

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 29 November 2018 at Elwick WI Hall

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

In Attendance: Ward Cllr B. Loynes and M. Young, Mrs. M. West, Clerk, one resident

Cllr H. Thompson chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Hutchinson, and welcomed everyone.

1. Apologies: Cllr P. Hutchinson - accepted

2. Public Forum: No issues raised

3. Declarations of Interest: None.

4. Minutes of 25th October 2018: It was **resolved** that these were a true record and the minutes were signed by Cllr Thompson.

5. Matters Arising:

(a) Signs: The Clerk had received a quotation from Ords for the signs requested: (i) an A1 size 3mm Aluminium Composite Coated Printed full colour Playing Field sign, with overlamine, to replace the stolen one, £45 + VAT. It was **resolved** to purchase this and Cllr R. Thompson agreed to back it with marine plywood and erect it, using bolts as well as screws. (ii) 4 x A3 'No Parking on the Village Green' signs in the same material as the Playing Field sign @ £12each + VAT. After a brief discussion it was **resolved** to have these made of plastic rather than aluminium, and the Clerk was asked to implement this without further reference to the PC (iii) 6 x 'Please Drive Carefully, Litter Picking in Progress' signs, in the same material as the Playing Field sign, to be cut to triangular shape by the PC, @ £17each + VAT. Three of these to be sold on to Hart PC. It was **resolved** to purchase these. **Action:** Clerk to order and Cllr Thompson to erect the Playing Field sign and the No Parking signs, Clerk to invoice Hart PC once signs were received. Cllr Musgrave asked whether it would be worthwhile putting up signs at the entrances to the village 'Please respect the village and its residents -DON'T DROP LITTER!'. After a brief discussion it was agreed to consult the other rural Parish Councils in Hartlepool, with a view to all having such signs erected. **Action:** Clerk to consult other PCs in rural area.

(b) Youth Focus: No response had been received to date from Youth Focus regarding the proposed revision of the survey. It was **resolved** that the Clerk should contact Youth Focus to ascertain progress. **Action:** Clerk to contact Youth Focus.

(c) Fence at Wildlife Garden: The Clerk reported that the Minutes of June 2002 had been brought to her attention by Mrs Banks, who had given her further information on the fence. It was clear that the fence was originally erected by the Parish Council. The Clerk also noted that the Wildlife Gardeners had reported the tree at the back of the garden was very rotten, and they had removed a branch that was hanging off, and further, that they had suggested an arborist be asked to examine the willow tree, as it was leaning quite badly. Cllr R. Thompson proposed that the Village Maintenance Group be asked to inspect the fence and the various trees in the wildlife garden be referred to Derek Wardle (HBC) and to bring any recommendations resulting to the full PC. **Action:** Clerk to contact Derek Wardle, Maintenance Group to inspect the fence.

(d) Church Bank fence: The Clerk reported that Zurich had referred her to their legal advisers for a legal view on liability. The Solicitor had recommended that, as an accident was wholly foreseeable, the Conservation Officer should be informed that Estate style fencing would be installed only if the Borough Council accepted full liability for it. All Councillors present objected strongly to Estate style fencing being erected as it was felt to be unsafe. Cllr H. Thompson was asked to consult the fencing company about an alternative style that would meet both safety concerns and those of the Conservation officer, and was made of round, rather than square

rails. Once a design had been agreed then the Clerk to write to Sarah Scarr and the Borough Council's Health & Safety Officer with the advice given by the insurance company's legal advisor. **Action:** Cllr H. Thompson to consult fencing company; Clerk to write to Conservation and Health & Safety Officers at HBC, copied to Ward Councillors.

(e) Mike Hill MP: The Clerk reported that an invitation to the meeting had been sent to the MP for Hartlepool, also giving the date of the January meeting. To date no response had been received.

(f) Ash Tree behind garages in Manor Close: The Clerk read out an email from Derek Wardle – he stated that the matter had been referred to the Highways Section as it fell under Section 154 of the 1980 Highways Act, with the emphasis being on low branches and dead branches dropping during strong gales. He had also been informed by the Land Registry that the land did not belong to Thirteen Group nor the farmer, rather it belonged to a resident of Manor Close. The matter would be dealt with in the very near future due to forecasts of gales in the coming weeks.

(g) Rural Plan: An email received from the Chairman of the Rural Plan Working Group informing that the Plan was to go to full Council on the evening of 20th December where it would be adopted and become officially 'made'.

6. Ward Councillors' Reports: Cllr Loynes reported as follows:

- The tree behind the garages in Manor Close had already been mentioned;
- Street lights on Church Bank – not working due to leaves on trees stopping the sensors from functioning; it will need full traffic management to be put in place before this can be addressed and that would require the permission of Highways England, as the road is an access road for A19;
- The Manor Close sign was deemed by officers to be only in need of cleaning – Cllrs Irving and Musgrave strongly disputed this – the sign is rotten. Cllr Loynes agreed to ask officers to reinspect the sign;
- The road sign for 12a & 12b The Green – Officers state that this is not their responsibility, but that of the PC. After a brief discussion it was **resolved** that the Clerk write to the residents giving HBC response and informing that they need to erect their own sign on their own land. **Action:** Clerk to write to residents of 12a & 12b.
- Blocked drain on Church Bank – Kieran Bostock is aware of the need to investigate, but because of traffic management issues Highways England need to be consulted. Cllrs suggested that the street lights here be addressed at the same time;
- Pavements in North Lane – are to be inspected again;
- Crash barriers at Pudding Poke farm – officers now state the wall is too close to the road to allow crash barriers to be erected. Cllr Musgrave demurred and asked who would be responsible if the wall were to be knocked down and cattle escaped into the road? Cllrs Loynes & Young agreed to raise this again with Tony Dixon as it is a very real Health & Safety issue;
- Wynyard lights – nothing had yet been done, so need to push again to get these inspected.

Cllr Irving raised concern about a large black box that had appeared on land in North Lane – Ward Cllrs agreed to investigate.

7. Wynyard Report: Cllr Atkins spoke to her report circulated earlier:

(i) Mud on the roads:

a) At Wynyard Manor has been a big problem of late especially the road, adjacent to The Meadows, that feeds into the busy, fast moving A689. On one morning last week, 4 residents reported incidents of skidding or slipping on the roundabout, some of them with children in their car. In addition, the situation is causing a problem for pedestrians crossing the road as it is very slippery under foot. In addition, the lights at the new junction on Wynyard Woods, put in by HBC, are not working, and this is VERY dangerous.

b) On Wynyard Woods from Bellway development has now been cleaned but Cllr Atkins requested that the HBC Enforcement Officer make frequent checks to ensure that the roads are cleaned by the developers.

(ii) A689 roundabout – At the last meeting of WRA it was resolved that the following should happen:

A letter be sent to HBC requesting the lowering of the speed limit between the East and West gate roundabouts from 70mph to 50 mph.

Councillors Atkins and Hurst requested a letter be sent to HBC supporting this request, this was unanimously agreed and it was **resolved** that the Clerk so write to Kieran Bostock.

Action: Clerk to write to HBC.

Following a web discussion with Ben Houchen, Tees Valley Mayor, re the west gate roundabout a meeting took place with officials from both local authorities where it was agreed to consider putting in a bid to the Tees Valley Mayor for the funding to carry out the work to improve safety before the S106 trigger.

(iii) WRA have had further reports of dog fouling on the Wynyard Manor development. Ward Cllrs responded that nothing can be done until the roads are officially adopted by HBC as it is

(iv) Carol Singing: There will be carol singing with free mince pie and alcohol-free, mulled wine from 6pm to 7pm on Sunday 16th December, outside The Stables public house Wynyard. All welcome.

8. Village Maintenance Group Report: Cllr Irving that many of her items had already been covered:

Tasks Completed:

- All benches sanded, stained and repaired as necessary
- Trees around bench in Playing Field trimmed

Tasks still waiting:

- Stones around green will be painted in the spring
- Complete clearing of edges of remaining greens
- Zip wire to be raised – Cllr Hutchinson has agreed to do this
- New benches to be installed in Playing Field and on North Lane – in hand
- Grass in cobbles in Martindale Close – needs to be sprayed in the spring

Cllrs Irving and Musgrave were congratulated on a very thorough report. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Derek Wardle and ask that he inspect all the trees on parish land beside the footpath down Church Bank, to ensure there was no danger of branches falling onto the path or road. **Action:** Clerk to contact Derek Wardle.

9. Social Activities Sub-Committee: Cllr H. Thompson reported that the Village Life magazine had stated in error that the 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' were to be at 4.00pm, but this was a mistake and they were definitely at 6.00pm; it was at Dalton Piercy that the carols were at 4.00pm. Before the carols, Santa would be touring the village from 5.30pm – 6.00pm on a trailer. Mulled wine and mince pies were to be served from the bus shelter, any remaining would be served to adults attending the Children's Christmas party at the WI hall on 29th December. 40 children had already booked places and there was now a waiting list. There would be a party tea for the children, an entertainer and Santa would be making a visit too. A 'Name the Reindeer' competition and a raffle of tickets for the Forum children's show in February would be on offer.

Cllr Mike Young offered to meet with Artistic Solutions regarding the provisional Proms in the Park discussed at an earlier date. This was **agreed**.

10. A19 crossing closures meeting: Cllr H. Thompson reminded all present that the PC had met with Tony Hanson and Kieran Bostock, HBC officers on 23rd November regarding the proposed closure of the crossings at Elwick and Dalton Piercy, and the proposed by-pass of Elwick Village. The position was now very clear – once the Sheraton junction was completed, expected to be in May/June 2019, the crossings at the two villages would be closed. The Tees Valley Mayor had already given £4.2 M and had agreed to underwrite another £4.2M should Homes England be unable to find the funds. HBC had agreed to borrow £10M against the expected income from the developers of homes on High Tunstall Farm and were to be asked to agree to take out Compulsory Purchase Orders for the land to the north of Elwick required for the by-pass, should the landowners not agree to sell. Councillors had again queried the timing of the closures – before the by-pass was opened, but had been informed that this was not a

decision of the Borough Council but of Highways England; concerns about the leaving open of the farm crossings were countered with 'No U-turns' signs to be placed at every farm crossing! Councillors had also restated their concerns about the Hartlepool junction of the By-pass being at the top of Craddon Bank. Officers had informed that an independent safety assessment of the junction was to be carried out; if the findings of that were supportive of the Parish Council's view then the by-pass would have to be re-routed, otherwise it would remain as per the current plans. It was **resolved** to write to Highways England in full support of the By-pass and closures BUT, to reiterate concerns about the premature closure of the crossings, the danger of leaving the farm crossings open – these being only half the width of the village crossings, and the junction at the top of Craddon Bank. **Action:** Clerk to draft letter and to liaise with Cllr. H. Thompson.

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

Receipts:	£	Payments	£
	0.00	Wildlife Gardening Services	700.00
		Viking (Stationery)	49.02
		Baxketh Ltd (skip hire)	384.00
		Michael Hutchinson (benches)	<u>1,950.00</u>
Total:	0.00	Total:	3,083.02

The Clerk noted that the cost of maintaining all the donated benches around the village, in perpetuity, was becoming quite a burden on parish funds and suggested that no further benches be approved for siting on Parish Council land. All concurred with this and it was **resolved** that the Clerk should write a piece for Village Life on this issue.

12. Correspondence: (a) Letter from Joanne Swinbank, Community Engagement Navigator at Step Forward Tees Valley, a project to help long-term unemployed back into work – noted. (b) Ordnance Survey re the NALC launch of a digital mapping toolkit – **noted**; (c) SLCC re budget proposals for new affordable homes powers for parishes – **noted**; (d) NALC re Public Sector Bodies (Websites & Mobile Applications) (No 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 – noted; (e) Invitation from Cllr Brenda Loynes, to participate in consultations on HBC Provision of Preventative Mental Health Services in Hartlepool – **noted with approval**.

Ward Councillors left the meeting at 8.50pm

13. Planning Applications:

H/2018/0459 – Not in Elwick parish.

H/2018/0415 – On paper there appear to be no grounds for objection, despite the loss of light to the neighbour next door. It was noted that a main drain runs across the proposed development site and, as several objections had already been made, and the Borough Council had asked for our views, it was **resolved** that, in accordance with due diligence, a site visit be made as soon as possible, as the deadline for response was only a week away. It was agreed to offer 11.00am on Saturday 1st December for the proposed visit.

H/2018/0390 – No objection in principal but some concerns expressed about the size of the proposed dwelling in such close proximity to a Listed building and the well-known flooding of the road at this point, which had undermined the original garden wall only a couple of years ago. Site visit agreed for 12 noon, Sat 1st or 11.00am Monday 3rd December if possible.

Action: Clerk to write immediately to both addresses requesting agreement and to contact the PC Chairman to see if he was available for the proposed site visits.

Consultation request on the Hartlepool Residential Design Supplementary Planning Document – **noted**.

Hartlepool Local Development Order – The Port – a consultation on a new Enterprise Zone based round the port. After a brief discussion it was **agreed** to respond to HBC that "Elwick PC welcomes any development that brings extra jobs to the town, and the PC would wish to be

involved in the transport assessment.”

15. Matters of Concern to Councillors: Cllr Atkins asked when budget requests were needed, she was advised to email the Clerk ASAP with these. Cllr R. Thompson noted with concern that heavy goods vehicles were still coming through the village from the development sites in Hartlepool; these included a GoPlant road sweeper that came through every day in the early hours and again at around 4.00pm, as well as other large wagons with building materials – all these were in breach of the weight limit on the road. Cllr H. Thompson noted that the site of the bonfire, held on the green without the permission of the Parish Council, had not been completely restored, as the turf removed had not been sufficient for the size of the bonfire. The bonfire had been exceptionally large this year, and several residents had raised concerns. Cllr R. Thompson raised concern that the skip in Manor Close had been overfilled and the skip company had left a considerable amount of waste behind, quite legitimately, as it is illegal to move an overloaded skip. The Clerk noted that she had informed the Borough Council of the mess and it had subsequently been removed; however, if people continue to abuse the skip service in this way, the Parish Council would have to review the provision of the skip service to villagers.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 31st January 2019 at Elwick WI Hall

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.