**ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm Monday 26th February 2024 at Elwick WI Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Woodward, H. Thompson, Oliver, Hewitt, Irving R. Thompson (From 7:05pm), and Aird (From 7:13pm)

**In Attendance:** Clerk, 1 resident, Lee Adams, Mark Harding.

1. **The Walk and Talk Trust:** Craig Southern sent his apologies, due to the charity having a internal restructure, all new projects are currently paused during this process.
2. **Enviromena:** Representatives of Enviromena,Lee Adams and Mark Harding discussed the outline plans for a 49 MW solar farm on land opposite the Village at the end of Coal Lane. They advised, residents will shortly be receiving a booklet in the post which will give details of the project proposal. Enviromena are planning to hold a consultation event in the Elwick W.I Hall on Monday 11th March 2024, between 2pm and 7pm. They are inviting residents to go along to learn more about the scope of the project, provide information and ask any questions to the team in attendance. It was also advised, a consultation website will be available for those who are unable to attend the consultation meeting, were you can learn more, submit questions and leave feedback. Lee Adams and Mark Harding left the meeting at 7:55pm.
3. **Public Forum:** A resident expressed concern regarding the speed of some vehicles going through the village, it was suggested the police maybe able to set up the speed camera van within the village in the future.
4. **Apologies:** PC Ben Hayes. Craig Southern and Cllr Andrew Martin-Wells
5. **Police Report:** PC Ben Hayes unable to attend, no report received.
6. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 29th January 2024**: 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 since the removal of the sign. **(ii)** **Playing field Volunteer group and Play Equipment:** See Chairmans report. **(iii) Red Gap project submissions for completed Kiosk:** See Chairmans report. **(iv) Memorial benches within the village:** Clerk advised, in the February report for the Village Life Magazine residents have been asked if they can help and assist in the identification of some of the Memorial benches within the village. If anyone can help, please get in touch with the Parish Council. **(V) Flooding on the road from the village:** Hartlepool Borough Council have advised they have written to the Landowner and will update when possible.
8. **Chairmans Report:**

* **Village Green Parking:** Cllr Woodward advised the Elwick W.I hall has been booked for Monday 18th March 2024, the Clerk is to arrange for letters to be sent to residents to come and discuss the issues and agree on the next steps to be taken in an attempt to resolve the issues. It was also noted a polite note is to be made for the March Village Life to remind residents within the village not to park across household’s driveway’s and entrances.
* **Village Clean Up:** On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Woodward expressed his thanks to all those who have helped with the Village Clean Up, the impact is already visible especially on the verges around the Green area. Going forward it is suggested the Village Clean Up is carried out on the first Saturday or Sunday (they are to be alternated) of each Month. The next Village Clean up will be held on the Sunday 7th April 2024.
* **Grantscape:** Cllr Woodward advised the majority of the completion report had been completed for the Kiosk along with photographs, all that is needed to complete the report is the invoices – Clerk to forward to Cllr Woodward. The final details for the generator and power bank are also required, so this reported can be submitted – Clerk to forward Cllr Woodward the invoices and Cllr R. Thompson to forward the photograph’s of the Generator and Power bank to Cllr Woodward for the completion report.
* **Keys:** Cllr Woodward proposed that a set of keys is cut for the Clerk, so a set can be also held in the Village. Cllr Woodward to arrange for a set to be cut and passed onto the Clerk.
* **Village Improvements:** The footpath at the top of the Village has now been completed, and the Parish Councillor’s agreed this was a vast improvement. The footpath is to be monitored as it may need to be compacted again, if the surface starts to loosen up.
* Bonfire Patch: Cllr Woodward has spoken to the owners of the McCorville regarding the patch left from the bonfire on the Village Green and advised it needs to be relaid with turf. The McCorville owner advised, it was for other businesses to contribute too. Cllr Woodward has left it him to approach the other businesses and talk with them and reiterated the Village Green has not been suitably restored following the unauthorised bonfire. It was suggested that the Village businesses get together to discuss future events etc. However bonfires are not permitted on the Village Green.
* **AED Cabinet:** Cllr Woodward advised the AED has been checked and the PADS have been swapped out as they were approaching the expiry date. The cabinet is lit but does not seem to be heated. Cllr Woodward is going to check with the Spotted Cow to establish if electric is still being supplied to the unit, as it is a heated cabinet.
* **Playing Field and Management Committee:** Cllr Woodward proposed a meeting to be held at Coopers of Elwick Tearooms on Friday 1st March 2024 (to be confirmed) to get the volunteers together to understand the structure of the committee.
* **Flooding on road from the Village:** Hartlepool Borough Council have advised they are looking into this matter and we are awaiting an update.
* **Playing Field:** There is still an issue with people using the playing field as a dog exercise area. Following the safety review the signs need updating and signage needs to explicitly say the playing field is not a dog’s toilet. In the surrounding area’s there is ample countryside for dogs to be exercised in, as well as the Ghyll, in which the Parish have funded a lot of work to open up the access to the Ghyll to encourage dog walkers to go through. Clerk is to look into the required signage for the Playing field and the enforcement that can be put in place. The Parish Council is still awaiting for the full safety report for this year relating to the playing field. Cllr Oliver advised the swing was put up on the 25th February 2024 and this is now complete. Clerk has contacted Affordable landscapes asking for a date for the two picnic benches to be installed and awaiting a date for this.

1. **Ward Councillor’s report**: No report received for this meeting, apologies received from Andrew Martin-Wells. With the appointment of the new Clerk in January, Cllr Andrew Martin-Wells and the Clerk have now exchanged emails and going forward any issues or concerns will be forwarded to Cllr Andrew Martin-Wells as soon as possible so information can be put together for the Ward Councillors Report before future meetings.
2. **Social Activities Committee Report: (i)** 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 a pet lamb will be available for petting on the day. **(ii)** Gig on the Green is scheduled for Saturday 7th September, this will not be part of the Summer Fete. It is planned for a bouncy castle and Ice Cream Van to be in attendance. The hope is, the two pubs within the Village will get involved with the event and would like to contribute. **(iii)** Other events in planning are on the 12th or 13th May 2024, a family fun day for games, sports, BBQ but with no stalls in attendance. It is suggested the police, ambulance etc are in attendance for demonstrations for the Children as well as an entertainer. This will not be a fund raising event . **(iv)** Suggested events to be held throughout the year include, wine tasting night, barn dance, film night, theatre group. **(v)** The committee is in a positive state financially and a donation received last year has helped the funds within the committee. This will fund the family fun day or potentially fund the film night, Clerk and Cllr Woodward to look into licences for the film night. **(vi)** Cllr Woodward is going to forward the details of Northern Soul act to Cllr R. Thompson for the Gig on The Green. **(vii)** The next scheduled meeting is to be held after the Easter Egg Hunt.
3. **Village Maintenance Group Report:**

* **Tasks Completed:** **(i)** Path at the East End of the Village resurfaced. **(ii)** The Swing on the playing field has been finished. **(iii)** The first session of the Village Clean Up has been completed with the next session planned for Saturday 2nd March 2024.
* **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 – Clerk is to follow this up with Hartlepool Borough Council. **(iii)** Playing field maintenance still required on the soft play area and boarding to be replaced – Clerk to contact Affordable Landscapes for a date to replace the boarding. **(iv)** Picnic benches to be installed – Clerk is awaiting a reply form affordable landscapes as to when this can be completed.
* Cllr R. Thompson advised he attended the Parish Liaison on the 5th February and the matter of the footpaths was discussed, it was advised it is on the list to be carried out but no funding is currently available for it

1. **Finance:** Finance reports supplied by Clerk. The Statement of Financial transactions 29th January 2024 to 25th February 2024 tabled below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | PAYMENTS £ |
| Hartlepool Borough Council – Install socket into lamppost outside shop | 318.00 |
| M Davies – Expenses, Data transfer from old laptop and USB Sticks | 70.00 |
| D M Ireland – Backpay for 2022 / 2023 | 89.10 |
|  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **477.10** |

The Financial reports were unanimously approved.

13. **Correspondence:** Correspondence received from Hartlepool Borough Council regarding a resident on the green requiring a handrail to fitted to the wall at the front of the property to support the residents access to the community, it was unanimously agreed by all councillors this was acceptable as it is a temporary / removable aid and as it is on the wall it is not on the Green its self.

14. **Planning applications:** No planning applications received.

15. **Matters of concern:** **(i)** Fly tipping around the Hart/Elwick/Dalton cross roads – Cllr Hewitt to log onto Hartlepool Borough Council portal to report any issues. **(ii)** A resident contacted the Parish Council to advise, people walking dogs are allowing the dogs to go onto their garden and urinate causing damage to the grass, it was advised by Parish Councillor’s as it is private property the parish Council cannot get involved with private matters. Cllr H. Thompson to speak to resident to advise. **(iii)** Hartlepool Rural - Priorities that the parish would like to be seen done needs to be updated, ideas are required for the next parish council meeting and input is required from the Annual Parish Meeting. **(iv)** There is currently ten laptops surplus to use within the Parish Councils care, Clerk and Cllr Woodward to see if these can be upgraded and potentially offer these to the Village school, if they could benefit from the use of these. **(v)** Hartlepool Borough council to be contacted to see where the Village is within the rota for the road sweeper to sweep the gutters etc, if the council can provide 48 hour’s notice, potentially bollards could be put out to prevent cars parking in the area to allow the road sweeper to get access to the areas requiring attention - Clerk to contact HBC. **(vi)** Parish Meeting, it was proposed the Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th May at 6pm at Elwick W.I Hall, this date is to be confirmed.

17. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 25th March 2024, 7pm at Elwick WI Hall.

Meeting concluded at 10:00pm.