

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 14 May, 2026

Present: Councillors, M. Stuchfield (Chair), A. Bell, L. Cook, J. Lister and D. Renton – M. Chilvers, Clerk. Cllr S. Bolam, B. Lewins, G. Underwood and G. Graham (until 7.30)

1. Apologies: There were no apologies. **2. Declarations of Interest:** JL & DR advised they were on the village fete committee (7b)

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.

7b – August Bank Holiday fete: The Chair welcomed Glen Graham to the meeting. Mr Graham provided plans for the fete in 2026 that would include medieval actors on the north side of the village green, near the church, displaying weaving, metal work, bee keeping as well as battle. Mr Graham confirmed that the actors had their own insurance and that there would be a risk assessment completed. He also advised that the committee were progressing with the County Council SAG as well as traffic regulation order to have the road past the Bird in Bush closed during the fete. Also he advised that the committee would have its own insurance for the whole event including the planned dog show. Additionally risk assessments were being developed where required. Mr Graham asked for permission to hold the fete on the village green and this was agreed subject to sight of the documentation including the risk assessment for the medieval actors, the committee insurance for the whole event and SAG agreement from NCC. Mr Graham went on to advise that whilst parking was still to be confirmed, it was hoped to use local fields and not the village green. It was agreed Mr Graham would attend the August Parish Council meeting with an update.

7c Rural crime: There was discussion following a spate of local crime incidents. Mr Graham advised that signs highlighting the problem and warning potential criminals could be developed (100 for £300). He also spoke about local gamekeepers and farmers who volunteered to be part of a 'night patrol' approaching suspicious vehicles during the night. It was suggested that Cllr Bridgett was considering the possibility of having ANPR cameras installed across the local area although it was noted that these could only be fitted to business properties.

4. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update – There was no update to provide. 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
- b) Speed indicator device (SID) – There was discussion following possible options shared by Richard McKenzie (NCC) to reduce the speed of traffic in the village. It was agreed that due to the nature of the road past the Bird in Bush it was unlikely a chicane would be viable solution. It was agreed to invite Mr McKenzie to Elsdon so an on-site meeting could be held to discuss possible solutions to slowing traffic passing through the village.
- c) Installation of electric power to a section of village green – It was confirmed that Northern Powergrid had completed the connection to the cabinet meter box. The Clerk shared two quotes for electric supply. It was agreed these were expensive and that a decision would be made when a further quote was obtained.
- d) Repair of public telephone box – Despite BT's email advising calls from the telephone box to 01, 02, 03 and 07 being free it was confirmed by the Chair this was not the case. He did advise that it appeared calls for emergency services was working. It was agreed to return to BT highlighting the position and seek correct information details for the telephone box.
- e) NCC proposal for road safety features in Elsdon – This topic was covered within agenda item 4b.
- f) Hole in village green for Christmas tree – There was discussion where the best location would be for the hole for a future Christmas trees on the village green. It was agreed it should be near where the electric power source but away from the bus stop. It was agreed the hole needed to be capped off for when not in use. A point of contact was suggested at Landmarc where potentially a tree could be provided at Christmas free of charge.
- g) Tree survey – The Clerk reported that Keith Anderson hoped to be able to complete and share the survey before the end of May.
- h) Potential village green lay-by work – Thanks were expressed to Mr Lewins and Mr Underwood for moving flower pots to either side of the 'lay-by' in an attempt to prevent the muddy area from expanding further. It was agreed to give more consideration to the options discussed at the previous meeting before a decision was made how to proceed.

- i) Access problems on Sandstone Way – Cllr Cook reported that Mr Armstrong had made repairs to the gate that had previously been nailed shut. The Chair reported on emails he had shared with NNPA regarding the Dan Burn way. It was acknowledged the high profile had brought many visitors to the village that had helped local businesses however some of the footpath infrastructure had been damaged from the increased usage. NNPA were now removing reference to Dan Burn and reverting back to Elsdon burn and signage was beginning to be removed locally. It was noted that further dog bags were required and the Clerk was asked to order more.

5. Finance:

- a) Budget update – The Clerk advised the Parish Council budget balance was £7,065.16 that included the remaining grant for the installation of electricity to part of the village green as well as the first instalment of the annual precept for £1,000 but and before any payments agreed below.
- b) Payment of the NALC annual subscription – The payment of £81.36 was agreed.
- c) Payment to Zurich for the annual insurance premium – The payment of £457.13 was agreed.

6. Planning:

- a) EN110031:Ray II Wind Farm: EIA Scoping & Consultation & Regulation 11 Notification – There was discussion regarding what should and should not be included within the response to this scoping notification. It was recognised that there were strong feelings about the proposal both for and against. It was agreed to attend the drop-in event the next week before creating a reply and a meeting was agreed for 22 May.

7. New business:

- a) Parish Council insurance – Having reviewed the details of the insurance cover from 1 June, 2026 there was agreement that this met the requirements of the Parish Council and that the premium should be paid.
- d) State of burn and bridge on footpath near sewage works – Cllr Bell reported that the bridge that had been in disrepair was on private land but had been repaired in recent weeks. Cllr Bell also advised he had met Mark Bolton of NNPA regarding the gabions that appeared to have come loose near the sewage works. Following investigation it was reported that were all OK for the time being but would be monitored.
- b) Footpath style damage at knightside – It was highlighted that the style had not been repaired since reported after the last meeting. It was however suggested that the Wildlife Trust were aware and would be making repairs soon.

8. Any other business:

- a) Cllr Renton reported that there was a cycle event 'Chase the Sun' coming through Elsdon on 20 June. He advised that there would be approximately 600 bikes in the village sometime around 6.30 – 8.00am. There was no objection from the Councillors but a request that organisers ensured the village was kept tidy.
- b) Mr Underwood highlighted the poor condition of the old school and that it was an eyesore as well as being dangerous with windows appearing to be falling out. It was noted that NCC had been made aware of the state previously but that there was little the Parish Council could do.
- c) Mr Underwood reported that it would appear an informal wild-flower area had been created by a resident on the village green. A large area had been scraped free of grass and seeds spread across the area. The Councillors were unaware of this development but agreed that they needed to be asked permission for this development and assured of maintenance before they would agree. Cllr Renton agreed to speak to the resident about the plans and report back at the July meeting.
- d) Mr Underwood reported that the grit bin near the church had been filled and whilst he had reported the pot holes near Knightside on NCC Fix My Street no action had as yet been taken. It was noted however that a good number of pot holes had been filled on the Gibbet road.
- e) Mr Lewins reported that he had been approached by a resident believing there required to be appropriate signage showing visitors where there was parking in Elsdon. Following discussion it was agreed to consider the possibility of adding signage if Mr Lewins could get a quote.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 11 June, 2026 starting at 7.00pm at Elsdon Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.00pm