anyone wishing to report a crime in the rural areas should ring: **07525 410614.**

3. Declarations of Interest: None.

4. Minutes of 28th June 2018: Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising:

(a) Red Gap Community Fund: The Clerk reported that the grant monies had now been received and the two current applications were being put forward to the Grantscape Trustees. However, there was a potential problem as funding could not be given if it was a statutory duty of the Parish Council to maintain the footpaths – she would look into this and advise Grantscape accordingly. Mr. Banks (former Chair of the Parish Council) was able to confirm that the path at the east end of the village was definitely not part of any statutory requirement as it was only put in during the 1980s. **Action:** Clerk to investigate.

(b) Various trees: The HBC Arboriculturist, Derek Wardle, had advised that formal planning permission was required before the old Christmas Tree could be removed as it was within the Conservation Area. The Clerk had therefore completed the required application form and submitted it. As the Conservation Officer had raised no objection, a decision should be received within 8 weeks.

A request had been received from several residents for the lower branches of the Horse

Chestnut tree on the green to be removed as they were blocking the line of sight for drivers wanting to enter the main road from the south side of the green. The Clerk noted that, as this tree had a TPO, planning permission would be required here too. **Action:** Clerk to apply for planning permission.

Two Councillors stated that, on having looked at the Italian Alder trees discussed at the previous meeting, they felt that they did not cause sufficient problem to householders to warrant being removed. As other Councillors had not been to look at these trees it was agreed to defer the decision to remove until the September meeting. The other trees that had been drawn to the attention of the Council at the Parish Meeting were the two Horse Chestnuts between North Lane and Nos 1-6 The Walk. The Clerk and Cllr H. Thompson had looked at these and could not see any reason for their removal, **Action:** All Councillors to take a look at the Italian Alder and Horse Chestnut trees before the September meeting.

Mr. Banks was given permission to fill in a hole on the green left from a previous tree support, near the Christmas trees, and Affordable Landscapes to seed with grass once completed.

As Cllr Loynes needed to leave the meeting early, the Chairman invited her to make her report at this point.

9. Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Loynes reported that:

- The drain on Church Bank is to be flushed as there is clearly some blockage, and this could be the cause of the smell. It was noted that the smell could also be caused by a cracked or overflowing septic tank.
- The Sheraton/A19 junction work has been postponed until January 2019 by Durham County Council.
- She was making a visit to the villages with an HBC officer on Monday and would show him the problem street lights in Elwick and would also be going to see the problem lights at Wynyard.
- The Referendum on the Rural Plan was to be held on 4th October 2018.
- Higher fines were to be introduced for fly-tipping
- She had requested a double light for Manor Close; Cllr H. Thompson stated that in fact two more were needed as the street lighting near some Manor Close homes was very poor, affecting the safety of elderly residents.
- HBC had decided to request that Hart village be joined with the other rural villages and Wynyard to form a new Ward to be known as Rural Ward, the West Park area would be known as Park Ward and that Hart Ward would retain the name as it still included Hart Station.

Cllr Musgrave noted that the crash barriers had still not been placed at Pudding Poke.

Cllr Loynes was thanked for her report and left the meeting at 7.50pm.

5 (c) Playing Field: The Clerk reported that Mr. Banks had refurbished the goal posts and they now looked very good, for which he was thanked. She had cleaned the current notices by the Playing Field herself and had obtained an estimate from Ords for the design and production of a new A1-sized notice, the wording to be agreed. Cost £37.50 +VAT. After a brief discussion the design and final wording were **agreed**. **Action:** Clerk to obtain sign. Over the previous weekend, Cllr Hutchinson had delivered and spread the bark chippings kindly donated by Mr. Andrew Thompson; however, there was insufficient to complete the job and another load was needed. **Action:** Clerk to write to Mr Thompson thanking him for his donation and asking for a price for a second load.

6. Boundary Commission Review: It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to the Commission expressing the Parish Council's view that Hart village should be brought into

a rural ward on the basis of shared historical and social links, a shared church, school etc. Cllr H. Thompson proposed that the ward retain the name Rural West.

Cllr R. Thompson disagreed and supported the name Rural Ward. This was put to the vote with 4 in favour of Rural Ward, one abstention and one against.

- 7. Rural Plan:** Date for Referendum noted - 4 October 2018. **It was noted that all** rural electors will need to check their details on the HBC electoral roll if they wish to have a vote on the issue.

- 8. Chairman's Report:** Cllr. Hutchinson stated that he had laid the bark chippings when the repairs to the Soft Fall area had been completed and that the site had looked a great deal better as soon as the wire safety fencing had been removed.

- 10. Wynyard Matters:** Cllr Atkins reported there was still an on-going issue in regard to the lack of pedestrian crossings on the A689, and that the Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen, had been contacted about this. SBC were starting to build a footbridge over the A689 at considerable cost and against the wishes of residents.
- The Clerk informed that she had received an application for funds from the Chairman of Wynyard Residents' Association. She reminded Councillors that a substantive part of the monies allocated to Wynyard had been for a contribution towards the costs of a planning application for a Community Centre. Councillors agreed that, as this request had not been rescinded, the amount should be retained for this purpose. The various elements of the current application were read out together with the funding requested for each. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would contribute £547 towards the costs of the quarterly 'Wynyard Matters' newsletter and £606.60 for Fund-Raising support items; however, Councillors could **not** support a contribution to the development of a sensory garden at the Wynyard Woods Care Home as this was a private establishment. The request for a contribution towards a modified play scheme, of 6-Away Days, for 8-14-year olds, was debated. It was recognised that Wynyard had no facilities at all for children, who went to many different schools, nor anywhere for them to meet together, however, concern was expressed that the planned trips would fail to achieve the desired outcome of bringing the children together, as they constituted visits to amenities with adults rather than those where children could organise their own activities, such as visits to the seaside or countryside parks, which would cost considerably less. It was finally **agreed** that, as the schools had already broken up for the summer, the balance of the £4,000 allocated to Wynyard, approximately £350, could be used to support summer activities for children, with the caveat that the programme content should be reconsidered. Cllr Atkins was asked to inform the WRA that an application for funds towards providing Christmas parties for children would not be supported as Elwick villagers had always raised the funds for these themselves, without EPC support, and the Parish Council expected Wynyard residents to do the same.

- 11. Village Maintenance Group Report:** Cllr Irving reported as follows:

- Jamie Thompson had been unable to make the zip-wire platform as yet, as there was lack of clarity about its dimensions and design. Cllr Irving and Musgrave had measured the space and believed the platform needed to be 1m high, 1.3m wide and 1m deep, with stairs at the rear and a handrail on either side for safety. The alternatives available were to purchase the metal product from Streetscape at a cost of almost £1,850, or to have a wooden one made. Cllr H. Thompson agreed to ask Jamie if he could do this within a 2-week time frame; if not Cllr Young said that he knew someone who might be willing to undertake this. **Action:** Cllr R. Thompson to inform Clerk if Jamie willing and able to undertake within the time-frame.
- The bench opposite the shop and the new bench in the Wildlife Garden need attention.

- Several trees around the green need their lower branches removing to improve line of sight and appearance. Action: Clerk to apply for planning permission.
- As the small Christmas Tree would not require all the lights now owned by the Council, the Maintenance Group proposed that the spare ones be used to decorate the bus shelter. All were in favour of this.
- Weeds were growing along the road edges around the village making it look unsightly; this was especially true of North Lane. As this is a Borough Council responsibility, Cllr Young offered to take this up with Officers. Action: Cllr Young to raise road edge weed issue with relevant officers.
- The area outside the school, which was once a mosaic, now looks a mess - could something be done about it? The Clerk noted that this was school property and beyond the remit of the Parish Council.
- As there was still a bracket for a hanging basket on the bus shelter, Cllr Irving asked if she could provide one. Agreed unanimously.
- The new rails on the Playing Field fence need to be re-treated with a darker 'Cuprinol' type stain to match the rest of the fence.
- The bench near the zip wire was 'disappearing' into the undergrowth. Action: Clerk to ask Affordable Landscapes to remedy.
- She had received many complaints about dog fouling in the ghyll.

The Chairman requested that in future, sub-committee and working group reports be circulated with the agenda

12. Social Activities Sub-Committee: Cllr H. Thompson reported that as yet no response to the invitation to join had been received from any of the village organisations. As she was planning to hold the first meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 1st August at Holmlea, she asked the Clerk to extend an invitation to all who had expressed an interest. **Action:** Clerk to issue invitation.

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

Income	£	Expenditure:	£
Red Gap Community Fund	12,800.00	Affordable Landscapes (grass)	650.00
		Baxketh (2 Skips)	360.00
		Elwick WI Hall Fund (room hire)	50.00
		Unity Trust (Bank service charge)	18.00
		Sovereign Design Play SystemsLLtd	4,719.12
		R. Thompson (Parish Meeting refreshments)	42.90
Total:	12,800.00	Total:	5,840.02

14. Correspondence: (a) Dr & Mrs Marshall re road sign for 12a & 12b The Green. **Agreed** this was needed, though some confusion as to the name as the development was called The Chantries. Responsibility for road signs lies with HBC. **Action:** Clerk to contact relevant officer. (b) Unity Trust – noted. (c) Ordnance Survey – noted.

15. Planning Applications:

H/2018/0085 - replacement roof, 10 The Green – No Objection

H/2018/0241 - Elwick House – conversion & extension of outbuildings - Site visit requested

H/2018/0288 - North Farm, Elwick – agricultural storage building – No objection.

H/2018/0227 - Land off Coniscliffe Road – No objection

It was noted that an Appeal is to be held on 14 August at the Civic Centre against the refusal of planning permission for an Equestrian Worker's dwelling, stable block and horse exerciser at Stotfold Crest Stables. Cllrs H. & R. Thompson agreed to attend to represent the Parish Council's view which is in support of the applicant.

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

17. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 27th September at Wynyard school.

Meeting closed at 9.42 pm.