**ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 28th March 2022**

**at Elwick WI Hall**

**Present:**Cllrs. H. Thompson, P. Hutchinson, R. Musgrave, D. Woodward, R. Thompson from 7.12pm.

**In Attendance:** M. Ireland, Clerk

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs B. Irving and A. Willamson – accepted.
2. **Public Forum:** No members of public present
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared.
4. **Police Report:** No apologies or report received. It was noted that a horse Trailer had been stolen from Martindale Farm at the weekend.
5. **Minutes of 28th Febr**uary 2022: Cllr Musgrave proposed, with Cllr Hutchinson seconding, acceptance; all being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record.

**Actions:** Chairman and Clerk to draft response; Clerk to make FoI request.

*The Wynyard resident left the meeting at 7.50pm.*

1. **Matters Arising*: (a) Village Wall:*** The Clerk informed that requests for tenders had been sent out to three companies who undertook limestone wall repairs. One had said they were too busy and another had been to visit the site and would be submitting a quote, no response as yet from the third. The Chairman noted that a villager had given her the contact numbers of two other reputable contractors and agreed to forward these to the Clerk.

***(b) Environment Agency:*** The Clerk informed that Northumbria Water having stated they had no sewers in the area beside the Playing Field, and HBC also stating they had no pipes here, she had contacted the Environment Agency Emergency Hotline and they had agreed to investigate. Cllr Wooward stated that the smell was most definitely that of raw sewage and queried where the sewage pipes from the main village exited the village.

***(c) CCT***V: The Clerk informed that ‘CCTV cameras in operation’ signs had been purchased and that Cllr Woodward had agreed to install these at the road side, either side of the Playing Field.

1. **Ward Councillors’ Reports**: The Clerk reported no apologies or reports received. Councillors noted that electors should be made aware of this with the local elections being held in May.
2. **Chairman’s Report**: The Chairman tabled her report and spoke to it as follows:
   * She and the Clerk had attended an on-line Climate Change Summit’, organised by the SLCC. It had proved very informative, with information about how a parish council could obtain details of their carbon footprint, as well as a number of initiatives being undertaken by town and parish councils around the country. The Summit sponsor had explained how they had developed a range of LED Christmas lights from recycled plastic bottles. The Clerk noted that she had access to the Summit recording until 29th April if any Councillor wished to view it. The Clerk suggested that the Climate Change Emergency might be an appropriate topic for the Annual Parish meeting; this was agreed and the chairman proposed that Julia Chard be asked to speak as she was involved with Plastic Free Hartlepool amongst other things relating to climate change. **Actions:** Clerk to obtain the date on Elwick’s carbon footprint and invite Mrs. Chard to speak at Annual parish meeting.
   * She had recently had confirmed that Hart Back Lane was now on the list of road repairs to be undertaken by HBC in the new financial year.
   * The Parish Council now had an account with Johnson’s of Whixley, who provided trees. They had agreed to supply a 13’ or 16’ Copper Beech tree within the next few weeks, which she herself would be paying for. After a brief discussion it was agreed to request the smaller tree.
   * Following a discussion with the other three rural Parish Council Chairmen, it had been agreed that all should attend the next Parish Liaison meeting to be held on 4th April, as all had felt a continued refusal to attend was counter-productive; they had all submitted similar items for the agenda, which included as a priority, the proposed Charter. The Borough Solicitor was to be present, as well as the Managing Director, therefore the meeting was a formal one and formal Minutes would be expected.
3. **Social Activities Committee Report:** Cllr R. Thompson stated that there was nothing further to report, as the two main items currently in hand were the Easter Egg Hunt and Jubilee preparations, previously reported. A meeting of the committee was to be held on Wednesday to finalise the Easter event. The Clerk gave her apologies for that meeting.
4. **Village Maintenance Group Report**: Cllr Irving provided a written report which was tabled.

**Tasks completed:**

* Remainder of benches on village green repaired, sanded and stained
* Woodwork on bus shelter sanded and stained
* Amelanchier in memory of Chris Banks planted
* Rubber mulch installed in soft fall area of Playing Field
* Hartlepool road into village repaired

**Tasks not yet completed:**

***Playing Field:***

* Bench to be installed – EPC
* Entrance fence to be repaired, stained and notice attached – EPC
* Seat missing from zip-wire – EPC
* Edging of soft fall area to be repaired

***Wildlife Garden:***

* Pond needs stocking with water plants and rocks – EPC
* Further tidying-up needed and new shrubs planted- EPC
* Rough grass areas around shrubs need strimming – EPC

***General Village:***

* Overhanging branch on Church Bank footpath to be cut back – EPC
* Fence on Church Bank to be repaired, stained and notice attached -EPC
* Large stones to be installed around greens – EPC
* No Parking sign on top green to be replaced – EPC
* Exterior of bus shelter to be painted – EPC
* Pavements in Manor Close in very poor state- HBC
* Street light outside WI hall permanently on – HBC
* Partial road collapse on main road through village opposite Holmlea – HBC
* Limestone wall outside No 6 The Green to be repaired – EPC
* Brass plaque missing from bench in North Lane – HBC

Cllr R Thompson reported that the fence on Church Bank was being epoxy-coated and would be ready for installation the following week.

Cllr Woodward noted that HBC had swiftly repaired the road into the village, but the repair had left the uneven surface exactly the same – a very poor-quality job. In response to a query, the Clerk noted that the flooded and damaged road along the green had been reported in the same email as the Hartlepool road, but it appeared that nothing was being done about it; she wondered if it might be worthwhile investigating the source of the water, as unusually, the water had continued to flow quite heavily during the last few weeks’ of dry weather and thus it might not be coming from the springs to the north-east of the village but possibly a broken water pipe. This was **agreed**.

1. **Personnel Committee**: Cllr Musgrave reported a meeting of the personnel Committee had been held to discuss the recent National Joint Council pay award of 1.75%. The Committee had agreed to recommend the immediate payment in full of the award, backdated to 1 April 2021. All present concurring with the recommendation, it was therefore **resolved** to implement the NJC award as recommended. The Clerk thanked the committee. Cllr Musgrave issued confidential Appraisal forms to all Councillors, to be completed and sent to her before the next meeting; these would form the basis of the Clerk’s Annual Appraisal.
2. **Financial Reports**: (circulated in advance). The Clerk presented the reports which were accepted.

**Receipts: £ Payments: £**

Grantscape 3,947.50 Monster Mulch (soft fall rubber mulch deposit) 8,020.00

Unity Trust Bank (bank charges) 36.00 Monster Mulch (balance of payment for rubber mulch) 11, 212.40

D.M. Ireland (salary & back pay) 950.40

HMRC (PAYE) 237.60

D.M. Ireland (Amelanchier tree, stake, postage, CCTV signs) 94.48

**Total: 3.947.50 Total: 20,514.88**

1. **Correspondence**: (i) HBC – Election information – noted;(ii) SLCC – information on Climate Change Summit recording availability – noted.
2. **Planning Applications**:

**H/2021/0541 – Sheraton Grange West Bungalow, Coal Lane**– No Objection

**H/2022/0058 – Elwick Windmill, Benknowle Lane** – No Objection

**H/2022/0059 – Elwick Windmill** – No Objection

**H/2022/0067 – Plot 27, The Cavendish, Wynyard** – No Objection

**H/2022/0068** – **Plot 28, The Cavendish, Wynyard** – No Objection

**H/2022/0086** – **Land North of Wellington Gardens, Wynyard Park**– No Objection

**H/2022/0101 – Beaumont, Wynyard –**No Objection

**H/2021/0567 – The Old Mill, Trunk Road A19**– No Objection

**H/2021/0469** –Land South West of Dalton Back Lane – not in our parish; refer to DPPC

**H/2021/0204** – Land North of Wynyard Park – No Objection

1. **Matters of Concern to Councillors**:

Cllr Hutchinson noted with concern the number of vehicles now regularly making illegal U-turns via the farm crossings o the A19; he had witnessed several near-misses. Others noted having seen similar incidents, one particularly frightening one occurred at night, when a large HGV turned at the crossing just north of the A19 garage, without indicating and swinging across both carriageways to do so, and almost hitting a car travelling at speed on the inside lane.

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 27th April at the WI hall, subject to availability.

1. **Date of next Meeting:** 7.00pm, Monday 25th April 2022 at Elwick WI Hall.

*Meeting closed 8.32pm.*