

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 25th July 2019 at Elwick WI Hall

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

In Attendance: Ward Cllrs. B. Loynes, C. Stokell and M. Young; M. West, Clerk and D. Woodward from 7.15pm

1. Apologies for Absence: None.

2. Declarations of Interest: Cllrs H and R. Thompson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 17 on the Agenda – Tenders for the Refurbishment of Footpaths.

3. Minutes of 27th June 2019: There being no amendments it was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising:

(a) Horse Chestnut tree – Cllr Thompson reported that this work had not yet been completed but that he would deal with it as soon as possible.

(b) Declaration of Interest Forms - Cllr Hutchinson noted that he had completed but not yet posted his; he would do this the next day.

(c) Parish Council logo – after a brief discussion Cllr Atkins suggested that a rather than a logo, the PC should consider using a font in a particular colour, Cllr Young offered to draft several options for consideration, this offer being warmly accepted and to be brought to the September meeting.

(d) Sponsored Waste Bin in the Ghyll: The Clerk reported no progress on this issue.

Actions: Cllr Thompson to prune branch of Horse Chestnut tree, Cllr Hutchinson to post his Dol form to HBC, Cllr Young to draft options for a logo.

5. Public Forum: No issues raised.

6. Chairman's Report: Cllr H. Thompson reported as follows:

- A garden furniture retailer had called by chance at her home the previous week and happened to have for sale a limited number of similar teak benches to the one stolen from the Playing Field; after consulting Cllr R. Thompson and the Clerk, and as the cost of the new bench was less than the original, it had been agreed to purchase one immediately. (Cllr Irving requested that Councillors give consideration to the purchase of a second picnic table for the Playing Field). After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the new bench should be placed in the same place as the original bench.
- She had received a telephone call, about a month ago, from a national BBC reporter who was undertaking research into the impact on residents of the removal by HBC of the bus subsidy several years previously. She had explained that the impact was considerable, leading to lack of access to services, especially health services; the high cost of taxis into town, lots of houses in village for sale as people moved to places with better transport facilities etc. She was surprised to receive a further call on Tuesday of this week (23rd) from the reporter, stating that the BBC would be in the village on Thursday morning to film and asking if she could help him talk to residents who had used the PC sponsored minibus service. After finding 5 residents willing to be interviewed, she had received an email on Wednesday postponing the filming, as the reporter now had to be in Liverpool, the interviews to be rescheduled probably in August. She noted that the Ward Councillors had an update on the transport situation, which they would report later in the meeting.
- A resident in North Lane had asked about the crescent of land from No. 10 onwards; apparently some of the shrubs are badly overgrown and are now

scratching passing vehicles. Also raised was the possibility of placing meshing on the central section of grass, opposite these houses, to allow residents to park here. It was noted that the land belonged to the Borough Council, not the Parish Council. It was felt that a survey of residents should be undertaken by HBC before any action was taken on this issue. The Chairman and Clerk agreed to draft a questionnaire, to be circulated to Councillors during August. **Action:** Cllr H. Thomson & Clerk to draft questionnaire as agreed.

- The Chairman noted with concern the damage caused to No.8 The Green, by a farm vehicle. Councillors noted that the entrance to Potter's Farm, as with Home Farm, is very narrow, and discussed access across the green. Unfortunately, there is nothing the Parish Council can do to alleviate the situation. Cllr Hutchinson noted that once the By-Pass is open, there will be less need to use the entrance from the green.

7. Ward Councillor's report: Cllr. Young reported that:

- The Combined Authority were to consider a proposal for a three-year funding package for a rural bus service for Cleveland; the aim would be to have a service in place by the end of 2019.
- A speed survey at Elwick village was to be undertaken.
- Cllr Young has asked that HBC officers reconsider the decision not to undertake the refurbishment of the footpath and fence on Church Bank, given the Health & Safety concerns.
- Officers were reviewing the issue of crossings on the A689 and investigating options.
- Work has started on the lampposts at Wynyard.
- A master Plan for Wynyard was now well into development; SBC were taking the lead and Matthew King was the contact at Hartlepool. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact him to request that Elwick Parish Councillors be given a preview. Cllr Atkins reported that SBC had included Wynyard Residents Association and the Wynyard PC Chairman in their list of consultees; she agreed to request that Elwick Parish Council be also included and to forward the SBC invitation to the Clerk.
Actions: Clerk to contact Matthew King, Cllr Atkins to forward invitation from SBC.
- The primary school on the north side of the A689 will probably go ahead, but there is unlikely to be sufficient demand for a secondary school at Wynyard for the next 5 years. Current demand can be met by High Tunstall school.
- The Manor Close sign has now been replaced.
- It was noted that the overgrown hedge near Manor Close, the responsibility of Thirteen Group, has still not been dealt with.
- The public bins at Wynyard will be monitored and emptied at the same time as the green & brown household bins.
- The developer hoardings at Wynyard are to be reduced to one sign only, on each side of the road, and set well back; all other developer advertisements are to be removed.
- In response to a query from Cllr Hurst, Cllr Young stated that there has as yet been no progress on the issue of a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Wynyard Woods and School Road.

The Chairman invited Mr. Woodward to speak. He wished to raise concern about the state of the road from the A179 (Hart Back Lane), which was in a poor state of repair and too narrow to cope with the expected increase in traffic expected once the A19 crossings were closed. He suggested that the road should be made one-way only.

Cllr Hutchinson noted that the traffic lights at the Sheraton junction on the A19 were not yet working properly. He understood that the crossings would not be closed until this was rectified. Cllr Young concurred with this view.

The Chairman agreed to take item 9 before item 8 to allow the Ward Councillors to contribute.

9. **Village Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr. Irving reported as follows:

- New 'No Parking' signs on village green
- Pavements in North Lane in bad state, especially between Hillcrest and A19
- Path and fence on Church Bank – still awaiting decision, also path at top of village
- Blocked drains on Church Bank
- Bollard lying on ground at corner of North Lane and Hillcrest
- New notice for Playing Field still not put up
- Bin in Playing Field overflowing and lid missing
- Replacement bench for Playing Field
- Rubble on bankside not yet removed
- Existing bench disappearing in undergrowth
- Wildlife garden looking very unkempt.

Cllr Musgrave suggested a temporary fence be erected at the bottom of Church Bank and plastic sheeting hung over it to prevent surface water being splashed onto pedestrians by vehicles, and also the placing of duckboards over the muddy area of the footpath. This was considered an excellent proposal and the Clerk was asked to contact HBC to request the loan of 3 panels of 4' security fencing with feet. **Action:** Clerk to request loan of fencing from HBC.

Cllr R. Thompson proposed, and all agreed, that he request his son to install the new bench with anti-theft fittings. It was further agreed that the bench should first be carved with the words "Donated by Elwick Village Association 2019". **Action:** Cllr R. Thompson to arrange for the carving on the new bench and its installation.

A discussion on the state of the Wildlife Garden was requested by Cllr Irving, who felt that it was not looking at all attractive, and the pond was again overgrown and had virtually dried out. The Clerk expressed the view that what was really required was a garden for wildlife, not a Wildlife Garden, with the emphasis being on a garden planted with attractive, wildlife friendly, shrubs and flowers rather than a managed wildlife reserve. She proposed that if this were felt to be the feeling of the majority, then a complete revamp of the garden would be needed, and could make a possible bid to the Red Gap Community Fund next year. It was agreed that a site visit should be made before any decision was reached. All agreed this should take place on Wednesday 31st July at 6.00pm. The Clerk gave her apologies, as she would be away.

Cllr Irving noted that the legs of the new sign for Manor Close were in need of repainting. She and Cllr Musgrave agreed to undertake this. **Action:** Cllrs Irving and Musgrave to paint Manor Close sign legs.

Ward Councillors left the meeting.

8. **Social Activities Committee Report:** Cllr. R. Thompson reported that no meeting of the Committee had been held since the fête, but that he was planning to call one very soon. Mr. Woodward suggested that, as the decision to postpone the big autumn event had been taken in June, this left a gap in the planned calendar of events; he suggested that consideration be given to a smaller, more low-key musical event be held on a Saturday afternoon/evening in September on the village green. All agreed that this was worth considering and a date for the next Social Activities Committee meeting was agreed as 7.00pm, Wednesday 7th August at Holmlea. The Clerk was requested to provide a financial breakdown of the summer fête. **Action:** Clerk to provide financial information as requested.

10. **Wynyard Matters:** The Clerk reported receiving an emailed response from Chris Scaife in regards to access to Wynyard Woods. Cllrs Atkins and Hurst requested that this be forwarded to them. Cllr Hurst asked that the Parish Council consider purchasing a

defibrillator for the north side of Wynyard; it was agreed to make this an agenda item for the September meeting. **Action:** Clerk to forward email as requested and to put defibrillator request on agenda for September.

11. **Finance:** The monthly reports had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Financial Reports.

Receipts:	£	Payments	£
Zurich Insurance claim	180.00	D.M. Ireland (Garden Voucher prize for Flower Tubs)	50.00
Fete surplus	<u>269.90</u>	Bank charges (April-June)	18.00
		J & M Enterprises Ltd (Playing Field bench)	220.00
		Elwick WI Hall account (room hire)	40.00
		Wynyard CE Primary School (room hire)	<u>15.00</u>
TOTAL:	449.90	TOTAL:	343.00

12. **Correspondence:** (i) letter from Chris Banks regarding an incident relating to an illegally parked car – noted with sympathy (ii) letter from Hartlepool Rotary Club about a fundraising opportunity from community groups - noted.

13. **Planning Applications:**

H/2019/0255 – No comment

H/2019/0252 – No comment

H/2019/0285 – No comment

H/2019/0309 – No comment

H/2019/0226 – Object. Already more than sufficient land allocated for housing development within Wynyard without using this piece of land, with all its drainage problems. Concerns about sustainability of proposed SUD and pumping station should developer or their agent cease trading – responsibility would fall onto HBC. This piece of land was originally designated for community facilities – what land will be provided for these if this application is granted for housing?

H/2019/0322 – Object. Same grounds as 0226.

14. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr Irving concerned about state of wooden bridge in the ghyll; horses have broken it and it is dangerous. Cllr Atkins reminded of the Wynyard Ball on Saturday 19th October. Tickets £50. **Action:** Clerk to inform Chris Scaife about the bridge.

15. **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 7.00pm Thursday 26th September at Wynyard, venue to be announced.

16. **Exclusion of Press and Public:** Mr. Woodward was asked to leave the meeting, and did so. Cllrs H and R. Thompson also left the meeting as the next item was of personal and prejudicial interest. Cllr Atkins took the Chair.

17. **Refurbishment of footpaths at each end of village green:** The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting quotes from 2 companies. These would be circulated if and when received.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm