

## ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm Monday 31st March 2025 at Elwick WI Hall

**Present:** Cllrs D. Woodward, H. Thompson, Irving, Oliver, Hewitt, Aird (arrived 7:11pm), R. Thompson (arrived at 7:32pm),.

**In Attendance:** M. Davies - Clerk, PC Steven Harris, Mr Richard Irvine.

1. **Public Forum:** No Public Forum
2. **Declarations of interest:** None to record.
3. **Apologies:** Cllr A. Martin-Wells
4. **Police Report:** PC Steven Harris advised prior to the meeting he ran a report for any reported issues in the area in the last 12 months and nothing had been fed into the system via 101 or 999. PC Harris reiterated the importance of residents reporting any anti-social behaviour or suspicious activities via 101. He is also supplied the Parish Council with his email address and contact number and advised if any resident wished to contact him directly or leave him a message (if not on shift) regarding non-emergency issues or if anyone would like to report any intelligence, he was more than happy for his details to be passed on. He is also happy for his contact details to be circulated on the rural WhatsApp group. He advised the back roads around Elwick and surrounding Villages are being used by criminals, as well as the roads coming in from Durham, again he asked people to report issues when witnessed so Officers could be assigned to investigate.

PC Harris left the meeting @ 7:33pm

5. **Mr Richard Irvine – on Behalf of Sheraton:** The Clerk introduced Mr Richard Irvine to Councillors who is the Chair of Sheraton Parish Meeting. Mr Irvine talked about the recent consultation regarding the Clay Pool Battery Storage Farm, predominantly located in the Sheraton Parish but also including a small section situated in the Elwick Parish. He advised the Sheraton Parish potentially will be objecting as a whole, to any planning applications submitted relating to the battery storage, due to the increasing industrialisation of the area, especially coming out of Hart Village and now in the Sheraton area. Mr Irvine also raised concern of the visual impact the potential planning may have on the local area. Cllr Woodward advised himself and the Clerk had recently had a digital meeting with Nat Power regarding the potential application he believed they were lacking with information to demonstrate the visual impact the project would have. It was agreed Mr Irvine and the Clerk would stay in contact regarding the proposal as the project is planned between the two Parishes.

Mr Irvine left the meeting at 7:48pm

6. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> February 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.
7. **Matters Arising: (i) Section 106 Monies:** Cllr Woodward advised this was not brought up at the recent Parish Liaison meeting, he asked councillors to keep thinking of ideas to enable us to update our requirements with HBC **(ii) Nat Power – Recent announcement of intended planning application:** Please refer to point 5 and point 8 (Chairman's report). **(iii) Red Gap Funding – Potential Idea's:** The Clerk reminded councillors the deadline for Red Gap funding is 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025. Cllr Oliver suggested a sign which could be located on The Green. It was agreed Cllr Oliver is to look into potential suppliers and ideas. Cllr H. Thompson suggested a new notice board which could replace the current one on The Green, as the current notice board, is difficult to use and it would be beneficial if we could display the Village map and information on the opposite side etc. It was also agreed for the residents to be asked for suggestions at the Annual Parish Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 25.
8. **Chairman's Report: (i) Liaison Meeting:** Cllr Woodward advised he recently attended the Parish Liaison Meeting where it was discussed, the lack of consultation on the North Farm development. Obviously very late to discuss this, but the matter was raised due to the Parish Council and residents concern. HBC also noted that Hartlepool has met its planned housing requirements for various sites. It was also suggested that Elwick Parish and the other Parishes in the area have a session with the HBC Planning Group to review what is mapped as Village green and Common Land in various Parishes, so we can have an up to date digital map for our reference. HBC representatives advised the bypass will be going back into planning for some required changes that need approval, as a result this will delay the process. From the meeting Cllr Woodward was told that the compulsory purchase order work is still in progress. **(ii) Nat Power - Battery Development:** Cllr Woodward advised the Clerk and himself held a digital meeting with the developer for them to run through their proposals and give an understanding of the project. The developers took time in explaining the plans and provided more detail into their processes. They emphasised a net Biodiversity gain for the project. 40 years to 50 years is the life span for now. There was some discussion on the technical aspects of what was planned and they are hoping to put in for planning in the next month or so. It was advised only the entrance to the A19 is in Elwick Parish. Cllr Woodward explained he had also had a discussion with a concerned resident about access to the site, either from the A19 or from

Pudding Poke and Coal Lane. **(iii) Popcorn Night Licence.** Cllr Woodward advised he has now renewed the MPLC Licence to be able to show films (in the background) in the WI Hall. Cllr Woodward believes this is an opportunity to get people together and would therefore like to look into running a couple of events – one aimed at children, one aimed at adults in the very near future. **(iv) Section 106:** Cllr Woodward advised he would like to set up a meeting with HBC to review the Parish Councils current section 106 priorities, with a firm intention to also mention funding if possible for future school's projects. **(v) Propose Sale of Land Between Elwick Village and the Bypass for Housing:** Cllr Woodward advised he only became aware of this shortly before the meeting via a Facebook post on the Elwick Village Facebook page. He advised he would like to investigate what commitments have been made in the Local and Rural Neighbourhood Plans for limiting development. He commented as far as he and the Parish Council are aware there was mention that the bypass would not be opening up the land for development, but again this is another issue the Parish Council need to investigate that further.

9. **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.
10. **Playing Field Committee Report:** The Clerk advised a report had been received from the Playing Field Committee Chair. St Peters school are still to vote on the new piece adventure trail, to replace the original chosen piece which is no longer recommended for the playing field, the deadline for the schools decision is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Streetscape will then be advised immediately with the hope work can be completed by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025. Cllr Woodward asked if this deadline could be brought forward with Streetscape so the new pieces can be installed before the half term, which is week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> May, The Clerk is to advise the playing committee and speak to Streetscape. **(ii)** The Playing field committee is scheduled to hold its next meeting on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April, to discuss ideas that could be presented to the Parish Council for potential submission as part of the Grantscape bid. **(iii)** The Committee have obtained a quote from Streetscape to carry out a service on the zipwire. The service could be carried out whilst the new pieces of adventure trail are installed at £475 plus VAT. Councillors unanimously agreed the zip wire service is to be arranged by The Clerk. **(vi)** Cllr. Woodward advised he would discuss during the playing fields next meeting the current signage on site, as this needs to be renewed now the new dog walk has been installed.
11. **Social Activities Committee Report:** **(i)** Cllr H. Thompson provided an update on the Social Activities Committee based on the last recorded minutes. The VE Day event planned for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May is now well underway. Flyers will be distributed shortly. **(ii)** The recent easter egg hunt held on 21<sup>st</sup> April was a success with 37 children attending in total. **(iii)** SAC have proposed they hold a mid-summer event on the 21<sup>st</sup> June. This would be an opportunity to resurrect the sports event which was unfortunately cancelled last year due to the bad weather. **(vi)** The next SAC meeting is to be confirmed. **(v)** Cllr D. Woodward asked if there was any plans to hold a Gig on the Green this year, SAC members present advised for 2025, there was no plans to hold this event. It was unanimously agreed The Clerk is to enquire if the Friends of St Peters, The pubs, Shop etc would be interested in hosting an event.

*Councillor Aird left the meeting at 9:10pm*

12. **Village Maintenance Group Report:** **(i) Bus Shelter repairs:** Cllr R. Thompson advised he has now obtained the paint required and will arrange for the bus shelter to be painted as soon as possible. **(ii) Village Green Grass / ground damage following unauthorised bonfire:** The Clerk advised she has spoken to John Pearson to provide a quote to carry out the necessary repairs to restore The Green, she has chased this but to date has not received the quote. Once in receipt of the quote she will arrange for a letter to be sent to the pubs and shop. **(iii) Embankment on North Lane:** As agreed at the Parish Council meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, the Clerk has instructed Affordable Landscapes to carry out the work to replace the damaged sleeper. **(iv)** Cllr Irving asked if there was any update on the bench outside the WI Hall, it was unanimously agreed Cllr. R Thompson is to arrange bench in the shed to be brought out of storage and for Jamie Thomson to be asked to remove the brackets etc to install the replacement bench. **(v)** Cllr Woodward suggested the Parish Council obtain some white masonry paint, brushes etc and The Clerk is to enquire if the Young Farmers would be interested in helping paint the stones on The Green – This was unanimously agreed. **(vi)** Cllr Woodward suggested a bench is installed on North Lane to replace the one that was stolen also one is to be installed on Church Bank, it was unanimously agreed the Clerk is to ask Affordable Landscapes to get four of the large stones previously obtained by the Parish Council to construct these benches.
13. **Finance:** Finance reports were supplied by the Clerk. The Statement of Financial transactions 1st March 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March tabled below:

RECEIPTS:	
Resident Wayleave Payment	5.00
Resident Wayleave Payment	5.00
Resident Wayleave Payment	5.00
Resident Wayleave Payment	5.00
Resident Wayleave Payment	5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25.00</b>

PAYMENTS:	
Elwick W.I Hall – Hire Charges September – March 25	120.00
D. Woodward Reimburse – Printer Subscription Jan – March 25	35.97
M. Davies – Reimburse materials for planters and internet/Phone Feb – Mar 25	68.70
M. Davies – Clerk Salary March 2025	419.10
Affordable Landscape – Greenlea, Playing field & Eqp works and March Grass cut	6626.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7270.17</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 – April Clerk Salary	419.10
D. Woodward Reimburse – Film Licence 2025 / 2026	162.82
SLCC Membership 2025/2026	110.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>691.92</b>

Councillors present unanimously approved the payments awaiting approval. The Clerk also advised she has made arrangements for the required documents to be handed into Mr Tom Atkinson of WM Fortune & son on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**14. Correspondence:** **(i)** The Clerk advised as per her email to all councillors on 28<sup>th</sup> April the 2025 / 2026 insurance renewal documents had been received. It was asked if Councillors would review these documents prior to the AGM meeting. **(ii)** Following the last Parish Council meeting The Clerk advised she had been in contact with Peter Frost at HBC regarding the drains in the Village. Peter is going to arrange for the team to call in to the Village to access the drains in North Lane, North Close and along the Green and carry out any necessary work. If any residents have any concerns of other drains in the Village, they are asked to get in touch with The Clerk and she can advise Peter accordingly to investigate.

**15. Matters of Concern to Councillors:** **(i)** Cllr R. Thompson advised Councillors as of June 2025, he will also have other commitments and as a result he will not be able to attend Parish Council meeting on time if they are held on a Monday, he asked if the other Parish Councillors present would consider holding the Parish Council meetings on an alternative evening from June 2025, after discussion Parish Councillors present unanimously agreed from June 2025, that if it was OK with the WI Hall, Parish Council meetings would be held on the last Thursday of each month at the normal time of 7pm. **(ii)** Councillors present raised concern of the current state and deterioration of Martindale House on The Green, it was unanimously agreed the Clerk is to contact HBC for advice. **(iii)** Cllr H. Thompson advised a resident had recently celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday as agreed via the Parish Council WhatsApp group a £25 gift voucher was purchased and the gift had been delivered to the resident. **(iv)** Cllr H. Thompson advised for the annual Parish Meeting herself and Councillor B. Irving would organise refreshments for the evening and Cllr R. Thompson advised he would purchase the wine for after the meeting had finished. Cllr D. Woodward advised he would compile some slides to present to the residents etc.

**16. 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. – Parish Councillors present discussed the objection the Parish Council have already submitted, and discussed whilst the Parish Council are not against development they will continue to try and discuss the plans etc with the developers. **(ii) H/2024/0180** – Notification of a Planning Application. Installation of ground mounted photo-voltaic (solar) farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure. Location: High Barnes Farm, Coal Lane, Elwick, Hartlepool. TS27 3HD. – The Parish Councillors present unanimously agreed they continue to support this application. **(iii) H/2025/0091** – Notification of a Planning Application. Erection of a single storey front and side extension and application of render to external walls (installation of roof lights). Location: 8 North Lane, Elwick, Hartlepool TS27 3EG - The Parish Councillors present discussed this application and unanimously agreed they support this application. **(iv) H/2025/0100** - Notification of a Planning Application. Erection of a two storey side and rear extension and single storey front and side extension (partial demolition of existing dwelling and construction of hardstanding to front). Location: 8 Greenlea. Elwick, Hartlepool. TS27 3DY - The Parish Councillors present discussed this application and 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, recorded separately - None

**16. Date of next meeting:** The next scheduled meeting is 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025, due to this being a Bank Holiday Monday The Clerk is to contact the WI Hall to check available for available dates around this date – Available dates to be circulated on WhatsApp and date will be confirmed on Facebook and a Notice will be put in the Notice Board.

Meeting concluded at 10:07pm