

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7:00pm Thursday 26th June 2025 at Elwick WI Hall

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

In Attendance: Clerk - (M. Davies)

1. **Public Forum:** No Public Forum
2. **Declarations of interest:** None to record.
3. **Apologies:** Cllrs G. Hewitt, A. Aird.
4. **Police Report:** No police report received. The Clerk confirmed following the PC meeting on the 19th May she had emailed PC Steven Harris to enquire as to why when officers who have attended the PC meetings in recent months have advised there has been no logged incidents or issues, but the PC are aware of issues that have been reported by residents. Once an update has been provided the Clerk will this back to the PC.
5. **Minutes of AGM Parish Council meeting held 19th May 2025:** Approval of the Minutes as an accurate record, was proposed by Cllr H. Thompson, with Cllr R. Thompson seconding. The meeting then resolved to accept the minutes, and the Chairman signed the Minutes. **(i) Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held 19th May 2025:** Cllr H. Thompson advised of two typing errors whereby the word anonymously had been used instead of unanimously. Approval of the Minutes as an accurate record was proposed by Cllr D. Woodward, with Cllr H. Thompson 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 if they had any further thought on potential section 106 monies, so HBC in the near future can be updated with the Parish Councils wishes. Cllr H. Thompson suggested as a means to protect the Village Green, perhaps a post and chain fencing could be installed to prevent further vehicle damage around the edge, especially the North of the Green by the Dairy. Cllr D. Woodward asked councillors present to continue to think about potential ideas for Section 106 Monies ideas and feed them back to the next PC meeting.
7. **Chairman's Report: (i) BESS Project at Claypool:** Cllr D. Woodward advised that following on from the WhatsApp message circulated by the Clerk the project has now been put on hold indefinitely following a detailed internal review of their full pipeline of projects. It has been advised at this time, it is highly unlikely that the project will go ahead. However, should that situation change, they will re-engage with the local community prior to any planning application submission. **(ii) Around the Village:** Cllr D. Woodward noted, it seems that the residential parking sign has been removed again from the post by the McCorville. All Councillors present agreed unanimously that a sign is to be repurchased and located further up the post out of reach. It has also been noticed that residents have laid a gravel road along the north side of the green. While it isn't a huge problem, we should advise that they should notify the PC prior to commencing work on the Village Green.
8. **Ward Councillor's report:** No report received.
9. **Playing Field Committee Report: (i)** The Clerk advised after speaking to the Chair of the playing field committee for a monthly update/report, there was nothing to report this month as no meetings have been held since the last Parish Council meeting. The funding bid application for swings suitable for older children and a seesaw suitable for younger children had been submitted to the Red Gap Community Fund. **(ii)** Councillors present discussed the idea of the committee, discussing with the wider community the aspirations of the playing field. Parish Councillors discussed the requirement to provide something suitable for older children/teenagers such as a shelter and gym equipment which would also be suitable for adults. Aswell as the need for accessible equipment.
10. **Social Activities Committee Report: (i)** The Clerk advised after speaking to the Chair of the social activity committee for a monthly update/report, there was nothing to report this month as no meeting have been held since the last Parish Council meeting. **(ii)** Cllr D. Woodward advised that the sports day organised by the McCorville was unfortunately poorly attended. It was proposed that the Parish Council make arrangements with the McCorville, Spotted Cow and Coopers of Elwick along with the Social Activity Committee and Friends of St Peters to convene as soon as possible to arrange the annual event in September on the Green. The Clerk advised she had already spoken to the McCorville and they were very keen to support an event, the Friends of St Peters are also interested in working together to organise an event. It was unanimously agreed the various groups/organisations get together as soon as possible to discuss.

11. **Village Maintenance Group Report:** (i) No Report Received (ii) **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. (iii) **Village Green Grass / ground damage following unauthorised bonfire:** The Clerk advised this is ongoing as she is still awaiting a quote from Affordable Landscapes. (iv) The Clerk advised the damaged sleeper on the embankment on North Lane has now been replaced. (v) Cllr D. Woodward advised he noticed a post on North Lane that is missing its original sign and is loose. The Clerk advised she would arrange to take photo's and report it to HBC.

12. **Finance:** Finance reports were supplied by the Clerk. The Statement of Financial transactions 20th May - 30th June tabled below:

Statement of Financial Transactions 20 th May – 30 th June 2025	
RECEIPTS:	
Resident Wayleave Payment	5.00
Resident Wayleave Payment	10.35
HMRC VAT Reclaim 2024/2025	3169.50
TOTAL	3184.85
PAYMENTS	
Affordable Landscapes ref jny L369 – April Grass Cutting	890.40
H. Thompson Reimburse – Resident 90 th Birthday gift and card	27.50
M Davies Reimburse Paper and parking	11.70
Streetscape – jny 6390 & jny 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
Bank Service Charge – April 25	6.00
TOTAL	11582.23

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

PAYMENTS PENDING – Awaiting approval as of 26th June 2025	
Affordable Landscapes ref jny L455 – May Grass Cutting	934.92
D. Woodward Reimburse Printer subscription April & May	35.98
M Davies Reimburse Internet April-June, Stamps, EYF Refreshments	82.14
M Davies Clerk June Salary	419.10
TOTAL	1472.14

Councillors present unanimously approved the payments awaiting approval. Cheques were signed by Cllr D. Woodward and Cllr H. Thompson. (iii) The Clerk advised following the last Parish Council meeting she had contacted Unity Trust Bank to enquire about a debit card to support the bank account. It was advised a MultiPay card was available to the Parish Council at a set up cost of £50 and £3 per card/per month with no additional fees for transactions etc. This should eliminate the need for The Clerk and Councillors to be reimbursed for purchases made on behalf of the Parish Council e.g. Printing subscription, stationary, sundries etc. After discussion the Parish Councillors unanimously agreed the Clerk is to apply for a card and to arrange for internet banking to reduce the need for cheques wherever possible – the Clerk will arrange the payment and this would be authorised online by another signatory (Parish Councillor). The Clerk advised she always gets approval for all payments etc, Councillors unanimously agreed the clerk is to have a £500 spending limit in case of an emergency with the bank card. Cllr R. Thompson Proposed the above and it was seconded by Cllr Woodward.

13. **Correspondence:** (i) The Clerk advised an email had been received regarding the annual data protection fee for 2025/2026, this year's fee is £47 and will be debited from the Parish Council bank account on or around 29.07.2025 . (ii) The Clerk advised an email had been received from Affordable Landscapes to advise their services will be increasing in price by 5% from the 1st May 2025. It was unanimously agreed the Clerk is to arrange for the grass cutting contract to be put out for tender in October 2025 in preparation for the grass cutting season in 2026. (iii) The Clerk advised an email had been received regarding a Hartlepool Tree Survey for Parish Councillors to take part in if they wish, all Parish Councillors presented requested the Clerk forward them the survey to participate.

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

15. **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 – (ii) **H/2024/0066** – Notification of a Planning Application. Expansion of an existing trunk road service area including provision of a secure HGV parking area with ancillary truck stop building, construction of an electric vehicle charging forecourt, construction of new access roads and car parking areas, relocation of existing storage containers, and landscaping. Location: A19 Services Southbound, 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.

16. **Date of next meeting:** To be discussed on the internal WhatsApp group by Parish Councillors and confirmed as soon as possible.

Meeting concluded at 9:10pm