

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm Monday 6th November 2024 at Elwick WI Hall

Present: Cllrs R. Thompson, H. Thompson, Irving.

In Attendance: M. Davies - Clerk, 1 resident, PCSO Yasmin Clavert

1. **Public Forum:** (i) A resident expressed their ongoing concerns regarding the gated entrance of land situated on the A19, just off the slip road coming into North Lane. Since the last Parish Council meeting it has been observed that signage has been damaged on the highway as a result of the activity in the area, also the Clerk advised everyone present of another residents email raising safety concerns after witnessing a near miss involving a HGV exiting the gateway and a car using the slip road. PCSO Yasmin Calvert (YC) advised she had been informed of the concerns of residents and after speaking to her supervisor she had been advised this was an issue for the Local Highways department, as there is very little the Police can assist with unless they witness an illegal manoeuvre. Since YC was made aware of the issue, a speedwatch in an attempt to capture illegal manoeuvres was set up in North Lane, however the gateway in question was not in view and no activity was monitored. The Clerk advised following the last meeting Peter Frost (HBC Highways) had been contacted to advise of the concerns but no feedback had been received back, YC advised she had been advised by Peter Frost there was nothing that could be done except for the signage to be reviewed in the area. Cllr R. Thompson brought to YC attention the gateway in question was never granted planning permission as HBC turned the application for the use of the gateway down and the Parish Council supported HBC decision at the time. YC advised with this information she will now contact planning to confirm this and she will also contact Peter Frost to attend the Village to view the area or ask if he can attend a future PC meeting and escalate the concerns. Councillors also asked YC why a speedwatch was set up in North Lane with no view of the area of concern, YC advised she will now escalate this to the traffic department and ask for their assistance in monitoring it. YC confirmed due to the residents and Parish Councils concern she will be speaking to her sergeant this evening to arrange for a Police officer (s?) to attend the property to speak to the owner regarding the concerns. The Clerk is also to contact Peter Frost for further feedback and contact National Highways to establish if this is something they can assist with. Parish Councillors all present expressed to YC their extreme concern on the matter and the urgency to act on the issue as this is a great concern and needs to be taken seriously before an incident occurs due to the ongoing activity on the area.

Resident left the meeting at 19:28

2. **Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. Woodward, G. Hewitt. A. Aird, A. Oliver.
3. **Police Report:** PCSO Yasmin Calvert (YC) advised the main issue was as per the Public Forum the ongoing issue on the A19. YC advised that she had checked the police report and no reports of anti social or criminal damage had been received within the Elwick Parish.

Yasmin Calvert left the meeting at 19:39

4. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 6th November 2023:** 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 Chairman signed the Minutes.
5. **Matters Arising: (i) Red Gap Funding:** The Clerk advised due to this evening meeting being postponed an email was forwarded to all councillors as the closing date for applications was the 6th November 2024. The Playing Field Committee had prepared a potential idea for a submission bid for two pieces of playing equipment to replace four pieces of equipment that is no longer suitable for the playing field due to its deteriorating condition. With no other ideas prepared the Clerk had asked Parish Councillors for their consent to submit an application on behalf of the Playing Field Committee. The clerk advised following the consent of five Parish Councillors an application had successfully been submitted. An update on the progression of the application will be provided as

soon as one becomes available. **(ii) North Farm Development:** The Clerk advised an email had been received from John Beddoes on behalf of Lovell Homes to advise, Lovell are continuing discussions with HBC regarding the North Farm development. Once in a suitable position to do so both himself and Phil Jones (Head of Land at Lovell) will both be happy to discuss the proposals with the Parish. **(iii) Bonfire on the Village Green:** It was noted that a bonfire was held on the Village green without the Parish Council receiving any requests nor did the Parish Council express any permission for a bonfire to be constructed and held on the Village Green. The Chairman advised he has been informed by a resident the funds raised on the night will cover the costs to arrange for the damaged green to be repaired and this will be organised by the necessary people.

6. **Chairman's Report:** **(i)** Cllr. D. Woodward advised he is still looking into suitable locations to display the resident only parking signs. Once these have been located, appropriate signage will be purchased and displayed at the earliest opportunity. **(ii)** Following the last Parish Council meeting, Cllr D. Woodward advised he is still looking into shipping containers that may be suitable to convert into a storage facility for the Parish Council. He is continuing to research the different options that will be suitable for the Parish Councils requirements. **(iii)** Cllr D. Woodward raised concern regarding a limb, resting against the existing Parish Council shed of a tree in close proximity. Cllr R. Thompson advised he would speak to Jamie Thompson, to see if this could be removed safely to prevent any damage to the Parish Council shed. **(iv)** Cllr D. Woodward asked if Cllr R. Thompson could provide feedback following the recent Emergency Planning Meeting held at Hartlepool Civic Centre. Cllr R. Thompson advised the Parish Council he attended the meeting along with the Clerk to represent Elwick Parish. It was a very informative meeting, whereby it was discussed the work involved in Emergency situations such as Storm Arwen, Covid etc. Elwick Parish were able to share their experiences on dealing with Covid within the community. The Rural Parish Councils asked if the Emergency Planning teams would consider looking at ways in supporting the rural community for instance during the foot and mouth pandemic, to which they advised it was something for them to look into. The Emergency planning team advised they are keen to work with the Parish Councils and would like to involve the communities in working on potential emergency situations that could potentially arise. All Parish Councillors agreed, this would be a good opportunity to invite the team to the annual Parish Meeting, which will be held in 2025.
7. **Ward Councillor's report:** No Ward Councillor's report received. The clerk advised that Cllr. Andrew Martin Wells had reported no new issues and sent his apologies.
8. **Playing Field Committee Report:** On behalf of Natalie Connor Chair of the Playing Field Committee the Clerk read out the October 2024 report. Over the last few months the committee has focused on looking at current issues in the playing field: damaged equipment that needs to be removed, maintenance issues, anti-social behaviour / crime on the field. Their current priorities have been working on a potential Grantscape funding bid whereby they have been working along side the Junior Leadership Team of St Peters School, who have been thrilled with supporting the committee in selecting two pieces of potential equipment to replace the four damaged sections of the adventure trail. The Junior Leadership Team have presented their results to the committee and they are now awaiting a quote based on the results from Sovereign play. The Committee have put forward the suggestion of this project being a potential bid for the Grantscape funding (see point 5 (i) - Matters Arising). Updated quotes have now being received in relation to the dog walk in which funding is already available, however the funds need to be utilised shortly whilst they are available. Two companies have provided quotes and the committee would like to suggest OJM Landscaping who have provided a quote of £2995 plus VAT to carry out the required work. This would include a 4 rail fence and two gates. Once given the go ahead OJM will be able to commence the work within 4 weeks, if the weather makes the ground unsuitable for a tractor and track mats the work will be carried out by hand. All parish Councillors agreed unanimously for OJM to be awarded the contract, the Clerk is to contact Grantscape in order to proceed etc. The long term vision is to co-develop a 10 year strategy alongside the Junior Leadership Team of St Peters school. The JLT are excited about doing this and have provisionally agreed to carry out a site visit in November , where the pupils can map out the current facilities and discuss the areas that are unsafe and that need attention. Sub Committee members have met with two play groups whom have provided an insight into possible options for the re-design. The committee are now looking to the Parish Council in support in providing them with idea's on funding the playing fields development.

9. **Social Activities Committee Report:** Minna Ireland, Chair of the Social Activities Committee advised the committee are well into planning the annual Christmas Fayre which is being held on Friday 15th November from 5pm to 8pm in the Spotted Cow and The Coopers of Elwick Shop. The Shop is putting up decorations in preparations to host Santa. The Spotted cow is hosting stalls in the bar and in The Cow Shed. They have volunteers available to monitor all the SAC stalls along with the raffle etc. The Theatre night (Polaris The Snow Bear) is also going well with nearly half the tickets selling during the early bird offer in October. Bad Apple Theatre group providing the show have been in attendance in the Village in recent years with other productions and proved to be a success. The SAC are planning on holding a tuck shop and raffle during the event. The Annual children's Christmas Party is now in planning for Saturday 28th December, to date the entertainer, WI Hall have been booked. The committee are still discussing food options for the event. The Committee are shortly to begin discussions regarding the Carols around the tree on Christmas Eve. The Committee have agreed due to the current volume of scheduled events the popcorn nights have been postponed until January 2025. Cllr. D. Woodward advised he would look into this and see if there was anything he could assist with to bring this forward.
10. **Village Maintenance Group Report:** (i) No Village maintenance report received. (ii) The Clerk advised that correspondence had been received from HBC in relation to a residents concern regarding overgrown vegetation on the footpath in The Walk, along with roots of trees uprooting the tarmac on the footpath. HBC have advised they have both matters in hand. (iii) Councillors raised concern regarding the tree roots uprooting the footpath on the corner of North Lane/ The Green. The Clerk is to contact HBC to ask them to review and advise. (iv) Cllr H. Thompson advised in the spring, the cobbled area on The Green, which was treated with weed killer in September will potentially need re treating to prevent the weeds coming back through. (v) The Clerk advised since the last meeting Cllr G. Hewitt has spent numerous hours cutting back the overgrowth on the entrance to Greenlea, she has now done as much as she can with the tools she has. The Clerk advised she has received a quote from Affordable Landscapes of £450 per day plus VAT (it is estimated it will not take more than a day). Councillors discussed the overgrowth is an ongoing issue and asked the Clerk to obtain a quote to remove all the vegetation as it is problematic for road users reducing visibility on the road.
11. **Finance:** Finance reports supplied the Clerk. The Statement of Financial transactions 30th September 2024 to 30th October 2024 tabled below:

RECEIPTS:	
NIL	0.00
TOTAL	0.00

PAYMENTS:	
Affordable Landscapes Ref inv K671 & K687 – Grass Cutting / Work on Church Bk	1160.40
H. Thompson – Expenses Flowers for M Carswell	35.00
M. Davies – Expenses, Playing field camera, stamps, stationary	25.75
M. Davies - Clerk September Salary	419.10
Bank Service Charge	18.00
D Woodward – Expenses printing subscription (28 th July to 27 th October)	104.97
Elwick W.I Hall – Rural Plan meeting	30.00
M. Davies – Clerk Salary October 2024	419.10
Affordable Landscapes Ref Inv K777	890.40
M. Davies – Expenses, Stationary(Paper) and Internet Reimbursement (Aug – Oct)	65.85

TOTAL	3168.57
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The Financial reports were unanimously approved. **(ii)** The Clerk presented the Councillors with a summary of outgoings to date compared to the budget, to enable councillors to start thinking about the upcoming budget for 2025/2026. **(iii)** For the next meeting the Clerk is to provide an actual against budget showing the SAC balance along with the Rural Planning Group balance.

12. Correspondence:

(i) Correspondence received from Denise McGuckin, Managing Director of HBC, regarding the process of naming streets on new developments within the Parish area's. Developers propose names and the local authority approves or disapproves of them, it was asked whether or not the Parishes could be involved in this process where a new development occurs within their Parish. After discussion with Kieran Bostock (assistant Director for Neighbourhoods), it is suggested if a Parish wish to suggest any names for consideration once the development is approved at planning, they can email Kieran direct and he will link up with the developer and the Highways department. For clarity, street names is different to development names as we have no control over these. They are essentially a marketing tool for the developer.

13. Matters of Concern to Councillors: **(i)** Cllr H. Thompson raised concern over water stating to come into the kiosk book exchange. It was suggested that a sheet of Perspex plastic is put in between the glass side and the book shelves to prevent any damage to the books and jigsaws. Cllr D. Woodward advised he would inspect the glass to establish if any are loose and if they could be sealed with silicone. **(ii)** Cllr B. Irving reminded the Parish Council that the bus shelter still needs painting following the arson attack.

At the request of Cllr. R. Thompson, Chair Cllr D. Woodward asked for the public to be excluded prior to the Parish Councillors discussing the next item on the agenda. Both residents present left the meeting at 20:42.

14. Planning applications: **(i) H/2024/0288 – Notification of a planning application.** Erection of two-storey extension to rear, single story extension to front with mono-pitch canopies (installation of roof lights to front and rear): Location: 19 & 21 North Lane, Elwick, Hartlepool. TS27 3EG. – After discussion amongst the Parish Councillors, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council is in support of this application. **(ii) H2020/0387 – Notification of a planning application.** Outline application with all matters reserved, except for access, for residential development comprising up to 475 dwellings, and including a local centre comprising retail (400sqm) and associated infrastructure. Location: Land at Quarry Farm, Elwick Road, Hartlepool. TS26 0LH. – the notification related to an amended landscaping and ecological management plan and amended aboricultural impact assessment. Councillors unanimously agreed they still objected to this development and this was to be reiterated to HBC.

Chair Cllr D.Woodward left the meeting at 20:59 and Vice – Chair Cllr R. Thompson took the Chair at 21:00.

(iii) H/2024/320 – Notification of a planning application. Tree works within the Elwick Conservation area Crown Lift 1 no. Sycamore to the Eastern boundary of the property. Location: 11 The Green, Elwick, Hartlepool. TS27 3ED – Parish Councillors unanimously agreed they were in support of this application. **(iii) H/2024/001 – Notification of a planning application.** Enhancement of an existing truck 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. This notification is in relation to updated drainage details, construction management plan and associated plans. Nutrient neutrality details. Councillors unanimously agreed they were in support of this application and to reiterate the last response submitted to HBC. **(iv) 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 unanimously agreed to support this application.

17. Date of next meeting: Monday 25th October 2024, 7pm at Elwick WI Hall.

Meeting concluded at 21:09pm.