

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm Monday 27th January 2025 at Elwick WI Hall

Present: Cllrs R. Thompson, H. Thompson, Irving, Hewitt, Aird (From 7:12pm).

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

1. **Public Forum:** No Public Forum
2. **Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. Woodward. Cllr A. Oliver, Ward Cllr A.M Wells.
3. **Declarations of interest:** None to record.
4. **Police Report:** No Police Report .
5. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 11th December 2024:** Approval of the Minutes as an accurate record, was proposed by Cllr B. Irving, with Cllr H. Thompson seconding. The meeting then resolved to accept the minutes, and the Vice Chairman (acting Chair) signed the Minutes.
6. **Matters Arising:** **(i) Vehicle activity on the A19 slip road, into North Lane:** The Clerk provided those present with an update since the Parish Council meeting held on the 11th December. The Clerk has since spoken to Peter Frost from HBC highways department, who advised after speaking to planning it is believed this was a matter previously dealt with by Auto Link, therefore he has forwarded the details to Auto Link and is waiting for advice / information from them. The Clerk advised that whilst corresponding with Peter Frost, she had also contacted Auto Link and had spoken to a representative who confirmed that they now had the information supplied by HBC and the Parish Council. The Clerk repeated the residents concerns and was informed that the matter is now under review and included in the agenda for Auto Links next meeting. The representative from Auto Link mentioned that she would inform the Parish Council once feedback is received, she would also be contacting the relevant department within the Police force to make them aware of the situation for it to be monitored. **(ii) Village Green on North Lane:** The Clerk advised a resident had contacted the Parish Council via email expressing their concern over the vehicles parking on the Village Green, along North Lane especially during the school drop off and pick up times. Concern has been raised due to the damage caused by vehicles parking on the grassed area, resulting in the ground being badly damaged leaving ruts etc. The resident advised in the email they would be contacting the school to see if any signage could be put up to try and prevent cars parking on the grass but asked if the Parish Council would consider purchasing planters in an attempt to prevent cars parking on there. The Clerk proposed to councillors, The Parish Council approach the school to establish if they would be able to assist the Parish Council, if the Parish Council purchase planters that the Children of the school could paint, as well as supplying the school with seeds and equipment to grow plants and to plant the planters up. All councillors unanimously agreed the clerk is to approach the school to see if this is something they would be interested in assisting with and to go ahead if the school are able to assist. **(iii) Abandoned car on the Village Green:** Cllr G. Hewitt advised that the abandoned car located on the Village Green with no tax and MOT, now has stickers on it and it appears the matter is now in hand. **(iv) Section 106 Monies:** Cllr H. Thompson suggested this matter was added to the agenda for the February Parish Council meeting, with a view of inviting the Chair of the Rural Plan Group – Mr Brian Walker. **(v) Planning application ref H/2024/0359:** Cllr H. Thompson advised following the Parish Council meeting on the 11th December, it was requested that this planning application was reviewed further prior to commenting. Following feedback provided by the Rural Plan Group all Councillors present agreed they had no objection to the planning application and the Clerk is to respond accordingly.
7. **Chairman's Report:** No Report Received
8. **Ward Councillor's report:** No report received.
9. **Playing Field Committee Report:** The Clerk advised since the last Parish Council Meeting no further meetings had taken place for the Playing Field Committee. The Committee are currently waiting to hear from Grantscape

regarding the bid for two new pieces of adventure trail. The dog walk on the playing field has now been completed and the Clerk is to submit the completion report to Grantscape before 31st January 2025.

10. **Social Activities Committee Report:** Cllr H. Thompson provided an update on behalf of the Social Activities Committee. The Committee held a meeting on the 14th January to provide feedback on the last 2 events hosted. **(i) Carols around the Christmas Tree 24.12.24:** This had been well attended, however there had not been enough double-walled cups for the mulled wine. The gas heater loaned by Cllr. D Woodward was not required on this occasion, but it may be useful to have available as a standby in future. Cllr R. Thompson has purchased the mulled wine in readiness for this year's events whilst on offer. Having a barrier across the bus stop entrance proved useful. The PA system had worked well and had been much appreciated by Rev. Janet. Paul Tobin's leading of the carol singing was well received. It is suggested the Parish Council should now consider succession planting of a new Christmas Tree, as the current one was already so high it required a cherry-picker to lift the lights high enough; this could be planted at the other side of the bus shelter. After Councillors discussed this it was agreed the Clerk is to seek advice on the current tree and suggestions for an area to plant a new tree as due to tree roots in the ground, the new one would be behind the bus shelter which would not be ideal as it would not be in full view. **(ii) Children's Christmas Party 28.12.24:** Attendance had been lower than in previous years, with only 24 children present. The entertainer was excellent and Cllr B. Irving confirmed she has been rebooked for 2025 event which has been agreed for the 29th December 2024. Santa and Mrs Claus attendance was well received by the Children. **(iii) Cuppa and Cake:** It was noted that the number of attendees was down at the moment, however costs are still being covered. Everyone who attends seem to really enjoy it, and it has become an integral part of their social life. The Committee discussed the need for more storage space in the WI hall, in particular for craft supplies, which we would like to have organised in such a way that the children could access them. Cllr H. Thompson advised that she had been in contact with Ords, who currently have a cupboard in the sale which would meet the requirements and be in keeping with the other Parish Council cupboard. It measures 800mm x 400mm x 2000mm and is priced at £295 plus VAT, all councillors present agreed, Cllr H. Thompson is to arrange the purchase of the cupboard.
11. **Village Maintenance Group Report:** **(i)** No Village maintenance report received. **(ii) Book exchange kiosk repairs:** Cllr H. Thompson advised this is in hand, a piece of Perspex has been ordered and the book club will forward the invoice to the Parish Council once it is available. **(iii) Bus Shelter Repairs:** The bus shelter still requires a repaint following the arson attack, Cllr A. Oliver to follow this up. **(iv) Vegetation overgrowth around the substation at Greenlea:** The Clerk, reminded councillors Affordable landscapes provided a quote of £450 plus VAT prior to the last Parish Council meeting, this was to remove all the vegetation / stones and treat with weed killer. Councillors present expressed concern for weeds still coming through especially the ivy and asked the clerk to obtain a quote to also put a membrane on the area with new soil on top. The Clerk is to circulate the quote on WhatsApp or email once received.
12. **Finance:** Finance reports were supplied by the Clerk. The Statement of Financial transactions 30th September 2024 to 30th October 2024 tabled below:

RECEIPTS:	
NIL	0.00
TOTAL	0.00

PAYMENTS:	
Pear Technology Subscription – Nov 24 – Oct 25	132.00
Forvis Mazars – External Audit fee for year ending March 24	252.00
R. Thompson reimburse for 90 th B'day gift for resident	24.00
M. Davies – Clerk Salary December 2024	419.10
Bank Service Charge – October 2024	6.00

Bank Service Charge – November 2024	6.00
TOTAL	839.10

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

PAYMENTS PENDING – Awaiting approval	
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 Ltd – Dog Walk	3594.00
Elwick W.I Hall – SAC Meetings and Polaris Theatre night	80.00
M Davies Reimburse – Computer Mouse	5.94
M Davies – January Salary	419.10
TOTAL	4301.24

Councillors present unanimously approved the payments awaiting approval and cheques were signed by Cllr H. Thompson and Cllr. B Irving. **(ii)** The Clerk presented all Councillors present, with an actual against budget report to date for the financial year 24 / 25. **(iii)** The Clerk Presented all Councillors present with a proposed budget for 2025/2026, it was agreed that the budget for hall hire was to be increased by fifty percent, following this amendment, the proposed budget for 2025 / 2026 was approved and accepted by all councillors present.

13. Correspondence: **(i)** The Clerk advised Parish Councillors following the Parish Council meeting on the 11th December, the Parish Council had been successful with their application for £100 grant towards a .gov domain which has now been purchased using the grant. The company (Net Wise) providing the service have offered to set up a compliant .gov website and provide three .gov email address for the set up cost of £499 plus VAT then and annual fee of £275 plus VAT (Additional email address to be charged at £24 each per annum). All Parish Councillors agreed this is a service the Parish Council should go ahead with as in the near future this may become a mandatory obligation for Parish Councils. This was unanimously agreed, proposed by Cllr G. Hewitt and seconded by Cllr. H. Thompson.

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors: **(i)** Cllr G. Hewitt raised concern of the condition of the Ghyll and the ongoing issue of dog mess which is increasingly getting worse. Cllr G. Hewitt advised she will try and arrange a litter pick down in the Ghyll to clear up some of the mess and will look at the signage in the area to see if this could be improved. The Clerk is to contact HBC to see if there is any support available with the issues of litter and dog waste being left and if they can provide guidance on tackling the issue going forward.

15. Planning applications: **(i) H/2024/0005** – Notification of a Planning application. Change of use of private land to Police vehicle storage compound, perimeter fence and tree planting (retrospective) *Location: A19 Test and Tune, Trunk Road, Hartlepool. TS27 3HH.* After discussion councillors unanimously agreed they had no objection to this planning application. **(ii) P/2024/0017** – Prior Notification for the construction of an agricultural track. *Location: Middleton House Farm, Trunk Road A19, Hartlepool. TS27 3EN.* After discussion Councillors unanimously agreed they 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 24th February 2025, 7pm at Elwick WI Hall.

Meeting concluded at 20:48