

## ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Elwick WI Hall

**Present:** Cllrs D. Woodward, R. Thompson, H. Thompson, Irving, Oliver, Aird.

**In Attendance:** M. Davies - Clerk, 1 resident.

1. **Public Forum:** No Public Forum. Councillors discussed the wording on the agenda regarding the Public Forum, it was unanimously agreed the phrase "Items not on the agenda will not be discussed" was to be removed from future Parish Council meeting agenda's. Councillors also discussed and advised members of the public are always welcome and encouraged to participate in Parish Council meetings.
2. **Declarations of interest:** None to record.
3. **Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hewitt and PCSO Yasmin Calvert.
4. **Police Report:** The Clerk advised PCSO Yasmin Calvert had forwarded her apologies prior to the meeting via email. In her email she also advised the Parish Council of the following *".... I do have a bit of an update regarding the heavy goods vehicles travelling through Elwick, I managed to stop a heavy goods vehicle that was going through the village on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February and spoke to the driver, he told me the vehicle weighed 12 ton so was obviously over the weight restriction, he was told to no longer use that route and to speak to other drivers, I have also attended the building site and spoke to site staff to tell them they cannot use the village as a through fare, I'm also trying to get some of our motorcycle section to do an operation one day to stop and issue tickets to drivers..."*. The Parish Councillors discussed PCSO Calvert's email and believe there may have been some confusion over the original issue raised by the Parish Council and residents, as the issue raised with PCSO Calvert was not relating to HGV's travelling through the Village and the Parish Council are not aware of which building site PCSO Calvert is referring too.
5. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024:** Approval of the Minutes as an accurate record, was proposed by Cllr H. Thompson, with Cllr Aird seconding. The meeting then resolved to accept the minutes, and the Chairman signed the Minutes.
6. **Matters Arising: (i) North Farm Development:** Councillors unanimously agreed this was to be discussed during item 15, Planning applications later on the agenda. **(ii) Section 106 Monies:** Councillors agreed this item on the agenda was to be deferred until the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Woodward asked councillors to think about the 106 monies and share any ideas via the PC WhatsApp group in preparation for the next PC Meeting. Cllr Woodward asked the Clerk to contact the Head Teacher at St Peters school to ask if there was anything the school requires and if they could advise prior to the next Parish Council meeting. **(iii) Vehicle activity on the A19 slip road, into North Lane:** The Clerk advised Ros Pluck from Auto Link who maintain this section of the A19 had emailed an update informing the Parish Council herself and a representative from National Highways had carried out a site visit on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February and during this opportunity to visit the Farm relating to the access. During their visit it was noted the gated entrance in question off the A19 appeared to be closed and locked and they could not see any fresh marks from vehicles. They met with the occupier of the property who advised them the entrance is only used by farm machinery or on occasions large vehicles which are unable to access via the entrance off The Paddock and that there are no developments which would account for an increase in traffic using the gated entrance in question. It was also advised they have recently had to put a new padlock on the gate as there appeared to be some anti-social use of the route, hopefully ensuring the gate is locked when not in use by farm vehicles this will reduce the potential of the manoeuvres the residents and Parish Council have referred to. The Occupier was asked to share Auto Links and National Highways concerns with anyone using the access legitimately and that not only was a safety concern but it was a traffic offence. Following the update Councillors advised they would like to monitor the issues along with residents and the Parish Council is to update Auto Link accordingly should any further issues arise.

7. **Chairman's Report:** (i) Cllr Woodward raised his concern over some anti-social behaviour witnessed within the Village where youths were observed throwing objects into the road, he urges residents to be vigilant and report any anti-social behaviour accordingly. (ii) Cllr Woodward advised he is keen to look into digitally updating the Village maps and has been speaking to HBC regarding this and the Parish Council is to start looking into getting volunteers involved in digitally mapping the village with the GPS equipment the Parish Council have. A resident present expressed their interest in becoming involved in this project. (iii) Cllr Woodward expressed his concern over the overdue maintenance works required within the playing field, especially the work required at Greenlea as residents and motorists still have safety concerns over the visibility. The Clerk advised to date two quotes with recommendations have been received, and there is potentially another two quotes pending. Councillors agreed the remaining two contractors would be given until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February to submit their quotes and advice etc, then Councillors are to discuss the quotes and options provided by the contractors via the WhatsApp group to agree who the tender is awarded to for work to commence as soon as possible prior to bird nesting season beginning as it is fast approaching. (iv) Cllr Woodward advised following the installation of the dog walk in the playing field the signage needs to be updated to direct dog walkers to the new walk and children etc to the playing field. (v) Following the unauthorised bonfire which was held on the Village Green, the damage created has still not been rectified, the Parish Council were advised after the bonfire the money collected on the night was to be used to repair any damage caused. Cllr Oliver advised he would speak to the McOrville and the Spotted Cow and Cllr Aird advised he would speak to the Coopers of Elwick Village Shop to ask them to each contribute and cover the cost of the damage caused. (vi) Cllr Woodward advised he would like to reach out and invite The Friends of St Peters, The W.I, The Young Farmers, The Church, Pubs and Shop etc to come together for a meeting before the spring / summer season starts to see if we can come together and create some community events etc.
8. **Ward Councillor's report:** No report received.
9. **Playing Field Committee Report:** (i) The Clerk advised the playing field committee have not held any meeting since the last Parish Council meeting, the Playing field committee Chair has advised they will be planning a week in the next couple of weeks. (ii) The Playing field committee have been successful in their recent funding bid with Grantscape and have now obtained 4 quotes for play equipment, which they will discuss at their next meeting and deliver their recommendations to the PC at the next meeting. The Clerk raised concern as we have a deadline to complete this project and our quotes need to be submitted to Grantscape for approval as soon as possible for approval etc. It was agreed the Clerk is to submit the quotes to Grantscape to progress with the project, recommending Streetscape as the preferred contractor to supply and install the new pieces and Affordable Landscapes to remove the old pieces of equipment (iii) The Playing field committee is to communicate the results of the funding award to St Peters. (iv) The playing field committee also advised the dog walk is now completed.
10. **Social Activities Committee Report:** (i) The Chair, Minna Ireland advised since the last Parish Council meeting the SAC had not held a meeting but the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024, where the committee plan to discuss the upcoming Easter event for the children of the village, VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> remembrance event. The Parish Councillors all advised they were happy to support these potential events. (ii) Cllr Woodward asked if the committee had intention of hosting a Gig on the Green this year and advised this year they were not planning a Gig on The Green, Cllr Woodward advised he would like to form a committee who would volunteer to focus solely on the Gig on the Green, with a hope of encouraging new volunteers to organise the event alleviate the pressure of the SAC. Cllr Aird suggested they could look into sourcing acts from local collages etc. Cllr R. Thompson agreed this was a good proposal and Cllr Woodward is to enquire if anyone would be interested in volunteering .
11. **Village Maintenance Group Report:** (i) Cllr Oliver advised on North Lane, there is a small embankment belonging to the parish council which is retained by sleepers which are in a bad state of repair. (ii) **Book exchange kiosk repairs:** Cllr H. Thompson advised this has now been completed and the piece of Perspex has been fitted. (iii) **Bus Shelter Repairs:** The bus shelter still requires a repaint following the arson attack. Cllr R. Thompson advised he would source some masonry paint to match the current colours inside the bus shelter (red and off white). (iv) **Vegetation overgrowth around the substation at Greenlea:** The Clerk advised councillor's two quotes had been received for works around the substation and she is awaiting for another two quotes from

contractors. Councillors unanimously agreed the other two contractors are to be given until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February to submit their quotes. Once the quotes are received the Clerk is to circulate all quotes to Councillors via email and a decision of who the contract is to be awarded to will be discussed on the WhatsApp group to ensure work is undertaken as soon as possible, before bird nesting season begins and the grass cutting season starts if possible. **(v) Playing Field Works:** The playing field is requiring maintenance work to remove and make the border around the children's play area safe, the four pieces of adventure trail as part of the Grantscape funding bid need to be removed and two concrete areas are required to be able to install the picnic tables the Parish Council have. The Clerk advised councillors two quotes had been received for works around the substation and she is awaiting for another two quotes from contractors. Councillors unanimously agreed the other two contractors are to be given until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February to submit their quotes. Once the quotes are received the Clerk is to circulate all quotes to Councillors via email and a decision of who the contract is to be awarded to will be discussed on the WhatsApp group to ensure work is undertaken as soon as possible, before the grass cutting season starts if possible. The quotes for the adventure trail are to be forwarded to Grantscape as part of the funding award criteria.

12. **Finance:** Finance reports were supplied by the Clerk. The Statement of Financial transactions 1st January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 tabled below:

<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
NIL	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>

  

<b>PAYMENTS:</b>	
D Woodward Reimburse – Signage, Nov & Dec Printing Subscription	68.96
M Davies Reimburse – Stationary, Playing Field Lock, Internet and sign	133.24
OJM Tree and Landscape Services	3594.00
Elwick WI Hall – SAC Meetings and Polaris Theatre night	80.00
M Davies Reimburse – Computer Mouse	5.94
M Davies – January Salary	419.10
Bank Service Charge – December	6.00
Ords – Storage cupboard for W.I Hall	354.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4661.24</b>

The Financial reports were unanimously approved. **(ii)** The Clerk advised Councillors of pending payments as listed below;

<b>PAYMENTS PENDING – Awaiting approval</b>	
M Davies – Clerk Salary Feb 2025	419.10
<del>M. Davies</del> Reimburse – Seeds, Seed Trays, Paper	59.45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>478.55</b>

Councillors present unanimously approved the payments awaiting approval and cheques were signed by Cllr R. Thompson and Cllr. Woodward.

13. **Correspondence:** **(i)** The Clerk advised after speaking to Netwise the company who have supplied the .Gov domain for the website the gentleman she spoke to checked the Elwick Parish Website, it was advised our website just needed to set up under the new domain and our email address was also to match the .gov domain. The price of the emails are £24 each per annum and it was unanimously agreed the Clerk is to obtain eight email addresses from Netwise, One for the Clerk and one for each of the Councillors.

14. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** **(i)** Cllr R. Thompson raised concern over the Parish Council PA Speakers as they are currently stored in the Parish Council Storage unit and are subject to the damp, The Clerk is to try and source an alternative storage place as discussed. **(iii)** Cllr R. Thompson raised concern the bolt on the shed is currently not operating as it should be, it was unanimously agreed Cllr R. Thompson is to source a new bolt and arrange for it to be fitted. **(iii)** Cllr R. Thompson advised he had spoken to the Chair of the Elwick W.I as recently works had been undertaken on the roof of the W.I hall to remove moss from the roof and the contractors carrying out the works had left the waste material on the Village green in a pile outside the W.I Hall. Cllr R. Thompson advised he had arrange removal of the waste and the Chair of the W.I Hall had acknowledged Cllr R. Thompsons concerns and would be speaking to the contractors in question.

**15. Planning applications: (i) H/2024/0388** – Notification of a Planning application. Erection of 46no. dwellings and associated landscaping and infrastructure. *Location: Land at North Farm, The Green, Elwick, Hartlepool.*

After discussion councillors unanimously agreed Elwick Parish Council welcomes the development on North Farm, however we object to the application in its current form. Parish Councillors agreed a response is to be drafted, shared with Parish Councillors via email and to be agreed prior to submission to HBC as soon as possible.

**(ii) H/2024/0180** – Notification of a Planning Application. Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic (solar) farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure. Location: High Barnes Farm, Coal Lane, Elwick, Hartlepool. TS27 3HD. Councillors unanimously agreed the Parish Council continue to support this application.

**(iii) H/2024/0340** – Notification of a Planning Application. Demolition of two existing dwellings, erection of two replacement dwellings and one agricultural workers dwelling together with associated garden and car parking. Location: Low Stotfold Farm, Trunk Road A19, Hartlepool. TS27 3HQ. Councillors unanimously agreed the Parish Council continue to support this application.

**(iv) H/2024/0359** – Notification of a Planning Application. Erection of a pitched roof with loft rooms over the existing annex. Location: The Old Mill, Trunk Road A19. Hartlepool. TS27 3HF. Councillors unanimously agreed the Parish Council continue to support this application.

**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC:** The Parish Council may at any point pass a resolution that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) the public and the press shall be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item of business if publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted e.g. Employment matters, terms of commercial tenders and negotiations for contracts for legal proceedings, preparation or advice.

**16. Confidential Matters of Concerns of Councillors** - Confidential matters only - None

**16. Date of next meeting:** Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, 7pm at Elwick WI Hall.

Meeting concluded at 22:45