

## ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Wynyard Care Home

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

**In Attendance:** M. West, Clerk, Ward Cllrs Loynes, Stokell and Young.

The Chairman noted with great sadness, the sudden death, just before Christmas, of Chris Banks. Chris had contributed so much over the years, both to the village, as Chairman of the Parish Council and Webmaster of the village website, but also to the wider rural community of Hartlepool as the first Chairman of the Rural Plan Working Group. All expressed their condolences to his widow and family.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None given
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs H and R. Thompson declared an interest in Item 4 (ii), the footpaths.
3. **Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019:** Cllr Thompson proposed, with Cllr Hurst seconding, the adoption of the Minutes. All being in agreement it was **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes as a true and accurate record. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - (a) **Trees on the Green:** The Clerk reported that infected Lime tree had been removed on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, as agreed, and at a cost of £1,100; the work had been done very effectively and the site left clean.
  - (b) **Footpath refurbishment:** The Clerk informed that Jamie Thompson and his team had started the work soon after Christmas and were making good progress. The fence was almost complete but an issue had arisen - some of the fencing panels provided by Foster Laws did not fit properly. The team had done their best but had needed to have three new panels made to fit the slope, at a cost of £600 for their manufacture, though the team would fit the panels for free. This left three straight panels which they proposed to use, if Councillors agreed, to replace the section of wooden fencing up to the Playing Field fence. Cllrs H. and R. Thompson declared an interest and took no part in the decisions. The Clerk continued, saying that, having dug out the path, Jamie now felt that, due to the steepness of the inline, a better option than tarmac would be to use concrete, as this could be given a rough finish to prevent people slipping in inclement weather; there would be no difference in cost. Councillors all felt that both proposals were eminently sensible and unanimously **agreed**. Whilst acknowledging the offer, Cllr Irving felt that the men should be recompensed for their time in undertaking the extra work involved in fitting the extra panels. It was **agreed** that Jamie should be informed of the decisions. **Action:** J. Thompson to be informed of the agreement to amend the specification from tarmac to concrete and to receive a further £600 for the three extra panels.
  - (c) **Our Community Matters:** The Clerk informed that unfortunately the Hartlepool Sea Cadets would not be available on either the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> May as they would be participating in the town VE Day Remembrance activities. Cllr. Thompson suggested this matter be taken under his Social Activities Committee Report, as the group had discussed this at their recent meeting. This was **agreed**.
  - (d) **Playing Field Gate:** The Chairman wished to record her thanks to Cllr Hutchinson for facilitating the replacement gate, which looked very good. The Clerk reported that it had been made at a cost of £660 and would need no maintenance.

**5. Public Forum:** No members of the public were present.

**6. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that:

- (a) She had participated in the digital mapping training, organised by the Clerk for all the rural parishes; the training had consisted of two sessions covering the software and hardware and had proved very interesting. Further training sessions were to be arranged later in the spring for those Councillors who had not yet had the opportunity.
- (b) A police volunteer and the Clerk had spent Sunday morning placing 'Rural Watch' posters around the parish – the village and all the farms. This was much appreciated and she wished the Chief Constable to know that. Cllr Musgrave noted that welcome as the posters are, they lacked a contact telephone number to be used to inform the police of a crime, only a website, which was of no use to those in the rural community who had no access to the internet. The Chairman noted that the next rural Crime Forum was to take place at 10.00am on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February, and she was intending to attend and would make that point. **Action:** Clerk to write to Chief Constable.

**7. Ward Councillors' Report:** Cllr Young reported that the Borough Council had that morning approved a budget spend of £50M, two months earlier than usual. Councillors agreed to take up the issues raised previously but not yet addressed.

*Cllr Young left the meeting at 7.40pm*

Cllr Loynes reported that she, Cllr Shane Moore, Leader of the Council and Gill Alexander, CEO, HBC had only received the letter sent to Ms Alexander, with copies sent to others, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The Clerk, together with Cllr Irving, had personally posted these letters into the Civic Centre letter box on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October! There was no explanation as to where the letters had been in the meantime.

Parish Councillors reported the following issues for Borough Councillors' attention:

- The team working on the Church Bank footpath have reported a dreadful smell from the water at the bottom of the bank. This smell has been reported many times over the past few years – (could it be a septic tank is leaking?) and is a public health issue.
- Cllr R. Thompson - the drain on the main road outside Holmlea has been blocked for over 2 years; as a result, water running off the fields to the north-east of the village cannot enter the drainage system and is therefore running down the village, crossing the road over the green and thence down to pool outside the Spotted Cow where the drain is also blocked. There are many other drains around the village in a similar state and the whole system needed a thorough power-wash through. He asked that Ward Councillors request a regular schedule of drain cleaning throughout the villages, to be notified to all parish councils.
- Cllr Hutchinson - the culvert in North Close, which the Borough Council had made to divert water from flooding the houses, had become blocked and needed investigating.
- Cllr Atkins - residents had not heard of any progress on pedestrian crossings on the A689 through Wynyard; Cllr Hurst reported she had written to Ben Houchen, Teesside Mayor, as well Mike Hill, MP but had not had a reply. Peter Frost, HBC had replied to Cllr Hurst and reported that it was an aspiration of all involved to have the pedestrian crossing installed this year but he couldn't give a timescale as discussions were still ongoing between developers, HBC, SBC and the TVCA.
- Cllr Atkins - concern amongst Wynyard residents that new planning applications should not exceed the number of dwellings outlined in the Wynyard Master Plan.
- She noted Highways England did not appear to have considered widening the A19 north of the A689 and she wondered why? She appreciated the site visit by Peter

Frost to see the problem of vehicles parking near the school; he believed the site was actually within Stockton Borough, not Hartlepool.

- Cllr Atkins - although SBC officers had made the developer remove the pictures from the hoardings, the actual hoardings had been left in situ and were a cause of great concern.
- Cllr Atkins – there were still far too many developer advertising boards on the A689 roundabout and they still hadn't been replaced by the smaller boards shown by Ward Councillors last year.
- She had been told the broken sign at the junction of Stoneywood Drive and Wynyard Woods should be repaired by the next meeting.
- Residents can no longer access the Castle Eden Walkway on foot, as the path along the A689 was no longer passable. She was pleased to report that the first play park, on the Taylor Wimpey development on Wynyard Park, should be completed by March.
- Cllr Hurst - developer's vehicles on the north side of the A689 were not using a wheel wash, as required, resulting in the road being constantly covered in mud.
- Wynyard Primary School is not on the 'drop-down' menu on HBC's education website; whilst she recognised that the school was actually in Stockton borough, Wynyard Hartlepool residents wished to use it as it is their nearest school. Cllr Atkins reported she was aware that there were now only 20 places available at the school and, with more homes being built, the demand from Wynyard residents would grow. As it was, children were coming from as far afield as Sedgfield. What would happen when the school was full? Would Wynyard residents have to send their children into Hartlepool town? If so, would HBC provide transport - after all it would not be the parents' choice that their child had to attend a school outside the village.
- Cllr Irving - a salt bin was needed at the top of Church Bank as, with all the water running down, the road became dangerous in very cold weather.
- She further noted that the Council's gritter lorry had been seen displacing the very large stone on the corner of the green.
- Cllr Musgrave - all the signs for Elwick and Dalton Piercy on the north-bound carriageway of the A19 had been removed, so there was now no sign informing travellers of how to get to either village.
- The tarmac strip outside The Forge at Elwick is breaking down and needs repairing.
- Cllr H. Thompson - Cllr Young had still not responded to emailed complaints from two residents concerned about dirty roads.

The Chairman decided to take the Village Maintenance Group report next, in order to allow Ward Councillors to hear it.

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

- Main gate on Playing Field replaced
- 'No Parking' signs on village green replaced
- 20 MPH sign in North Lane now working
- Diseased Lime tree on village green removed
- Resurfacing of paths at each end of village green and replacement of fence on Church Bank now in progress

Tasks still not completed, and not already covered earlier in the meeting, included:

- Resurfacing of pavements throughout village – highest priority North Lane
- Replacement of sign on Playing Field fence
- Placement of new bench in Playing Field
- Extra bark chippings on soft fall area of Playing Field
- Replacement of lid on bin in Playing Field

New issues identified:

- Overgrown shrubs on green next to wall of No.6 The Green
- Interior of bus shelter needs repainting
- Contents of Defibrillator need replacing as out-of-date

Cllr R. Thompson agreed to improve/reinforce the end fence of the playing field as soon as possible and then erect the new sign. He reported that he had swept the church steps and footpath down Church Bank free of leaves, before the refurbishment work had started.

Cllr H. Thompson noted that the residents had voted against making part of the green opposite their homes in North Lane into car parking, however they were concerned that the access from North Lane was difficult for the refuse vehicle to turn into and it often drove over the grass; it could do with widening. She requested a site visit by Ward Councillors and Peter Frost. She also commented that the village was very dirty at the moment because of the flooding – particularly pavements, access roads and Manor Close.

Cllr Stokell agreed to take up all these issues with the relevant officers.

Cllr Irving proposed a litter pick be arranged for March, as soon as the weather improved. The Clerk reported that she had contacted the relevant officer at the Council and the defibrillator replenishment was now in hand. She would ask John Pearson to trim the shrubs as soon as he could.

*Cllrs Loynes and Stokell left the meeting at 8.25pm*

8. **Social Activities Committee Report:** Cllr R. Thompson reported that the SAC had met on the previous evening. The two Christmas events had been successful, although there had been problems with the lighting and sound on the 'sleigh'. Several new ideas had been put forward for next Christmas including a rethink on the Children's party, as only 25 children had attended this year. Plans were being made for the rest of the year, including:

- Easter Monday – Family Easter Egg Trail
- 'Our Community Matters' event -2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> May – possibly on a theme of wildlife walks around the village
- Garage Sale – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June
- 'Gig on the Green' – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July
- Parish Fête – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September

The group had also discussed the need for refurbishment of the two large marquees, the possibility of obtaining a couple of smaller marquees and the need for a storage shed, to store these and other PC assets; should Councillors agree the Clerk would make an 'Awards for All' application as soon as costings had been obtained. Councillors unanimously supported the proposal. **Action:** Clerk to make an A4A application as soon as possible.

10. **Wynyard Report:** Cllr Atkins reported that all issues had already been covered. She thanked the Clerk for printing 1,000 copies of the questionnaire for Wynyard residents about their use of Wynyard woods.

11. **Financial Reports:** It was resolved to accept the reports.

Receipts	£	Payments	£
	0.00	D.M. Ireland (map, postage, 10 x traffic cones)	92.30
		Printerinks Europe Ltd (printer ink)	137.28
		Wildlife Gardening Services (Garden maintenance)	700.00
		Pear Technology Services Ltd (Digital mapping)	2,754.00
		D.M. Ireland (salary Oct-Dec)	558.88
		HMRC (PAYE)	139.72
		Foster Laws & Co Ltd (Church Bank fencing)	9,864.90

Bank Service Charge	18.00
G.S. Bell (Fencing) Ltd (Playing Field gate)	660.00
Meryl Gardens Tree Services (Removal of Lime tree)	1,100.00
J. Thompson (1st payment for footpaths)	5,495.00
Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting October)	390.00
D.M. Ireland (repayment for laptop Repair)	15.00
Springback Binders Ltd (3 x binders)	41.97
Printerinks (printer ink)	42.41
J. Thompson (2nd payment for footpaths)	<u>5,495.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>27,504.46</b>

The Clerk reported that the Hartlepool Rural Plan Group had asked if Elwick PC would manage the balance of their funds, approximately £1,100, as the Elwick Clerk was the Treasurer for the Group. It was **resolved** that Elwick PC would take on the management of the HRPG funds once all outstanding payments had been cleared. **Action:** Clerk to inform Chairman of HRPG accordingly.

- 12. Correspondence:** (i) Letter from Mrs Banks in response to PC offer of a memorial for Chris; the family would like a flowering tree, perhaps a Magnolia or Amelanchier, something that would not grow to more than 15', to be planted on the small green off The Walk near his house. This was agreed in principle, the Clerk being asked to bring costings of various trees to the next meeting. (ii) Information from HBC on a consultation on their proposed Plan for the next 3 years. All Councillors were asked to read this and to respond by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February. (iii) Invitation to attend the launch of the new Tees-Flex bus service, at noon on Thursday 6 February, at the National Museum of the Royal Navy. **Actions:** The Clerk to obtain costings of trees, circulate the letter from HBC regarding the draft Council Plan and, with the Chairman, to attend the launch of the new Tees-Flex bus service.

### 13. Planning Applications:

**H/2019/0246** – Land off Coniscliffe Road. Whilst Councillors recognised that this was a variation of housing types for a scheme already approved, they wished the Clerk to reiterate their **Objection** to the development on the ground of increased traffic using the road through Elwick village, with no by-pass yet delivered.

**H/2019/0365** – 67 new dwellings at Wynyard Park. Previously dealt with at October meeting and comments submitted to HBC

**H/2019/0226** – 246 dwellings on land at Wynyard, north of the A689. Councillors were extremely concerned about this application which is over and above the number of new dwellings identified in both the Wynyard Master Plan and Hartlepool Local Plan. The latter (HSG6) states up to 400 homes will be built. Applications already in process, (H/2019/0365 and H/2019/0246), would provide 432 new dwellings on top of what has already been built and are therefore clearly surplus to requirements. The original proposal from the developer was for 167 - why the increase? It was **resolved** to object in the strongest terms. Other comments included:

- The whole development is over-dense and not in keeping with Wynyard standards. A reduction in the number of properties is well advised along with the introduction of more green space between sections of development to give a 'garden' feel to the overall development.
- It is not clear where children would be safe to play or walk in this development, nor where children would attend school, as Wynyard school is already almost at capacity.
- The number of parking spaces should, as a minimum, be equal to the number of bedrooms per home (Research has shown Wynyard averages just under 4 cars per home).
- The developer quotes statistics in their Travel Plan of a target reduction to 80% of all journeys by car / van / motorbike. The HBC Standard Allocation is **not adequate** as the inadequate public transport makes car journeys essential. There is **NO** public transport provision for evenings, Saturday pm and Sunday.

The current subsidy for the 16-seater minibus runs out in May 2021, before this development will be built out. Also, there is a covenant that does not allow on-street parking and the roads are too narrow for this anyway.

- There is a great deal of emphasis on walking / cycling / sustainable journeys but there is hardly any infrastructure for these activities extant. There should be an obligation on Developers to build in this infrastructure.
  - There is no provision for sustainable links beyond Wynyard itself, e.g. to the Castle Eden / Wynyard walkway. In line with Highways England, we would support that planning consent is delayed until the A689 / A19 improvements due 2020 onwards have been completed. There will be sufficient pressure on the roads during this work without adding more homes and construction traffic to the mix.
  - The developer does not support **local** business but stresses on-line shopping! The subsequent cost to the environment and local economy, with large delivery vehicles delivering goods, often bought from out with the Tees Valley is very damaging.
  - The proposed SUD is given as non-adoptable. As SUDS require maintenance ad infinitum, this should not be left to a developer who may cease to trade or become un-contactable. Any SUD should be adopted by either HBC or the appropriate water authority.
  - There is no provision for affordable housing on site – where will this be offset?
- The Clerk informed that applications **H/2019/0461** and **H/2019/0352** had been approved.

**14. Matters of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr Musgrave noted a considerable increase in the amount of fly-tipping in Coal Lane, and Cllr Irving noted the same in Hart Back Lane. Cllr Hurst noted the very high level of litter along the A689.

*Cllr R. Thompson wished to have on record the Parish Council's extreme dissatisfaction with HBC administration – essential health & safety works have not been undertaken for over 2 years and letters, hand-delivered in October, apparently only received yesterday by the intended recipients.* It was **resolved** that in future, any such letters be either sent by Recorded Delivery or a written receipt be required when handed in at the Civic Centre.

Cllr Hurst noted that Wynyard Parish Council (Stockton Borough) is to undertake a survey of residents and wish to know if Elwick PC would do the same. She further noted that Wynyard Residents' Group had now changed into more of a social group. It was **resolved** to seek further information as to the purpose and scope of such a consultation. For information she explained that following reports of a 'driveway cleaner' harassing residents, Stockton Trading Standards had been contacted and informed that they can put a blanket ban on 'cold callers' across the whole settlement.

**15. Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 7.00 pm Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at Elwick WI Hall.

*The meeting closed at 9.40pm.*