

Minutes of the meeting of Elsdon Parish Council on Thursday 11 June, 2026

Present: Councillors, M. Stuchfield (Chair), A. Bell, L. Cook, J. Lister and D. Renton – M. Chilvers, Clerk and 16 Parishioners (until 7.55). George Fuller (7.35 – 7.55)

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

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.

6a – Ray Wind II proposal: The Chair welcomed the residents and started with a summary of what action the Parish Council had taken to date in responding to the Scoping notice application. He confirmed that the Parish Council had taken all appropriate action to date and that there was no requirement at the present time to either object or approve any proposal as nothing formal had been received. The Chair invited comments from the Parishioners. It was highlighted that a few residents had not received notice of the proposal from Vattenfall and were unaware of the plans until after the meetings held by Vattenfall in mid May. There were objections to the proposal from the Parishioners attending due to a number of reasons including concern about the impact on private water supplies, visual as well as the flicker impact for turbines that may be as high as 230m to the tip. The Chair reported that these factors had all been included in the Parish Council reply to be included within the scoping survey. He further advised that until a comprehensive review of all Parishioners in Elsdon was undertaken it was not known whether the majority objected or approved the proposal. However if the Parishioners attending wished to form their own action group and take appropriate action then they could go ahead. Cllrs Cook and Lister offered to assist with distribution of leaflets and 'door knock' to help improve coverage of future communications of the matter.

All parishioners apart from R. Simmance and B. Lewins left at 7.55.

4. Matters arising

- a) Ray Wind update – The Clerk highlighted that he would be finishing his term on the Ray Wind CIC Directorship in July. It was noted that Shirley Stuchfield was the Elsdon Parish Council representative and that the Clerk would make contact with her prior to Parish Council meetings for progress reports. 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) – The Clerk provided the most recent data records from the speed indicator device. May had recorded an 85%ile of 35.7mph and 50.7% of vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit. There had been three recordings of vehicles exceeding 65mph during the month. After 33 months since installation the 85%ile was averaging 36.2mph.
- c) Installation of electric power to a section of village green – It was agreed to accept the tariff quote from E-on and fixed for 12 months. The Clerk provided an update on the Engineer visit from E-on to install the meter. There was discussion about the requirements of the electrician following the meter installation. There was also discussion regarding the possibility of charging event organisers for electricity used.
- d) NCC proposal for road safety features in Elsdon – The Clerk reported that Richard McKenzie (NCC) was available to meet in Elsdon to discuss and identify options to assist reducing the speed of vehicles travelling through the village.
- e) Hole in village green for Christmas tree – The Chair reported that he had received assurance that there should be a tree provided by Landmarc for Christmas. It was agreed to meet on the village green to discuss and agree to location of the hole for the tree.
- f) Tree survey – There was discussion following receipt of the tree survey from Keith Anderson. There was agreement to accept the recommendations and seek a quote for the suggested work identified.
- g) Potential village green lay-by work – It was reported that there had been no progress on this matter since the last meeting and it was agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

5. Finance:

- a) Budget update – The Clerk advised the Parish Council budget balance was £6,709.63 that included the remaining grant for the installation of electricity to part of the village green but before payment of the items below.

b) Payment of invoice to JRB Enterprise for dog bags – The Clerk reported that the invoice had not yet been received however the cost should be £64.26 + VAT. The payment was agreed.

c) Payment of invoice to Keith Anderson Woodlands Surveys – The payment of £350.00 was agreed.

6. Planning:

a) Ray Wind II proposal – This topic was covered at the beginning of the meeting.

7. New business:

- a) Wild-flower area created on Village Green – The Chair reported that EPIC had made a suggestion that they would take on and create as well as maintain a wild-flower area where the village green is often boggy. There was agreement from the Councillors although it was noted that no bushes that may grow large should be planted there. Cllr Renton reported that Glen Graham had promised to maintain and keep in good order the wild-flower area near his property.
- b) 'Chase the Sun' cycle event on 20 June – There was agreement for the cyclists to rest and use the village green but the Parish Council would wish for the organisers to tidy the area after the event.
- c) Vehicle parking signage in Elsdon – Mr Lewins provided details regarding the proposed signage. There was agreement that he should contact Richard McKenzie at NCC initially for the funding to purchase and install the proposed signs.
- d) Litter bins within Elsdon – It was noted that for a short while the litter bins in the village had been out of action. It is understood that NCC had had incorrect wagons for work to empty them however the situation had been resolved.
- e) Condition of the bus shelter roof – The Chair reported that he had been approached by Glen Graham advising that the bus shelter roof was in a poor state. It was noted that whilst there was a lot of moss on the roof it was still water tight. However it was agreed to have a close look and monitor the situation before any action was agreed.
- f) Local Transport Programme 2026-29 (NCC feedback) – The Clerk shared the feedback received from NCC to the two requests made. 20mph speed restriction through the village had been declined with the reason "20mph speed limits are not permitted on through roads". The request for signage to warn drivers of horse rider and cyclists on the Gibbet road was declined with the reason "Warning signs cannot be provided where cycles or ridden horses for part of normal traffic flow. They can only be provided where regularly used bridleways or cycle routes join the carriageway". The Councillors expressed their disappointment and asked for the first request to be reviewed as it is known 20mph speed limits had been recently implemented on local through roads in Northumberland.
- g) Digital switch over – Mr Simmance confirmed he was happy to represent the Parish Council on the briefing session given his knowledge and experience of the matter.
- h) Date of August Parish Council meeting – Either Monday 10th, starting at 8.00pm or Tuesday 11th, starting at 7.00pm were suggested and a decision would be made following the fete committee meeting on 12 June

8. Any other business:

a) There was suggestion the fields owned by Robert Arthur would not be available for parking for visitors to the fete. Additionally it was highlighted that depending on the weather conditions on the run up to the fete, NNPA may not allow open fires. If this was something the re-enactment team used then this should be notified to them as soon as possible. Cllr Lister advised that there was due to be a fete committee meeting the following evening where these points would be raised. Cllr Lister also confirmed she would ask when copies of the NCC SAG and confirmation of sufficient insurance for the fete would be available to share with the Parish Council.

b) The Chair provided an update on his investigation about the condition of the Old School. He advised he had spoken to Kate Stewart at NCC who was investigating the matter.

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

Meeting closed 8.55pm