

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 27th June 2019 at Elwick WI Hall

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

In Attendance: Ward Cllr. B. Loynes; M. West, Clerk; A. Fletcher, Chairman Wynyard PC in a personal capacity, and D. Woodward from 7.35pm

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Allan Fletcher, the Chairman of the brand-new Wynyard Parish Council in Stockton Borough, formed in May, and thanked Cllr Loynes for opening the Fête on the previous Sunday, in her capacity as Mayor.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Hurst and Ward Cllr Stokell.
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 30th May 2019:** There being no amendments it was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - (i) **Sponsored Waste Bin in the Ghyll:** The Clerk reported that Mrs Sturrock had again confirmed that the farm would be supplying a waste bin in the Ghyll, with apologies for the delay, they were just very busy.
 - (ii) **Stagecoach:** The Clerk noted that no feedback had yet been received from Mr. Anderson following his attendance at the May meeting. The Chairman offered that she felt it had been a very constructive and positive meeting; Cllr Loynes offered further that she had spoken with the company and made clear the business case for a service for Wynyard as well as the villages.
5. **Public Forum:** No members of public present.
6. **Ward Councillor's report:** Cllr. Loynes reported that she had only just returned from holiday and had yet to catch up with all actions, however:
 - the Manor Close sign should now have been replaced – Parish Councillors thought it had not;
 - the Church Bank drainage work should not be delayed by the delay in the closure of the A19 crossings; the Clerk asked if that meant the work was still on track for late August/early September? Cllr Loynes confirmed this was her understanding.

Cllr Atkins reported that Peter Shovelin, SBC, had recently stated, unequivocally, that the bridge over the A689 was still going ahead as it was in the Stockton Local Plan, even though it was of no benefit to Wynyard residents; Cllr Loynes responded that HBC was working towards putting in pedestrian-controlled crossings at the roundabouts at the two village entrances.

Cllr Atkins asked if anything was being done about the issue of developer advertising hoardings raised at the previous two meetings, as it was unlikely that they had planning permission because they were clearly in breach of the Hartlepool Local Plan; Cllr Loynes agreed to look into this.

Cllr Atkins requested a response to her request for information on the potential for a secondary school at Wynyard; Cllr Loynes responded that discussions were on-going about the potential for making the current primary school site into a whole state education site (4-16).

Cllr Atkins asked if HBC were going to follow the lead of SBC and prosecute drivers who parked illegally on the green verges in Wynyard? Cllr Loynes stated that she would expect HBC Enforcement Service to follow suit, and asked that photographs of offending vehicles be forwarded to the Enforcement officers.

The Chairman asked what was happening about the south-west extension of Hartlepool at Claxton; Cllr Loynes explained that she had no news on this.

Cllr Atkins raised concern about the state of the road at Manorfields, where construction lorries were hitting the speedbumps that had been installed at either side of the temporary school site, and were dumping rubble all over the road. Residents were asking that HBC install temporary speedbumps at either end of the road in order to slow the traffic.

The Clerk raised concern that she still had not received a quote from HBC for the work on the village cinder paths and no response had been received from Thirteen Group to the Parish Council's request that they either refurbish the garages behind Manor Close or pass them over to Parish Council ownership; Cllr Loynes stated that she would take this up with Thirteen on her postponed 'walkabout' with them.

Cllr Atkins requested a proper pedestrian crossing at the junction of the Wynyard Woods and School roads, rather than the current designated crossing point, as the problem parking was making this a dangerous place for residents to cross as lines of sight were obstructed.

Cllr Musgrave asked that the litter bin in the village playing field be replaced as the current bin had no lid.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Loynes for her attendance.

Cllr Loynes left the meeting at 7.28pm.

7.(a). **Village Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr. Irving stated that nothing had been done again. Cllr Hutchinson begged to differ, as his son had replaced the seat on the zip wire, which had not been stolen but removed by Chris Banks for safe-keeping, when it was seen to be dangerous. Warm thanks were extended to Simon for doing this. A branch on the horse chestnut tree, on the green near Holmlea, was split and no leaves had appeared on it this year, so it was assumed dead. Cllrs Hutchinson and R. Thompson offered to remove it, as this was a danger to the public.

(b). **Social Activities Committee Report:** Cllr. R. Thompson reported that a very successful Parish Fête had been held the previous Sunday, the finances of which had yet to be finalised; more people had helped on the day but great credit was due to David Woodward, who had organised the erection and dismantling of the two marquees, transported the tables and chairs to and from the WI hall and also organised and run the children's races. His energy and enthusiasm had been most welcome.

Mr. Woodard joined the meeting at 7.35pm.

Since the event Cllr Thompson said, he had been giving consideration to moving the date of the Fête back to September, and possibly changing the day to a Saturday; this was partly because he felt that the timing was just too tight for the large autumn event currently being planned, and this might be better postponed until May/June 2020.

Councillors concurred with this view and, after a brief discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to postpone the planned event until early summer 2020. Cllr Thompson reported that the next meeting of the Committee had yet to be arranged.

8. **Wynyard Report:** Cllr Atkins stated that she had covered all Wynyard issues in the earlier discussion with Cllr Loynes.

9. **Finance:** (i) **Annual Accounts and Bank Reconciliation:** The Clerk presented the Annual Statement of Accounts which would form part of the Annual Return. It was **RESOLVED** to accept this.
- (ii) **Internal Auditor's Report:** The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had given a 'clean bill of health' in regard to the Council's management of its finances, and had completed and signed the report which formed part of the Annual Return. In response to a question from Cllr R. Thompson, she stated that she had provided the Internal Auditor with all financial records, including the cheque book, paying-in book, bank statements, paid invoices, records of receipts, including the Red Gap grant letter of the previous year, monthly Financial Reports' for the last year, Minutes of EPC Meetings and the Council's policies and procedures. It was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the Internal Auditor's report.
- (iii) **Financial Reports:** The monthly reports had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Atkins noted that the Pre-Planning Application fee had been omitted from the list of Transactions, though included in the Actual against Budget report. The Clerk apologised for this oversight, and amended the report. With this amendment, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the amended Financial Reports.

Receipts:		£	Payments		£
Fete (stall fees)	75.00		HBC (Pre-Planning Application)		144.00
Wayleave	<u>9.20</u>		Affordable Landscapes (2 cuts)		650.00
			Zurich Municipal (Annual Insurance fee)	336.60	
			MV Print (Wynyard Newsletter)		547.00
			Affordable landscapes (2 cuts)		650.00
			P. Olsen (Internal Audit fee)		60.00
			D.M. Ireland (salary 3 months)		558.88
			HMRC (PAYE)		139.72
			D.M. Ireland (printer ink)		<u>43.12</u>
Total:	84.20		Total:		3,129.32

10. **Insurance Claim:** The Clerk informed that Zurich had requested BACS information, and she assumed therefore the claim was being met. It did not however show on the latest bank statement. She also noted that she had yet to receive news of any award from the Ward Councillors' budgets, to replace the stolen bench, agreed by Ward Councillors and applied for in the last financial year.
11. **Logo for Parish Council:** The Clerk had raised this item as she was aware that many other parish councils had a logo, e.g. Hart used a Stag. She thought Councillors might wish to discuss the merits or otherwise of having a logo. For example, it could be a tree to reflect the large horse chestnut on the village green. Cllr Atkins responded that the logo should not be village-centric as the parish also included Wynyard. After a brief discussion it was agreed to postpone any decision until the July meeting, to give everyone an opportunity to reflect and consider whether an appropriate logo could be found.
12. **Correspondence:** Several emails from Margaret Hunt, HBC about Councillors' Declaration of Interest Forms, not all of which had yet been received. **Action:** Cllrs Hutchinson and R. Thompson to complete and submit immediately.
13. **Planning:**
H/2019/0073 – Brierton Moorhouse Farm – equestrian worker's dwelling. Although not in the parish it was agreed that there was no clear case for objection, although there were concerns about the requirement for yet another house on this site. It was agreed that, as part of the Rural Plan Group, Elwick would write a letter of support for Greatham PC who were responding to the application, as Brierton did not have a PC.
H/2019/0257 – 2, Summer Lane, Wynyard – no comment.

The Clerk noted that the following applications had been approved: **H/2018/0128**; **H/2019/0160** and **H/2019/0114**. The following had been withdrawn **H/2019/0114**, **H/2018/0142** and **H/2017/0666**.

Cllr Hutchinson asked if planning permission was required for a caravan site. The Clerk agreed to enquire.

14. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr R. Thompson wished to put on record his appreciation for the rapid response of HBC officers to a serious flood in North Lane several Saturdays earlier, following some very heavy rain. Some drains were found to be blocked and the officers had worked hard, in the downpour, to finally remove a large lump of tarmac from one, clearly dumped when the road had been resurfaced. The Clerk stated that she would write to compliment the staff involved. She also noted that several of the drains along the south side of the village green were solidly blocked, especially those near the Spotted Cow, and rainwater could not drain away.

Cllrs Irving and Musgrave wished to know when the next Litter Pick was to take place, as the April and May events had not happened. It was agreed to put up notices for a Litter Pick on Saturday 6th July. The Cllrs Thompson agreed to store the litter picking equipment in their shed.

Cllr Atkins reported concern about the schedule of PC meetings to be held at Wynyard, as the school had decided to outsource their room booking, and the costs were to increase to £15.00 per hour, rather than per evening. She had identified a possible alternative venue – the Dining Room at the Care Home. This would probably be free of charge although a donation to the Residents Group would be welcomed. If Councillors agreed, she would continue consultations with the Care Home Manager and bring a proposal to the July Meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Atkins also reported that TVRA had provided her with leaflets about a European-Funded project to support people facing challenges in returning to work. It was agreed to ask the shop to take some leaflets, to place one on the WI General Interest Board and another on the EPC Notice Board.

15. **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 7.00pm Thursday 26th July at the WI Hall.

16. **Exclusion of Press and Public:** All present except Parish Councilors were 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 John Pearson had decided not to provide a quote as he was too busy and no further formal quotes had been received. There were now three outstanding requests plus the request to Mr. J. Thompson to formalise his quote. Cllr Hutchinson asked if Geoff Bell had contacted her, to which she responded in the negative. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact all those outstanding to request an urgent response and to advise Mr. Pearson that the work would not now be required before late August/early September, and ask if he wished to reconsider his withdrawal. Cllr Hutchinson to remind Mr. Bell to contact the Clerk urgently.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm