

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 26th September 2019 at Wynyard Care Home

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

In Attendance: Ward Cllrs. C. Stokell and M. Young; M. West, Clerk and Mrs. K. Lofthouse (Chairman WRA)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Musgrave and Loynes - accepted
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 25th July 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 the branch had fallen off before it could be removed; the Clerk noted that there were two other trees which needed to be looked at, the one on Church Bank that was blocking line-of-sight for drivers and the Ash tree on the triangle on the Green, which she suspected had Ash Dieback disease. It was resolved to request an inspection visit from Derek Wardle, HBC Arboriculturist.
 - (b) **Sponsored Waste Bin in the Ghyll:** The Clerk reported no progress on this issue.
 - (c) **Parish Council logo:** Would be discussed under the Ward Councillors' reports

Actions: Clerk to request inspection visit from Mr. Wardle and to contact Mr & Mrs. Sturrock again.
- 5 and 6. **Public Forum:** The Chairman invited Mrs. Lofthouse to speak, and ascertained that she would be doing so in her role as Chairman of Wynyard Residents' Association. Mrs. Lofthouse welcomed EPC to Wynyard; she wished to raise concern about the event held on 12th September on the Wynyard Master Plan. As this was **Item 6** on the Agenda, it was **agreed** that the Clerk should minutes these agenda items together.

Mrs Lofthouse made a number of points:

 - I. Only 6 days' notice of the meeting had been given and it had been very poorly publicised by HBC, with only a few notices stuck on lampposts around Wynyard; posters were placed on the two PC notice boards by the Clerk, and she had personally contacted as many people as possible to let them know however, despite over 100 people attending as a result of her endeavours, the short notice and single time slot had been unacceptable and had meant that many residents had been unable to attend.
 - II. Several of the maps available had information keys that did not match the maps they were printed on.
 - III. Only two officers were present, one each from HBC and SBC, thus many attendees did not have the opportunity to discuss the proposals with an officer.
 - IV. The event was publicised as a 'Consultation' event – in practice it was not, attendees were simply 'told' what the Plan contained.
 - V. She had been informed by HBC's officer that the Plan was 90% completed, yet both Stockton and Hartlepool Councils had previously agreed to consult the two relevant Parish Councils and the Residents' Association before the Masterplan was made public.
 - VI. Neither Council had asked for sight of the draft Wynyard Neighbourhood Plan, which had been several years in development, before agreeing the content of the Masterplan.

Parish Councillors wished to put on record their concern that the Consultation did not follow due process. (It was noted that both the Councils advertised the event as a

Consultation - if this was not what was intended then it should not have been promoted as such).

Cllr Atkins raised concern in regard to a statement from the HBC officer that this was not a 'Consultation', as the Stockton Local Plan constantly refers to the 'Wynyard Masterplan consultation'; she believed that as part of the Local Plans for both Councils, the Wynyard Masterplan would automatically require consultation. SBC considered it to be a Supplementary Document to their Local Plan and therefore Hartlepool should do the same. She further noted that the Councils' constantly referred to the developers making the decisions – this was clearly not correct; the developers had to comply with the Masterplan, over which the Councils had control and oversight, and officers should not 'pass the buck' to developers.

Cllr Hurst asked where the 'Community Infrastructure' stood in relation to the Masterplan, as there was currently a planning application for a housing development on land designated in the Hartlepool Local Plan as being for Community Infrastructure, which was desperately needed in the Hartlepool side of Wynyard.

Cllrs Stokell and Young agreed to take back these concerns to HBC and to report back their findings. Cllr Young noted that the Wynyard Masterplan was due to be presented and agreed at the HBC Regeneration Committee on 16th October. **Action:** Ward Councillors to raise the concerns identified with HBC officers and to report back to the Parish Council and WRA.

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

- A survey about parking in North Lane near the crescent of houses had been drafted; this was tabled. Cllr Irving suggested that it should include something about general parking, as this would not be solely for residents – the Chairman agreed to amend the questionnaire and the Clerk would deliver it personally to each house in the crescent, ensuring that residents fully understood what was being asked of them. A deadline of 14th October for the return of the questionnaires was agreed.
- The closure of the A19 crossings is the single biggest issue for the village(s) in a long time; on the positive side, there had already been a reduction in traffic through the village, though we need to be aware that this might have a negative impact on the pubs and shop. However, rush-hour traffic is regularly backing up onto the A19 at the Sheraton slip-road (as the PC had warned would happen), and several people have commented that the new traffic lights at this junction are dangerous, as two ways are showing green at the same time! There is, of course, still two-way traffic on Church Bank and reports have been made of several near misses occurring on Sunday mornings as churchgoers leave the church car park and head back into the village.

Cllr Hutchinson reported seeing vehicles using the farm crossings to make U-turns on the A19, despite the signs prohibiting this – in one case causing a long hold-up of traffic as the offending vehicle was blocking the outside lane. He asked why the crossings had been closed before the new By-pass had even been started and noted that, at the public meeting held in 2017 in the WI hall, Tony Hanson and Kieron Bostock, HBC, had stated that compulsory purchase orders would be used, if necessary, to obtain the land, yet this had not happened – why not? The villagers of Dalton Piercy and Elwick were bearing the brunt of the cost of the gap closures in extra time, fuel and wear and tear on vehicles – it's a minimum of 10 extra miles on every trip that involves using or crossing the A19; neither village has access to decent public transport. When is the By-pass to start?

Following this discussion, it was resolved that the Parish Council should write to Gill Alexander, Chief Executive of HBC about the issue.

- Finally, the Chairman reported on a conversation she had recently had with Janice McColm, TVRA about their 'Our Community Matters' – £500 would be made available to any community group that identifies a cross-generational, 6-week project, involving young people aged 12- 25 and people over 50. The only requirement was that the project must reach a minimum of 100 people. All

agreed that ideas for potential projects should be brought to the October meeting.

Actions: Cllr H. Thompson to amend the questionnaire and the Clerk to distribute it; Clerk to send letter to CEO at HBC; **ALL** to consider ideas for a cross-generational project and bring to next meeting.

Mrs Lofthouse left the meeting.

8. **Ward Councillors' reports:** Cllr Young reported as follows:

- A speed survey is to be undertaken by the police in Elwick village, to determine whether physical speed controls were needed;
- HBC happy to share digital maps - Ralph Young, the Technician responsible for HBC Digital mapping would like to see the Pear Technology system in use;
- A689 pedestrian crossings – nothing has been done about this and Cllr Young has demanded action;
- Similarly, in regard to the pedestrian crossing near the school at Wynyard Woods;
- The issue of the removal of methane and replacement with hydrogen in the gas mains – Cllr Young has requested further information from officers on this issue – Cllr Atkins agreed to forward the specific reference in the Hartlepool Local Plan;
- He had drafted two alternative designs for an EPC logo, which he tabled – one with a tree in brown and green to the right-hand side of the page, the other simply a stylised and centralised text version of the wording currently used on letter heads. After a brief discussion, the Chairman asked for a vote on whether EPC should have a logo; 5 Parish Councillors were in favour, 1 against. A vote was then requested on the preferred option. All agreed to go with the tree, but to have this placed on the left-hand side of the page. Cllr Young agreed to produce some with the new heading, and to then forward the final version to the Clerk. The Clerk noted that no news had yet been received as to the dates for the drain repairs on Church Bank, and others that needed attention around the village. Cllr Young agreed to follow this up with the relevant officers.

Actions: Cllr Young to produce final version of new letter-head and to forward to the Clerk; All Ward Cllrs to raise concerns with officers about lack of information to villagers on proposed closure of Church Bank for drainage works; Clerk to contact Ralph Young re digital mapping software.

9. **Social Activities Committee:** Cllr. R. Thompson reported that 'The Gig on the Green' had been very well received and thanks were warmly expressed to Dave Woodward, who had played a large part in its organisation. The music was good, Rob Daley, HBC had been very helpful, as had John Hall & Barry Smithson who had run the BBQ, The Elwick school mums group who had booked and paid for the Bouncy Castle and both the pubs who had provided ongoing support throughout the event and well into the evening. It was noted however, that the majority of attendees had not been village residents, which was disappointing. Letters of thanks had been sent by the Clerk, and an article for Village Life written by Dave. Currently being planned are a Ceilidh, Refreshments after Carols around the Christmas Tree in conjunction with the church, and the Children's Christmas party. The next meeting of the SAC is yet to be arranged. **Action:** Cllr R. Thompson to convene meeting of the committee.

10. **Village Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr. Irving reported that she had not produced a written report as none of the necessary actions identified in July had been completed. She noted that yet again, the seat on the 'zip wire' had been removed, leaving it unusable. It had been found by Mr. & Mrs Banks who had rescued it and passed it on the Cllrs Thompson. The broken concrete bollard at the corner of Hillcrest had still not been removed. Several struts are now missing from the big gate into the Playing Field. She had been given the name of an individual who might be willing to carve the wording into the new bench, but had not as yet managed to make contact. Cllr Atkins noted that the 'No Parking' signs had still not been erected on the village green, nor had the replacement sign for the Playing Field – these had been purchased in the spring. Cllr R. Thompson stated that the 'No Parking' signs would be erected the next day, but he was loath to erect the Playing Field sign until CCTV coverage

was in place. The Clerk reported on a visit to the Community Safety Team to discuss potential CCTV placements, had proved unhelpful – they deemed it impossible due to lack of WiFi at the site, and a subsequent site visit from one of their officers – who had suggested the best solution would be to move the play area to somewhere it would be surrounded by houses!

11. **Wynyard Matters:** Cllr Atkins had provided a written report which was tabled. Points included were:

- Lack of action by HBC on the issue of developers' signage – and a reference to the Local Plan;
- Wynyard Woods street sign is missing and the remaining posts are not straight;
- Painting of the street lights is the responsibility of the Wynyard estate – HBC requested to put pressure on them to get this done;
- A request for a copy of the results of the traffic survey on the A689 and a further request that the next phase of this includes measuring the speed of traffic from the west as well as from the east;
- No progress on the pedestrian crossing at Wynyard Woods;
- A request to EPC to make a formal complaint to HBC about the Wynyard Masterplan 'consultation' event;
- A request for HBC to provide costings for an improved footpath along the A689 to the castle Eden walkway, with a view to WRA providing assistance with the funding of this;
- A query as to whether Wynyard children wishing to attend secondary education in Hartlepool would be provided with a free bus service, given that there is no public transport at all from Wynyard;
- A request for information on planning application H/2019/0226 to which strong objection had been made by the Parish Council;
- Good news – the dog bins are now being emptied regularly and
- Wynyard Manor children are now being transported to and from school on the north side of Wynyard.

12. **Finance:** The monthly reports had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Atkins noted a discrepancy between a figure on the Financial Transactions and the same item on the Actual against Budget report. The Clerk apologised for this typing error. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Financial Reports.

Receipts:	£	Payments	£
VAT Refund	1,460.53	D.M. Ireland (No Parking signs)	57.60
Grant for bench (Ward Cllrs)	<u>500.00</u>	ICO (Annual Data Protection fee)	25.00
		HBC (emptying bins at Playing Field)	109.69
		David Taylor (Gig on the Green band)	<u>350.00</u>
TOTAL:	1,960.53	TOTAL:	552.29

The Clerk reported that the External Auditor had completed the Audit. They had noted that two of the sheets on the AGAR had been signed off in the wrong order; also noted was the revised statement of Fixed Assets. Councillors accepted the report and resolved to pay the invoice.

13. **Correspondence:** (i) An invitation for 2 representatives of the PC to attend a consultation event on Anti-Social Behaviour to be held 2-4.00pm on 13th November at the Civic Centre - Agreed that Cllrs. Hurst and H. Thompson would attend. (ii) Email from a resident about the sudden removal of free bus transport to English Martyrs School – the Clerk had, with her permission, already forwarded this to all three Ward Councillors, as this was not within the remit of the parish Council; Ward Cllrs agreed to investigate. (iii) Communications from residents in Martindale Close and The Paddock about parking issues – agreed to inform the police about vehicles blocking pedestrian access and Ward Cllrs agreed to investigate, amongst other issues, whether anything could be done about the limited parking spaces in the village being used by people transferring to other vehicles, thus limiting availability of parking by residents. (iv)

CDALC – invitation to attend a one-day training event for Chairmen/aspiring Chairmen.
(v) Email and poster about the NHS Retirement Fellowship - agreed to place on both notice boards.

Ward Councillors left the meeting at 9.25pm

14. Planning Applications:

H/2019/0208 – Gas metering kiosk etc - Response sent in August after email consultation with Councillors – no objection in principle as it is necessary for the already approved power station , but concern expressed about the increasing industrialisation of agricultural land and a request that these facilities be placed to the south of the existing works, further away from Hart Village

H/2019/0352 – Development at Quarry Farm – already approved in Local Plan, therefore no point in objecting; positive note - the developer has allocated quite a lot of green space.

H/2019/0386 – Environmental Impact Assessment on a 172-Hectare solar farm proposed for land off Worset Lane. Agreed to write to developer requesting a public consultation event BEFORE a full planning application is submitted, stating EPC willing to attend at Hart Village; to write to HBC raising concerns about size of the development, its close proximity to Hart village, further industrialisation of agricultural land, the problems of heavy construction traffic using Hart Back Lane and Worset Lane, with the already increased usage of these two roads due to the closure of the A19 crossings, the unknown impact of such a large development on wildlife and the loss of agricultural land.

- 15. Matters of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr Hurst thanked the Clerk for minuting the meeting with the HBC Access officer at Wynyard about access to Wynyard Woods. She is developing a questionnaire for residents who have lived in Wynyard for 20 years or more, to identify paths in the woods regularly used. The Clerk agreed to print the questionnaire once ready.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 7.00pm Thursday 31st October at WI Hall.

17. Exclusion of Press and Public:

Cllrs H and R. Thompson left the meeting as the next item was of personal and prejudicial interest. Cllr Atkins took the Chair.

- 18. Refurbishment of footpaths at each end of village green:** The Clerk reported that she now received the required minimum of three tenders. These were discussed and it was unanimously agreed to appoint the provider of the lowest tender as he clearly met the requirements. This was, of course, subject to the grant still being available from the Red Gap Community Fund. It was further agreed that the work was to be completed by the end of October and that the contract should include a penalty clause for late completion (not due to Acts of God). **Actions:** Clerk to contact Grantscape and, once grant confirmed, to notify the successful business and issue the contract.
The Clerk was thanked for all her endeavours with this project.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm