

## Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 9 April, 2026

**Present:** Councillors, M. Stuchfield (Chair), A. Bell, L. Cook, J. Lister and D. Renton – M. Chilvers, Clerk.  
R. Simmance, B. Lewins and G. Underwood.

**1. Apologies:** There were no apologies. **2. Declarations of Interest:** None declared.

**3. Minutes of the previous meetings:** The minutes of the previous meeting had previously been shared with the Councillors and were accepted as a true record.

### 4. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update – No update was provided as the Clerk had been unable to attend the March CIC meeting. Anyone wishing for more information or details of grants potentially available they should contact Jo Willis, Community Development Officer on either 0776 217 9579 or at [admin@raywindfund.co.uk](mailto:admin@raywindfund.co.uk)
- b) Speed indicator device (SID) – The Clerk shared the February data from the SID that showed an 85%ile of 36.6mph. The Clerk advised that over the 30 months since installation the SID recorded the 85%ile as 36.3mph. It was agreed NCC needed to take further action at this location for traffic driving in both directions as well as the Billsmoor road towards Rothbury. The Chair advised he was still waiting to hear from Northumbria Police about the Community Speed Watch that he had applied over five months ago.
- c) Installation of electric power to a section of village green – Disappointment was expressed with Northern Powergrid which wished to apply a further £1,650 charge to the work that was already costing almost £3,100 to close the road whilst making the connection to the meter cabinet. NPg had been asked why this charge had not been identified at the beginning of the project when the Parish Council was raising funds for the work. The Chair reported that he had spoken to Cllr Bridgett who advised he would see what he could do about the matter.
- d) Repair of public telephone box – There was discussion regarding the accuracy of the signage at the telephone box with suggestion that it allowed free calls to 01 and 02 numbers. It was agreed to visit the location to confirm matters before any action was taken.
- e) Litter bin near Starmyers bridge – The new bin was in place and thanks were expressed to Billy Lewins and Graham Underwood for their work to install it.
- f) Org.uk domain for Parish Council and upgrade of Parish Council website – The Clerk provided an update on the progress of the switch over to the Org.uk domain as well as the upgrade of the website to Spanglefish 3. The Clerk advised that the new email address for the Parish Council was up and running but both that and the new website required some ongoing work. The new email address was [Clerk@elsdonpc.ork.uk](mailto:Clerk@elsdonpc.ork.uk)
- g) NCC proposal for road safety features in Elsdon – There was agreement that further action was required by NCC to eliminate the speeding traffic exiting Elsdon on the B6341 after passing the Bird in Bush. Ideas were suggested including road surface marking of 30 within a circle and further repeater signs. It was agreed that the 30mph speed limit should not be brought further into the village on the Billsmoor road as this would make it even more dangerous for vehicles attempting to access the road from the tracks. It was agreed the Clerk should write to NCC seeking further action on both the locations discussed.
- h) Hole in village green for Christmas tree – It was agreed to wait and see whether the installation of electric power to the village green would proceed before agreeing to any action on this matter.
- i) Potential tree survey – Whilst there was concern as to how the Parish Council could fund any potential resulting work identified there was agreement to proceed with the tree survey and agreement to accept the quote provided by Keith Anderson for £350.00.
- j) Potential village green lay-by work – There was agreement that the muddy area was getting larger and becoming increasingly unsightly. Various options were discussed how to resolve the matter and it was agreed to investigate further and discuss at a further meeting.

### 5. Finance:

- a) Budget update – The Clerk advised the Parish Council budget balance was £6,694.66 that included the remaining grant for the installation of electricity to part of the village green and before any payments agreed below.
- b) Payment of Clerk's salary and expenses from October 2025 – April 2026 – The payment of £629.50 was agreed.

- c) Payment of the additional invoice from Northern Powergrid Ltd for electric power to be installed to part of the village green – See agenda item 4c. It was agreed no further payments should be made.
- d) Confirm and approve the Certification of Exemption for 2025-26 – This was approved by all.
- e) Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2025-26 – This was approved by all.
- f) Approve the Accounting Statement & Explanation of variances 2025-26 – This was approved by all.
- g) Approve the draft Annual Accounts for 2025-26 – This was approved by all.

**6. Planning:**

- a) There were no planning applications to consider this month.

**7. New business:**

- a) Poor state of village green near telephone box – It was agreed that after the area was cordoned off it was beginning to look a lot better. Cllr Bell agreed to speak to Jackie Sewell (owner of Bird in Bush) about where her customers park. It was noted that the Bird in Bush had an event on 17 April and it was hoped visitors would park responsibly and not cause any further damage to the village green.
- b) Access problems on Sandstone Way – Cllr Cook provided an update after speaking to Chris Armstrong whose land was accessed by the gate nailed close. He had apparently had sheep get on to the road as some visitors had left the gate open. There was agreement Mr Armstrong would fix a more appropriate closing mechanism for the gate and complete that work this coming weekend.
- c) Memorial service to mark 20 years since death of PC Joe Carroll – The Clerk provided details of the service that was due to take place on Saturday 11 April.

**8. Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Bell reported that a resident had highlighted the poor state of part of the burn and bridge on the footpath near the sewage works. Cllr Renton advised he was due to speak to Mark Bolton (NNPA) and would raise the matter.
- b) Mr Underwood advised that he had reported numerous pot holes in the local area on Fix My Street however it appeared these were frequently being closed down by NCC without any action being taken.
- c) Cllr Renton reported that he had been approached by the owners of the Crown asking whether approximately 20 hedges could be planted on the village green alongside the wall to their property. It was agreed more information was required before a decision could be made however the Councillors were concerned over who took on the responsibility of the long term maintenance of the hedges should the request be agreed.
- d) Cllr Cook provided an update on the matter of the verge digging on the gibbet road. She advised that it appeared the new owner of Redshaw was organising the planting of hedges along this section of road however a considerable mess was being made on the highway and a number of complaints had been made to the County Council.
- e) Cllr Renton reported that he had been approached by a resident asking whether there could be further signage showing the location of the car park in the village. The Councillors agreed that there was sufficient signage for the car park already.
- f) Mr Underwood reported that the stile on the footpath at Knightside had collapsed. Cllr Renton advised he would report this to Mark Bolton as well.
- g) The Chair welcome Julie Lister on to the Parish Council.

**9. Date, time and place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on 14 May, 2026 starting at 7.00pm at Elsdon Village Hall. This will begin with the Annual Parish / General Meeting followed by the Ordinary.

Meeting closed 8.40pm