

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 8:03pm (Following AGM) Friday 24th May 2024 at

Elwick WI Hall

Present: Cllrs Woodward, H. Thompson, Oliver, R. Thompson, B Irving.

In Attendance: Clerk, one resident.

1. **The Public Forum:** A resident raised concern regarding the ongoing issue of resident parking along the Village Green, Cllr Woodward advised this is a matter the Parish Council are still looking into. As locations need to be identified for the signage. Concerns were also raised regarding visitors to the Diary, as cars are often left, blocking the road. It was agreed by all the signage is to read "Resident Parking Only" and signs are to be A4 size. Cllr Woodward advised he would look into the signs.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr G. Hewitt, Cllr A. Aird, Cllr Andrew-Martin Wells, PC Ben Hayes, K. Simpson.
3. **Police Report:** No report received. The Clerk advised an email had been received from Lee Mapplebeck the Rural Crime Co-ordinator, to share with the community. The email advises information received from the National Rural Crime Unit has indicated that there are early indicators farming thefts are on the increase again nationwide. Residents are reminded if everyone can be extra vigilant, report any suspicious vehicles or persons to Cleveland Police.
Not only is this a general message to owners of farming GPS & high-tech equipment, but a greater awareness is asked from those in the rural communities who have previously lost GPS units to thieves as it is quite likely they may return for the new model that may have been acquired to replace the stolen one. It was also advised, whilst we have had this warning, Cleveland has not yet seen a new wave of thefts, but the Police are aware these gangs travel up & down the country committing crime (travelling through our force area)
4. **Minutes of meeting held on 29th April 2024:** Cllr R. Thompson proposed the Minutes with Cllr H. Thompson seconding. The meeting resolved to accept the minutes as a true record and the meeting. Chair signed the minutes.
5. **Matters Arising: (i) North Farm Development:** Cllr D. Woodward, advised he has been in contact with Lovell Homes and now has a contact; John Beddoes. Cllr Woodward agreed with John, he would forward him the information that has previously been supplied to the agent i.e. the Rural Plan. John advised that they, still have not submitted the plans as they are still in the pre planning phase and in dialogue with Hartlepool Borough Council and they are awaiting further comments from them. Once they have received the information back from Hartlepool Borough Council and they have had time to review them, they would be more than happy to meet with the Parish Council.
6. **Chairmans Report: (i) Parish Meeting:** Cllr Woodward raised the issue, during the distribution of the Parish Newsletter inviting residents to the Parish meeting, the residents from outside the Village i.e. the other side of the A19 were not included in the mail drop. In the near future it is suggested the Parish Council hold a meeting for these residents. **(ii) Resident parking along the green:** See Public Forum. **(iii) Flooding at the top of the Village:** No further update has been received regarding this and the Clerk advised we are still awaiting an update from Hartlepool Borough Council.
7. **Ward Councillor's Report:** No Report Received. The Clerk advised Cllr A. Martin Wells is looking into our enquiry for a mobile camera to tackle fly tipping. Cllr A. Martin Wells has advised once they have an update, we will be advised.
8. **Playing Equipment and Playing Field Equipment Committee Report: (i)** Cllr Woodward advised the first meeting for the committee has been confirmed for Tuesday 18th June 2024, time to be confirmed. The

Clerk is to contact John Person from Affordable Landscapes to see if he can attend.

9. **Social Activities Committee Report:** (i) A meeting was held on the 7th May to discuss upcoming events. (ii) The Family Fun Day, Cllr R. Thompson advised the new date for the Family fun day will be Sunday 14th July. This is to be a non-stall event with games and sports for all, with an Ice Crema Van in attendance. The Family Fun Day will also be linked to the scarecrow competition. The venue has remained unchanged and will take place on the Village Green. Cllr D Woodward asked if the Playing Field could be considered again. Cllr R. Thompson advised The Green was chosen due to the amenities available nearby. (iii) Scarecrow Competition, this is to be themed on the Olympics and will be linked with the Family Fun Day, Scarecrows are to be out on display by the 7th July with a view to judge on or around the 12th July. (iii) Film Night, the committee would like to try a soft launch, during one of the Cuppa and Cake afternoons in the W.I hall, prior to holding a popcorn night. Cllr D. Woodward to look into setting up a trial session, potentially Tuesday 28th May. (iv) Theatre nights, this has now been postponed from June and this will be reviewed again, to take place around October time. (v) The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday 11th June at 4:30pm at the Elwick W.I Hall (after Cuppa & Cake).

10. **Village Maintenance Group Report:**

- **Tasks Awaiting:** (i) Fence on the path down to the Ghyll is still in hand, the removal of the tree is still pending, once this is complete HBC will be able to remove the fence. (ii) Telegraph poles are still being sourced as a material to build a bridge over the Ghyll. (iii) Cllr B. Irving advised some wood has been dumped in the playing field on the left-hand bank near the old bench, also some bags have been dumped beside the bin at the bottom of the church steps. (iv) A piece has glass has fallen out of one of the windows in the telephone box book exchange, Cllr A. Oliver advised he would have a look at this and see if it could be replaced. (v) A large pothole on the road on the corner at the bottom of North Lane has appeared, The Clerk is to look into this. (vi) Cllr A. Oliver raised his concern for the overgrown hedges and verges which are approaching onto the footpath on North Lane, The Clerk is to contact HBC and Cllr A Oliver is going to log the issue on the Portal. It was discussed this potentially needs to be reviewed, when completing the next concurrent, as maybe the Parish Council could take on the maintenance of this in the future.

11. **Finance:** Finance reports supplied by Clerk. The Statement of Financial transactions 30th April 2024 to 23rd May 2024 tabled below:

RECEIPTS:	Nil
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PAYMENTS:	
M Davies – Clerk Salary April 2024	419.10
Affordable Landscapes – Grass cut x2	890.40
H. Thompson Expenses – Flowers for residents Golden Wedding Anniversary	35.00
TOTAL	1344.50

The Financial reports were unanimously approved.

12. **Correspondence:** (i) See Police report. (ii) Letter received from Cllr. Brenda Harrison and Denise McGuckin to advise, *HBC recognise Parish Liaison meetings were re-introduced last year as part of the induction of the new Parish Charter, however the remit of these meetings focuses on strategic issues affecting each parish. HBC are keen to hear the Parish's voice as part of the wider governance of the Council. Via the letter HBC are keen to see if there is an interest for a Parish Council representative from each of the Parish Councils to be co-opted on each of the HBC Policy Committees as non-voting members. This would be the Parish's opportunity to influence Council decisions.* All Parish Councillors agreed, this was a good opportunity, and The Clerk is to respond to HBC to advise this is something Elwick Parish

Council are extremely interested in.

13. **Planning applications:** No Planning applications received.

14. **Matters of concern:** (i) Cllr B. Irving advised, following discussions within the community, concern has been raised over people, particularly the elderly not feeding themselves for various reasons. Cllr B Irving contacted Hartlepool's Meals on Wheels service, to see if this was an option that may benefit some of the Village residents. A representative met with Cllr B. Irving to discuss the service they offer. Hartlepool Meals on Wheels, is a registered scheme and a service which is registered as a "not for profit" organisation providing eligible residents with freshly cooked meals to order, available daily with a wide range of choices and a free dessert starting from £5.99. The Clerk advised a leaflet will be put in the Parish notice board and information will be included in the next Village life report. If anyone would like further information, details can be found by googling "Meals on Wheels Hartlepool", or "Just Heat Meals on Wheels" alternatively contact 07801745721. Councillors all agreed this was a very good scheme and would be happy to circulate the information around the village. (ii) Cllr B. Irving advised a resident has made a complaint as the minutes and agenda a missing from the Parish notice board. The Clerk advised both the locks on the Parish Notice Board have been broken for some time and is currently waiting for a quote to replace or repair both locks, as due to the recent weather paperwork has been blowing out of the notice board and littering the Village. (iii) Cllr D. Woodward advised he is going to approach the Elwick W.I (Silvia Jobson) to enquire if the Parish Council could assist with getting a grant to review the heating in the W.I Hall, i.e. a roof mounted unit. All councillors agreed if this is something the W.I would like assistance with, we should assist where we can. (iv) Cllr D. Woodward raised concern that traditional landlines are being phased out in the UK. The transition from the old analogue network to the digital system is underway. Many people will potentially still require a landline, if you contact your provider they may be able to help and provide you with a digital phone or alternatively further information regarding this transition and how to prepare for it if you have any concerns, resources like AGE UK provide detailed guidance on the changes and what to expect.

17. **Date of next meeting:** Due to various Parish Councillors commitments etc the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 20th June 2024.

Meeting concluded at 9:15pm.