**ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm Monday 25th March 2024 at Elwick WI Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Woodward, H. Thompson, Oliver (From 7:05pm), Hewitt, Irving, R. Thompson (From 7:07pm)

**In Attendance:** Clerk, 1 resident (left at 8:49pm), Lee Adams, Kieron young (from 7:40pm), Craig Southern, Natalie Connor and Darren Thomas.

Due to traffic the agenda was amended accordingly to accommodate the Walk and Talk Trust.

1. **Enviromena:** Representative, Lee Adams from Enviromena discussed the feedback following the public consultation held on the 11th March regarding the proposed solar farm at High Barnes Farm. He advised the team thought that it was a very useful event and that the response from residents was overall very positive. A total of ten feedback forms had been submitted, of all ten of these the public had found the event helpful in understanding the proposed project. Seven out of the ten were fully supportive, two were broadly supportive and one did not support as concerns were raised over the visual impact. Enviromena are in discussion with the member of the pubic regarding the visual impact and providing additional information to them as requested. The next step is to update the plans where required, to inform the highways agency i.e. with road plans, screening, and visibility plans etc, with a view to submit the plans within the next two to three weeks. They are currently working with Hartlepool Borough Council to make sure the plans are correct prior to submission. Hopefully if planning is then approved, they would then like to meet again with the parish council to work with the village residents around traffic management for when work begins on site. The Parish Council will hopefully be formally consulted within 6 to 8 weeks after the planning is submitted. Lee also expressed Enviromena are keen to see what can be done to support the village and would like to meet ideally preplanning. The Website is still currently live along with the contact form and will be until the plans are submitted, should anyone have any questions or require any further information.
2. **The Public Forum:** Northing to report.
3. **Playing Field Volunteer Group and Play Equipment:** **(i)** Following the meeting Cllr Woodward had with the volunteers on the 1st March 2024, it was proposed by Cllr Woodward, that himself and Cllr Irving become part the subcommittee along with volunteers Minna Ireland, Darren Thomas and Natalie Connor. This was unanimously passed by all councillors. It was discussed was required ideally for the residents of the Village to establish what people would like to see in the Village, with a view of producing a consultation form which could be produced for the school, so parents could complete it along with the children, or arrange to attend the school to speak with the children and ask what they would like and the draw pictures etc. Ideas that are currently being discussed are playpark exercise equipment, equipment for those with additional needs with a view of the equipment being multifunctional for people within the village and outside the village. Concern was raised for encouraging people from outside the village due to the lack of parking. The new subcommittee is to meet in the next two weeks or so. Clerk is to look into requesting some brochures for potential playing equipment. **(ii)** The Picnic benches are still waiting to be assembled within the playing field, the Clerk has chased this with Affordable Landscapes and this all being well should be completed in the next week or so. **(iii)** A quote has been supplied by Affordable Landscapes of approximately £3000 to remove the raised wood around the play area due to disrepair and replace with sleepers and make it flush with the mating – Darren Thomas advised he would look into getting volunteers together to come and have a look to see what help they could provide. Darren Thomas and Cllr Woodward advised they would meet to have a walk around the adventure trail, that needs replacing and get potential ideas together for Grantscape.
4. **Apologies:** PC Ben Hayes. Cllr A. Aird, Cllr Andrew Martin-Wells
5. **Police Report:** PC Ben Hayes unable to attend, no report received. PC Ben Hayes did email the Clerk on the 21st March to advise, if possible, he will call in to the next session of Cuppa and Cake to meet with residents.
6. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 26th February 2024**: Cllr R. Thompson proposed the Minutes with Cllr H. Thomspon seconding. The meeting resolved to accept the minutes as a true record and the meeting. Chair signed the minutes.
7. **Matters Arising:** **(i) North Farm Development:** No further update has been received. This is now all in the hands of the developer, no plans have been submitted yet. **(ii)** **Red Gap potential ideas for future project funding:** It was suggested something for the playing field or a Village sign. Designs would need to be created for a Village sign but potentially we could approach the school for children to help with the design and get the community involved to add character to the village along with getting ideas from the book “100 years of Village life”. Cllr Oliver is going to look into the costing involved i.e. design, planning application and installation cost etc. **(iii) Parish Meeting:** It was agreed by all, the Parish meeting will be held on the 8th May – W.I Hall needs to be booked. **(iv) Signage around the Village including the play park:** We are still waiting for the full safety report regarding the playpark to confirm what signage is needed for this. Please also see Chairman’s report. **(V) Flooding on the road from the village:** The Clerk advised, we have received anemail from Peter Frost on behalf of Hartlepool Borough Council to advise they are currently working on the issue relating to the flooding at the top of the Village. This is a civil matter, between 2 landowners. Hartlepool Borough Council are continuing dialogue to prevent water being discharged onto the highway.
8. **The Walk and Talk Trust:** Craig Southern and Kieron Young, representatives for the Walk and Talk Trust, discussed their current project “Heritage 100”, whereby a series of 100 looped walks are being constructed within Co Durham. The hope is the local area can be represented with a walk created around Elwick and Dalton, with similar areas being included i.e. Seaton Carew and the Headland. Alongside each walk, is an accompanying story, created by their author with hopefully the help of the local community to capture local stories etc. The walk will allow people to connect with nature, the environmental heritage and industrial history. The Heritage 100 aims to encourage people to discover and experience other parts of the county whilst encouraging the use of local facilities i.e. Pubs, Coffee Shops. The proposed walk would be sent to the Parish Council for approval, the Elwick walk is an original walk using public rights of ways from Elwick covering Dalton Piercy, back of Summerhill, West Park which would then bring you back to Elwick approximately 6 ½ miles long. As part of the package, they would go into the school and Children would be given resources to access the walk along with a talk to explain the benefits of walking and to encourage people to walk as families to discover the area. A bespoke oak marker post would be designed for the Village. The cost for the package is £7100 per walk, it was agreed by all Councillor’s this could potentially be an idea for the Grantscape funding. Kieron Young and Craig Southern left the meeting at 8:38pm.
9. **Chairmans Report: (i) Village Green Parking:** Following the residential meeting, to try and alleviate the issue with parking on the Village Green and to steer away from permits for residential parking we are going to put up some signage stating, “Resident parking only”. This will exclude the area in front of the Spotted Cow and Coopers of Elwick Tea Rooms. **(ii)** Cllr Woodward advised he had received no further queries or complaints**.** Resident left the meeting at 8:49pm.
10. **Ward Councillor’s report**: Following the Parish Council meeting on the 26th February, Cllr Andrew Martin-Wells emailed the Clerk on the 27th February to advise the resurfacing works on the North Lane Footpath had now been completed, with the worst areas having being resurfaced. Other sections weren’t in as bad a condition and some would overlap with the Elwick Bypass project so would be abortive work. Cllr Andrew Martin-Wells also advised he would ask an inspector to check out the path where North Lane joins the Green. Regarding the flooding issue he confirmed the responsible landowner had been written to asking them to address the issue and will be chased up if they didn’t hear back shortly. The Clerk emailed Andrew Martin-wells for an update on the footpath from North Lane to the Green and the issues with the flooding at the top of the village 19th March 24 and he advised he would advise once he had an update. No update received prior to this evenings Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Woodward advised he would contact Cllr Andrew Martin-Wells regarding the foot path at the top of North Lane.
11. **Social Activities Committee Report: (i)** No further meetings have been held since the last Parish Council Meeting. **(ii)** The Easter Egg Hunt is to take place on Monday 1st April in the W.I Hall, 40 Easter egg’s have been purchased for this and currently 23 places have been taken for the event, crafts and cakes will also be available on the day, with a pet lamb available for petting. **(ii)** The next planned event is the family fun day on the 12th or 13th May – date to be confirmed. **(iii)** Gig on the Green is scheduled for Saturday 7th September; this will not be part of the Summer Fete. This will be a music event only. **(iv)** Suggested events to be held throughout the year include, wine tasting night, barn dance, film night, theatre group. **(v)** The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday 10th March 2024.
12. **Village Maintenance Group Report:**

* **Tasks Completed:** **(i)** Bricks and rubble removed from the side of No 5 The Green.
* **Tasks Awaiting:** **(i)** Fence on the path down to the Ghyll to be removed and the ramp over the stream to be repaired **(ii)** Pavement’s on the corner of North Lane and the Green are still in a bad state. **(iii)** Playing field maintenance still required on the soft play area and boarding to be replaced. **(iv)** Picnic benches to be installed. **(v)** next Village Clean up event to be held on Saturday 6th April.

1. **Finance:** Finance reports supplied by Clerk. The Statement of Financial transactions 26th Februaty 2024 to 24th March 2024 tabled below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **RECEIPTS:** |  |
| Wayleave Payment Received | 5.00 |
| Wayleave Payment Received | 5.00 |
| Wayleave Payment Received | 5.00 |
| Wayleave Payment Received | 5.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **20.00** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PAYMENTS:** |  |
| M Davies – Clerk Salary | 419.00 |
| Affordable Landscapes – Footpath resurface \* | 1071.60 |
| Affordable Landscapes – Tree Work in Village (3 days) | 1620.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **3110.70** |

\*Invoice total was £1500, but we had a credit note of £428.40 used against this invoice

The Financial reports were unanimously approved.

13. **Correspondence:** **(i)** Email confirmation received from Garry Jones on behalf of Hartlepool Brough Council to confirm the contract relating to cleansing contract renewal had been sent out in error, a new contract will be sent out closer to the correct renewal date.

14. **Planning applications:** Notification of appeal regarding a previous planning application reference APP/H0724/D/24/3340860, proposal of the erection of a first storey extension and two-story infill extension to rear.

15. **Matters of concern:** **(i)** Cllr H. Thompson raised concern regarding the passing points on the Hart Back Lane, the issue has been raised in the past that the passing points need attention either resurfacing or filling in with some hardcore. However, previously the council have advised the passing points are not Hartlepool Borough Council land and it is the relevant landowners responsibility. Cllr H. Thompson is to contact and discuss with Cllr J. Littlefair from Hart Parish Council. **(ii)** Cllr R. Thompson raised concern about the condition of the cat’s eyes on the roads throughout the village. It has been noted a few of the cat’s eyes are missing, damaged and in a bad state. Also, parts of broken cat’s eyes have been recovered from the Village Green – Clerk to contact Hartlepool Bourgh Council to advise. **(iii)** Cllr R. Thompson, noted the pinch points do not have markings, these require marking up accordingly – Clerk to Contact Hartlepool Borough Council.

17. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 29th April 2024, 7pm at Elwick WI Hall.

Meeting concluded at 9:24pm.