

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 28th February 2019 at Elwick WI Hall

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

In Attendance: Ward Cllr. M. Young, Mrs. M. West, Clerk, C. Banks

1. Apologies: Ward Cllr. B. Loynes - accepted

2. Public Forum: No issues raised

3. Declarations of Interest: None.

4. Minutes of 31st January 2019: With one amendment, to insert an 'A' in front of 19, bullet point 3, Item 1, Cllr Hurst proposed, with Cllr R. Thompson seconding, it was **resolved** that these were a true record and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising:

- a) Tree Inspection:** Derek Wardle from HBC had now inspected the trees on parish land beside the footpath down Church Bank as requested and had drawn the attention of the Highways Dept. to an issue with an Ash tree which was on HBC land.
- b) Church Bank fence:** The Clerk had spoken to the Planning Department who had advised that the pre-planning application required the Parish Council to provide a location plan and full specification for the work proposed. This was in the process of preparation and will be submitted shortly (at a cost of £144). **Action:** Clerk to submit pre-planning application as soon as information is available.

6. Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr. Young reported as follows:

- He had investigated the position of the crash barrier at Pudding Poke Farm and had been told by officers that the barrier was to be replaced by posts. However, Cllr. Musgrave informed the meeting that she had spoken that day with Ralph Young of the Highways Dept. who had told her that the barrier was not to be replaced at all and that if any accident happened, the farmer would have to claim from the driver's insurance. This was not what Cllr Young had understood and he will investigate further. Cllr Musgrave further informed that a large number of deep potholes had appeared between Pudding Poke corner and the Borough boundary with Durham; the temporary filling of these by HBC was insufficient to last, and this stretch of road was in urgent need of a full resurfacing.
- Drains on Church Bank – the work would be commencing shortly and would require a traffic management scheme (traffic lights) rather than a full road closure.
- Manor Close sign has not yet been completed but is on the action list.
- Cllr. Young reported that, following concerns expressed by a resident, he had held discussions with officers concerning the installation of a 'speed table' at the east end of the village by the 20mph sign, similar to the one on Merlin Way in Bishop Cuthbert at Moorhen Road. Some reservations were expressed by members at the location and type of speed reduction measure and Cllr. Young agreed to look at alternatives.

Cllr Irving requested the weight limit signs at each entrance to the village from the A19 and at the junction of Elwick Road with Dunston Road be replaced with larger, more distinctive signs, as many drivers were clearly unaware of the weight restriction.

7. Wynyard Report: Cllr Atkins reported that:

- Representatives had met with officers of Hartlepool and Stockton Borough Councils to discuss the preparation of a Masterplan for Wynyard. This will include the west gate roundabout area plus the Stockton sections and would include a safety audit. Cllr Hurst

stated that Cleveland Police have recorded total of 24 accidents since November between the west gate roundabout and the A19. If they were successful in a bid to the Tees Valley Combined Authority, the Masterplan would be important in safeguarding any Section 106 monies.

- The traffic survey for the Masterplan will include an assessment of the need for a 50mph speed limit to be set through the whole Wynyard section of the A689.—A traffic audit is to be undertaken across all four seasons of a year to assess the volume of traffic. Cllrs Atkins and Hurst asked for the start of the 50mph limit be set well before the West gate roundabout travelling East, possibly as far back as the Castle Eden Walkway bridge.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the car parking at the new Wynyard school. Councillors felt that it was dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. Whilst recognising that this was a general problem outside schools, Cllr. Young agreed to investigate the possibility of a pedestrian crossing at the new road / Wynyard Woods junction where there is a designated crossing point.
- Members were also concerned about the mud left on the road by construction traffic at the junction of Wynyard Woods and The Wynd, where a cyclist had recently had an accident. Cllr Atkins stated that there are regular complaints about the state of the road and asked that Cllr. Young approach the HBC Enforcement Officer to ensure the road is cleaned regularly. Cllr Young agreed to investigate this.
- Cllr Atkins wished to put on record her appreciation for the efforts of Cllr Young in ensuring that the massive pothole on the A689 has at last been repaired.
- Wynyard Residents Association were planning a fundraising Black-Tie ball in October. Funds to be shared between the Great North Air Ambulance and Wynyard School Playing Fields.

8. Village Maintenance Group Report

- Cllr Irving informed the meeting that she had not prepared a report since it would be the same as last month. All the tasks identified for action by HBC still needed doing. The zip wire was still not sufficiently high and Cllr Hutchinson agreed to raise it, if possible to do so.
- Councillors expressed their dismay that the new seat in the playing field had been stolen shortly after it had been installed. The Clerk was instructed to examine the insurance situation and to discuss with the Contractor the installation of a replacement, hopefully at a substantial discount. It was also felt that the location of the seat behind the goalpost was inappropriate and that a different location should be found for the replacement. Ward Councillors agreed to fund a replacement seat. **Action:** Clerk to examine the implications of making a claim on the insurance and to discuss with the Contractor the installation of a replacement and the Village Maintenance Group to examine a revised location for the seat.
- The report of the playground inspector was discussed in great detail and it was resolved that the Clerk would prepare a monthly inspection schedule to ensure that inspections undertaken by the Village Maintenance Group were adequately recorded. **Action:** Clerk to prepare a monthly inspection schedule.

9. Social Activities Sub-Committee: Cllr. H. Thompson reported that:

- The Easter Egg trail is currently being organised and the posters printed,
- The Parish Summer Fête on June 23rd is attracting more stall holders and plans are well underway for other attractions on the day
- An event for the autumn was being developed although there are still a number of issues to be overcome. Never-the-less it was hoped that an event could be prepared for this September. Options for funding of this large event were discussed.

10. Financial Report: The Clerk presented the monthly reports, which it was **resolved** to accept.

Receipts:	£	Payments	£
		R.J. Thompson (expenses for Christmas Carols event)	87.39
		Baxketh Ltd (skips)	<u>384.00</u>
Total	0.00	Total	<u>471.39</u>

Discussion took place regarding the costs of telephone and broadband and it was proposed by

Cllr. H Thompson and seconded by Cllr. Atkins that the Clerk should receive £10 per month towards these costs. This was **carried unanimously**.

Cllr Atkins requested a breakdown of the money allocated and expended by the Parish Council specifically for Wynyard. The Clerk agreed to provide this information. **Action:** Clerk to present information to Cllr. Atkins.

12. Correspondence

- The Police had informed the Council that the PCSO's responsible for providing neighbourhood services in the Rural West ward were Cath Jones, Ian Heslop and David Fowler. This was noted.
- A resident wrote to suggest that the Millennium Clock should be moved from the post office and put on top of the bus shelter. Members considered this but declined the suggestion,
- A resident wrote expressing concern at the chaotic parking in North Lane at the start and finish of school. Reference was made to increased incidents of double parking, blocking drives and of general anti-social and often dangerous parking. Councillors agreed with the comments but recognised that this was a matter for the Police and Hartlepool Borough Council. The Clerk was asked to copy the letter, together with the Parish Council's own concerns to the Police, HBC and the Ward Councillors in the hope that some action could be taken. **Action:** Clerk to copy the letter to the Police, School, HBC and the Ward Councillors and express the Parish Council's own concerns.
- Letter from Civic Voice - noted
- Letter from Val Lister – Civic Society expressing concern at the level of consultation and general response from Highways England regarding the closure of the gaps on A19. The Clerk was instructed to reply sharing the views which have already been made known to the Highways Agency. **Action:** Clerk to reply to Mrs Lister.
- Letter from Northern Gas Network – noted

The Ward Councillor left the meeting at 8.48pm

13. Planning Applications:

H/2019/0034 - Plot 14, Wellington Gardens, Wynyard – amendment to original plans - no objection

H/2019/0035 - 4, Lavender Lane, Wynyard - extension to rear – retrospective application. Neighbours concerned that the development was not in keeping and as no planning permission had been sought in advance, they had been given no opportunity to object the design. Request officers visit site to assess the visual impact on neighbours.

H/2019/0054 - 28, Manorside, Wynyard – conversion of garage to snug & storage area – no objection.

H/2019/0061 - Land west of Wynyard Woods – substitution of house type on two plots - no objection

For information:

H/2018/0390 - Land Adjacent to Elwick House - Erection of Dwelling House – Refused by HBC

15. Matters of Concern to Councillors

Attention was drawn to the number of milk bottles being left in the Ghyll from purchases made at the Dairy at Home Farm. It was suggested that a waste bin be provided at the site. It was suggested that sponsorship could be sought from the farm. **Action:** The Clerk to investigate the provision of a sponsored waste bin to be sited in the Ghyll.

It was noted that HBC had still not provided the dog waste bin in the Ghyll promised many months ago.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 28th March 2019 at the new Wynyard School.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm