

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm Monday 29th April 2024 at Elwick WI Hall

Present: Cllrs Woodward, H. Thompson, Oliver, Hewitt, Aird (From 7:15pm), R. Thompson (From 8:05pm)

In Attendance: Clerk, 2 resident (left at 7:20pm), 1 resident.

1. **The Public Forum: (i)** Two, residents were in attendance to discuss the recent planning application ref: H/2024/001 – Enhancement of an existing truck road service area including provisions of a secure HGV parking area, ancillary truck stop building, EV charging hub and landscaping and mounding arrangements. It was highlighted to the Parish Councillor's, the safety aspect of the egress slip road from Ron Perrys and the safety implications this could potentially have on neighbouring properties due to the increase of traffic exiting the services. The other issues discussed where the litter issues that the current service station pose along with the absence of information and facts provided on the Highways report relating to incidents on this stretch of road. **(ii)** A resident raised their concern regarding fly tipping in the area mainly an incident on Coal lane, the incident was flagged to the police as the entire highway was blocked, however they advised it was a Hartlepool Borough Council issue and Hartlepool Borough Council advised it was a Police issue. It was advised Hartlepool Borough Council now have remote camera's and the Clerk, is to contact Hartlepool Borough Council to see if these could be scheduled to be set up in our Parish.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr B. Irving, Cllr T. Oliver, Cllr Andrew-Martin Wells, PC Ben Hayes, K. Simpson.
3. **Police Report:** No report received.
4. **Minutes of meeting held on 25th March 2024:** Cllr H. Thompson proposed the Minutes with Cllr D. Woodward 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:** No further update has been received. This is still in the hands of the developer, no plans have been submitted yet. Cllr D. Woodward advised he would contact the developer's again to ask if they got the Parish Council's feedback, if they would like to hold a public meeting to discuss their plans and what are the next step's within the development, All Councillor's agreed this was to be the next action. **(ii) Red Gap potential ideas for future project funding:** All Councillors agreed this year the Parish Council will not be submitting a Red Gap Grant Application as we will be focusing on potential idea's for the 2025 applications. **(iii) Rural Security:** An email was received from the Rural Crime Team regarding Rural Security. Residents are to be advised there has been a noticeable increase in incidents including the theft of fuel, machinery and power tools within the neighbouring forces rural area. Residents are kindly reminded where possible, to park vehicles to block access routes, ensure gates are closed and locked, store fuel/machinery/power tools in a securely locked building or location. To enable the police to help residents, it is urged any suspicious activity is reported to the police (record any vehicle details / personal description, where possible). Police patrols have been increased, if any resident would like a visit to discuss security and target hardening techniques they are more than welcome to email Lee Mapplebeck the Rural Crime Co-ordinator or contact the local neighbourhood team. Councillors also discussed the recent Facebook post on our Facebook page, where it notified residents to be aware around Martindale of recent activity whereby nails / screws had been reported on the lane, gate locks have been glued and bins have been thrown across the lane. **(iv) Passing points on the Hart to Elwick back roads:** Cllr H. Thompson, advised after speaking to Hartlepool Borough Council regarding the condition of the back road, it was confirmed the responsibility of the passing points along the road where

responsibility of the respective landowners. Cllr H. Thompson has since spoken with the landowner and they are quite happy to supply the labour to fill in the passing points with rubble or dolomite but asked if the Council would assist in supplying the material to do so. Peter Frost from Hartlepool Borough Council is now looking into this and we are awaiting feedback on whether they will be able to supply the landowner with the required materials to carry out the work.

6. **Chairmans Report: (i) Village Playing field:** The Chairman confirmed the new signs to instruct there are no dogs allowed in the playing area has now been displayed on the play tower, as specifically dogs are not permitted on the Children's play area, hopefully we can continue to drive this message forward – The playing fields are for children to use, not a dog exercise or toilet area. The council has invested money to create a through path to the Ghyll for Dog walkers and are looking at improving the footpath through there. **(ii) Resident parking along the green:** Cllr Woodward is looking into locations to put the potential signage once it is ordered. It was also noted the sign on the Village Green for "No Parking" needs replacing. **(iii) Flooding at the top of the Village:** Flooding is back again at the top of the Village, the Clerk advised the latest update from Hartlepool Borough Council was, they are in discussion with the landowners and will advise once they have a update. **(iv)** Cllr Woodward advised after a recent issue with a fly-tipper disposing of a pile of leaflets at the top of the village, the company involved was contacted to remove the leaflets, after an abrupt response from the company involved they still failed to remove the pile of leaflets.

7. **Ward Councillor's Report:** No Report Received. Clerk to invite all Ward Councillors to the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 8th May at 6pm.

8. **Playing Equipment and Playing Field Equipment Committee Report: (i)** Cllr Woodward advised he noticed a worker from Hartlepool Borough Council on site at the playing field, when approached they advised they were carrying out an inspection. Cllr Woodward advised we were still awaiting the annual inspection report but at this inspection it was advised the zip wire equipment needs a new step and handrail. All Councillors agreed the step needs replacing as soon as possible and the Clerk is to contact Affordable Landscapes to carry this out, Cllr Woodward is to reconvene with the subcommittee members and see if Darren Can assist with the handrail. The tyre on the equipment may have been installed incorrectly and the plastic sleeve on the equipment should be replace with a rubber one. **(ii)** It was agreed by all Councillor's the first two bits on the trail need removing and the wood boarding needs removing and as a temporary solution a trench is to put around and filled level with soil. Cllr Woodward is going to try and sand the damage on the see-saw to see if it can be smoothed. **(iii)** Clerk is to chase Affordable Landscapes again to complete the installation of the two picnic benches.

9. **Social Activities Committee Report: (i)** A meeting was held on the 10th April to review the Eater Egg hunt and discuss future events. **(ii)** The Easter Egg hunt was a successful event and the format worked very well. **(iii)** Future events in planning are "The Gig On The Green", this has now been amended from a music only event to a music and stalls event. Arrangements have now started and Cllr R. Thompson has the contact details of two bands and Cllr D. Woodward advised he would forward the details onto Cllr R. Thompson for another band. **(iii)** Family Fun Day, this has moved from May to the newly proposed date of Sunday 28th July which works in with the Olympic Games in Paris. It was recommended by Cllr. D Woodward that the event is brought forward to Sunday 14th July, as this would be a better option as the Children will have already broken up for the Summer Holidays on the 28th July with many Families within the Village being away on Holiday. Cllr R. Thompson confirmed he would feed this back to the subcommittee members at the next meeting. Cllr D. Woodward also suggest the Family Fun Day also takes place on the playing field as opposed to the Village Green as it would be safer for Children, a BBQ could be organised and families could be encouraged to bring food to the event to be cooked on the BBQ, as this is not a fund raising event. It was also suggested an ice cream van is invited to be in attendance. **(iv)** Other

suggested events are a theatre night, a film licence has now been obtained so we can arrange Popcorn nights with a film playing in the back ground, also there is an idea the Popcorn night couple be based on various themes i.e. 80's night, Rocky Horror Show. It is hoped the idea could be tested at one of the Cuppa and Cake afternoons. As a Childrens club could be ran from the Autumn. There is a large selection of films available for lots of idea's.

(v) The next scheduled meeting for the Social Activities committee is Tuesday 7th May at 4:30pm at the Elwick W.I Hall (after Cuppa & Cake). Wednesday 10th March 2024.

10. Village Maintenance Group Report:

- **Tasks Awaiting:** **(i)** Fence on the path down to the Ghyll is now in hand, as soon as the tree is removed, HBC will be able to remove the fence. **(ii)** It has been suggested if a couple of telegraph poles could be sourced, a bridge could be made with them. **(iii)** The next big Village Clean-up is Sunday 12th May, Cllr Aird, suggested in the future we could possibly look into holding a little BBQ for the volunteers.

11. Finance: Finance reports supplied by Clerk. The Statement of Financial transactions 26th March 2024 to 29th April 2024 tabled below:

RECEIPTS:	
Wayleave Payment Received	10.00
Wayleave Payment Received	5.00
Wayleave Payment Received	10.00
Wayleave Payment Received	5.00
Wayleave Payment Received	5.00
Wayleave Payment Received	5.00
Grantscape - Kiosk	5102.00
Grantscape – Silent Generator	3729.00
Grantscape – Battery Bank	2300.82
Hartlepool Borough Council	16302.00
TOTAL	27473.82

PAYMENTS:	
M Davies – Clerk Salary (March 24)	419.10
Affordable Landscapes – 1x Grass Cut	428.40
D Woodward Expenses – Defib Equipment & Sign for play field	163.18
M Davies Expenses – Stationary supplies	6.55
D Woodward Expenses – MPLC Film licence 17.04.24 – 16.04.25	151.32
SLCC – Clerks Membership	120.00
H Thompson Expenses – Retirement gift for previous clerk	99.99
Bank Service Charge (31.03.24)	18.00
TOTAL	1406.54

The Financial reports were unanimously approved.

12. **Correspondence:** (i) Email received from Lee Maplebeck, Rural Crime Co-ordinator advising of the noticeable increase in incidents involving the theft of fuel, machinery and power towels within neighbouring forces rural areas. He advised Police patrols have been increased, if anyone requires a visit to discuss security and target hardening techniques to contact himself or the local neighbourhood team. (ii) Clerk advised the Parish Council have now received a free, framed portrait of King Charles III, all councillors agreed the W.I were to be approached to see if the new portrait could be displayed within the W.I hall. Clerk to speak to the W.I.

13. **Planning applications:**

(i) **Ref: H/2024/0001**, Proposal of enhancement of an existing trunk road service area including provision 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) **Ref: H/2022/0255**, Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural grain and drier building. Location: High Stotfold Farm West, Truck Road A19, Hartlepool. TS27 3HJ.

(iii) **Ref: H/2020/0387**, Amended landscape and ecological management plan, ecological appraisal and proposed illustration site layout. Location: Land at Quarry Farm, Elwick Road, Hartlepool. TS26 0LH.

14. **Matters of concern:** (i) Cllr H. Thompson advised the Village book club have shown a very keen interest and have kindly offered to look after the book exchange kiosk, all councillors agreed. The shelves within the Kiosk still need to be completed and the jigsaws need to be put in there. Cllr H. Thompson advised the kiosk is staying dry and the lamp post is providing sufficient lighting in there. (ii) Cllr H. Thompson advised we have residents within the Village shortly approaching the celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, it was agreed by all Cllr H. Thompson to confirm the date and arrange flowers and card etc. (iii) Elwick Parish Council currently own ten laptops, it was agreed by all the Clerk is to contact St Peters School to ask if they would like the laptops along with the charging/storage cabinet. (iv) Cllr D. Woodward advised it might be a good idea to start looking at a solar panel that would be able to power a de-humidifier in the Parish Council storage shed to prevent dampness.

17. **Date of next meeting:** Due to the bank holiday Monday the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Friday 24th May 2024.

Meeting concluded at 9:35pm.