

## ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held at 8.00pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Elwick WI Hall

**Present:** Cllrs D. Woodward, H. Thompson, R.Thompson.

**In Attendance:** Clerk - (M. Davies)

1. **Public Forum:** No Public Forum
2. **Declarations of interest:** None to record.
3. **Apologies:** Cllr Hewitt, Irving, Oliver, Aird and A. Martin-Wells
4. **Police Report:** No police report received. Cllr Woodward raised concern that at the last parish Council meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> April PC Harris mentioned he had ran a report over the last 12 month and there was no reported issues on record, however there has been incidents within the Village reported by residents as well as the bus shelter fire reported last year. It was agreed the Clerk is to contact the police to ask them to check their records .
5. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025:** Approval of the Minutes as an accurate record, was proposed by Cllr H. Thompson, with Cllr Woodward seconding. The meeting then resolved to accept the minutes, and the Chairman signed the Minutes. **(i) Minutes of the Annual Public Parish Meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025:** Approval of the Minutes as an accurate record, was proposed by Cllr H. Thompson, with Cllr Woodward seconding. The meeting then resolved to accept the minutes, and the Chairman signed the Minutes
6. **Matters Arising: (i) Section 106 Monies:** Cllr Woodward asked councillors present to continue to think about potential ideas for Section 106 Monies, so the Parish Council can update HBC with the Parish Councils wishes. **(ii) Red Gap Funding:** The Clerk reminded the councillors present the closing date is 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 for the Red Gap Community Fund. The Clerk advised during the annual public parish meeting Mrs Wilson the Headteacher from St. Peter's School, expressed a wish to commence work on the wildlife garden as soon as possible, however due to the lack of funding, they are unable to purchase child-sized equipment which is required to maintain the garden. This has been a subject of discussion on the internal Parish Councillors WhatsApp group and it was agreed that an application was submitted to see if the Parish Council could purchase the materials required, to allow the school to start the day to day management of the wildlife garden. The Playing field committee have also asked if an application could be submitted to consider the purchase of a new set of swings for older children and a seesaw for younger children. Both the seesaw and toddler swings in situ in the playing field are nearing the end of their life span and in the very near future will need to be removed as they are no longer suitable for refurbishment. Councillors present anonymously agreed The Clerk is to submit an application for a new set of swings for older children and a see saw suitable for smaller children. Cllr D Woodward expressed his concern for the lack of seating in and around the Village and maybe we could submit an application for a new bench to be installed in the village. The Clerk brought to the attention of the Councillors present the recent passing of Mr Fredrick Grieves whom donated the James Grieves Memorial Playing Field to the Village for the Parish Council to manage, it was agreed anonymously by all Councillors present The Clerk is to speak to the family of Mr and Mrs Grieves to see if a bench could be purchased to honour their memory, and installed within the playing field which is in memory of their son. It was agreed if the family were OK with this suggestion The Clerk is to obtain a quote for a suitable family, non-picnic style bench and submit an application to Red Gap. **(iii) Land North of Elwick:** Cllr Woodward advised to date there had been no further correspondence regarding the Land North of Elwick which was advertised on Facebook in April. The Clerk brought to the attention an email received from a resident and Cllr H. Thompson advised she would reach out to the resident to discuss the matter further. **(iv) Land at Greenlea substation, suggestions to continue improvements:** Cllr Woodward raised concern whilst the safety concern of the over grown vegetation had now been addressed, although the area looked a lot tidier, it may enhance the area if we had some tubs to brighten the space up with some flowers etc. It was unanimously agreed for the Clerk to put a note in the Village Life report for May asking residents if they may be interested in adopting tub (or two), planning them up and taking care of them. Councillors unanimously agreed a £200 budget would be made available to purchase compost and plants to support this project. **(v) Residential parking on The Green:** Cllr Woodward advised the sign which had fallen down has now been put back up.
7. **Chairman's Report: (i) Mayoral Inauguration:** Cllr Woodward advised the Mayoral Inauguration had been cancelled, and he will keep Councillors up to date with new proposed date. **(ii) Meeting with Environmena:** Cllr Woodward advised along with The Clerk they met with Lee Adams of Enviromena earlier in the day to get update on the solar farm project at High Barnes. Lee advised the planning application will be going to planning committee Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> of May. Cllr Woodward advised Lee to date, no residents have been in contact with the Parish Council to object to the development at High Barnes, but we are aware that Middleton Farm had some issues, we understand that Enviromena has been in contact with them regarding changes to the planting around the site. Cllr Woodward advised Lee asked if a representative from the Parish Council may be able to attend the planning committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> May or alternatively if the Parish Council could submit a statement to the case officer to be read out during the meeting.

**(iii) Other Planning Issues:** Cllr Woodward advised no other information has been forthcoming on any progress with any other projects. We are expecting the Claypool BESS Project Application to be submitted shortly. Cllr Woodward suggested the Parish Council should also respond to Lovell Homes in respect of them reaching out to us with changes to the design of some houses after consultation with a neighbour. The Clerk advised she did email John Beddoes of Lovell Homes on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May but has not received anything back as of yet. Cllr Woodward advised he would also try and contact John Beddoes.

8. **Ward Councillor's report:** The Clerk advised Cllr Andrew Martin-Wells forwarded his apologies and advised he has spoken with a Council Officer regarding any issues affecting Elwick, Dalton and Wynyard, and there's nothing to report other than the Police assisting the council as they have identified speeding areas, and the police will show more presence in these hot spots.
9. **Playing Field Committee Report:** The Clerk advised a report had been received from the Chair of the Playing field committee. **(i)** Work has now been completed in the playing field to install two new pieces of equipment. In order for the new equipment to be installed, the basketball post and backboard was removed by Streetscapes. The basketball post and backboard are now with the Parish Clerk for safe keeping, it is suggested that a decision is to be made when carrying out future consultations as to whether this could be repurposed and re-sited. Whilst installing the new equipment Streetscape also checked that any holes from previous adventure trail equipment that was removed were backfilled. Streetscape have successfully re-fitted the new spring and the rocker is now back in service. Streetscape have also carried out the service on the zipwire. Whilst on site Streetscapes have also carried out some patch work near the toddler tower free of charge. **(ii)** The new dog walk fencing has been damaged in sections. One of the rails has been snapped in half, and some of the timber has been thrown into the Ghyll. The Clerk has spoken to OJM Landscapes and they have advised they will visit site to have a look. The vandalism taking place at the park is an ongoing issue and is something that we will need to think about if we are able to secure further funding. **(iii)** There is another opportunity to apply for Red Gap funding. Previous discussions by the committee focussed on: removing the toddler swings (as these are ending the end of their lifespan), replacing with swings for older children. Remove the see-saw and replace with something similar but suitable for smaller children. Parish Councillors present agreed unanimously the Clerk is to submit an application to Red Gap for these items. **(iv)** The school have expressed an interest in exploring accessible equipment. The Clerk has been supplied with some mood boards from Streetscape, as to what these options might be. This is to be discussed further by the committee. **(v)** At the last playing field meeting, and public parish meeting, it was discussed that a 'Friends of' James Grieve Memorial Playing Fields' group could be explored, in an effort to increase community participation in conversations, developing a strategy for the playing field, future consultation, and perhaps as a catalyst for people and families in the village engaging with other social activities (including support with organising). This could run alongside the current sub-committee – we would hope that this would best utilise the knowledge and experience from the current sub-group, plus capacity and expertise from others in the village. We could potentially work closely with the 'Friends of' group at the school and open up other opportunities for funding that might not be open to a parish council, for example, Biffa (up to £75k). A first suggestion would be to run a fun day with activities and refreshments, and run consultation alongside it. Open invitation for families to come down, engage with some activities, and give feedback on current layout/improvements/aspirations. This fun day, plus work with the school and other consultation ideas (QR code for feedback – newsletter/in the play park) will help us write a 10 year Playing Field Strategy. We want to think about a Vision: who is the park for and how can we improve it to meet the needs of our community? We can then match that with fundraising ambitions in the short, medium and long-term, so that we can progress, even if it's in a phased manner. The Playing field committee asked if the Parish Council would consider a budget to running a fun day / consultation event to take place in June or July. Parish Councillors discussed the possibility of holding an event if the Parish Council were successful with their application bid for a memorial for Mr Fred Grieves to reflect his support for the Village and for gifting the playing field.
10. **Social Activities Committee Report:** The Clerk advised a report had been received from the SAC Chair. **(i)** Since the SAC's last meeting in April, the SAC held a very successful Easter Egg Hunt held on Easter Monday, with 36 children participating. Once they had found their numbered plastic egg, the children exchanged it for a chocolate egg and then used a range of craft materials to create their own Easter memories. Refreshments were provided for both children and accompanying adults and a 'Name the Guinea Pigs' (kindly loaned by a resident) competition held; Hilary and Roderick had been very creative in coming up with 40 joint names (e.g. Starsky & Hutch, Bonnie & Clyde). Everyone seemed to enjoy the event. **(ii)** The SAC also held an event to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May. The WI hall was set up as a street party, with a display of memorabilia and clothing of WWII and VE Day provided by a number of residents, bunting and artworks created by the children of St. Peter's primary school, the "Elwick in WWII" section of our Village Atlas and oral histories provided in 2014 by both Fred & Mary Grieves. In the background a DVD of the actual VE Day celebrations of 1945 was running, music was played of the era, including the Andrews Sisters, Gracie Fields and Vera Lynn. The WI had the Union flag flying for us, Bob Dunkerley brought his American Army jeep

complete with machine guns, and with both he and his wife dressed appropriately and Barrie came dressed in a wartime navy uniform, looking very smart, which all added to the atmosphere. We were delighted by the number of people who came, of all ages, including some very new residents; extra tables had to be set up in a hurry and the 'tea ladies' were run off their feet! Fortunately, we had baked extra cakes, but we still ran out, though not before everyone had had at least one slice. The weather was bitterly cold, so those families who were brave enough to bring their picnics to the green at 5.00pm were invited to eat them in the warmth of the WI hall. We finally closed the doors at 7.00pm, cleared up the hall and had returned most of the loaned materials by 8.45pm. The Chairman of the Parish Council gave a short speech and Barrie lit the beacon promptly at 9.30pm, sadly attended by only a few. Nevertheless we all considered it to be a successful event and we have received much positive feedback since. (iii) We had been planning to hold a Family Sports day on 21st June but the McOrville pub has asked to have use of the village green for such an event later this month. Our next event is likely to be the Wine Tasting evening planned for late September.

11. **Village Maintenance Group Report:** No Report Received (i) **Bus Shelter repairs:** Cllr R. Thompson advised after looking at the bus shelter a lot of render appeared to be damaged, Councillors present unanimously agreed, Cllr R. Thompson is to ask Jamie Thompson to remove any loose render and skim ready for painting. (ii) **Village Green Grass / ground damage following unauthorised bonfire:** The Clerk advised this is ongoing as she is still awaiting a quote from Affordable Landscapes.
12. **Finance:** Finance reports were supplied by the Clerk. The Statement of Financial transactions 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> April tabled below:

RECEIPTS:	
Resident Wayleave Payment	5.00
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HBC Concurrent and Precept Payment	16474.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16484.00</b>

PAYMENTS	
M Davies – Clerk April Salary 2025	419.10
D. Woodward Reimburse – Film License 2025/2026	162.82
SLCC Membership 2025/2026	110.00
Bank Service Charge March 2025	6.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>697.92</b>

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

PAYMENTS PENDING – Awaiting approval as of 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	
Affordable Landscapes ref jnx L369 – April Grass Cutting	890.40
H. Thompson Reimburse – Resident 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday gift and card	27.50
M Davies Reimburse Paper and parking	11.70
Streetscape – jnx 6390 & jnx 6388 – Zipwire service and 2x new pieces of adventure trail	9390.00
H. Thompson Reimburse Refreshments for Annual Public Meeting	18.40
Clear Group Insurance	819.13
M Davies – Clerk May Salary	419.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11576.23</b>

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

13. **Correspondence:** (i) The Clerk advised a resident had contacted her to advise a lamppost on North Lane as you come into the Village off the A19 is damaged whereby the protective cover is hanging off at the base. The Clerk advised she has contacted Peter Frost at HBC who advised he has notified Auto Link as the lamppost is their responsibility due to it location being so close to the A19. (ii) The Clerk advised following the last Parish Council meeting she contacted Hayley Martin regarding the un-inhabited property on The Green which residents have raised concerns of its structural integrity. Hayley advised she would look into the matter and speak to the relevant officer and get back to the Parish Council. (iii) The Clerk advised a resident emailed the Parish Council regarding a manhole cover located on the main road through the Village and the bottom of Manor Close, which appears to have shifted, creating a loud noise when vehicles drive over it and also raised concern over it, giving way with the weight of vehicles driving over it etc. The Clerk advised she had contacted Peter Frost at HBC. Peter Frost advised he would arrange for it to be looked into. (iv) The Clerk advised during the Annual Parish Meeting a resident raised concern of the discarded barriers laid in the hedgerow following recent works that had been carried out on the road coming into the Village from Hartlepool. Concern was also raised as these may blow into the road if we had some high winds etc. The Clerk advised she had contacted Peter Frost at HBC, he advised he would look into the matter. (v) The Clerk advised she had contacted Lucy Appleton of The Young Farmers to ask if they would be able to assist and arrange the painting of the stones located on the Village Green and the Parish Council would provide refreshments and materials etc. Lucy kindly advised this was something the young farmers were keen to help with and would like to carry out the painting of the stones on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Councillors present unanimously agreed Cllr R. Thompson is to purchase paint brushes and 3x tubs of masonry paint and the Clerk is to organise refreshments for the night.

**14. Matters of Concern to Councillors:** None

**16. Planning applications:** (i) **H/2024/0001** – Notification of a Planning Application. Enhancement of an existing truck road service area including provisions of a secure HGV parking area, ancillary truck stop building, EV charging hub, car parking and landscaping and mounding arrangements. Location: A19 Services Northbound, Trunk Road. A19. Hartlepool. TS27 3HH – Parish Councillors present discussed and agreed this was an application they continue to support.

**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, recorded separately - None

**16. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm, Elwick W.I Hall

Meeting concluded at 9:20pm