ELDON PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING

Community Centre **Tuesday** **Time: 7.00 p.m.**
Eldon **18th April 2023**

Present:

Councillors John Gibson, Paul Henry, Diane Pennington, Graham Scott and Toni Wallace.

Tom Bolton – Parish Clerk

D128/22 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from County Councillor Shirley Quinn.

D129/22 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillors Gibson, Pennington and Wallace declared interests in relation to Agenda Item 8 (Eldon Community Partnership), Item 12 (Grant Applications) and Item 15 (Coronation Tea Party/Village Fete) and Councillors Gibson and Pennington further declared an interest in relation to Item 17 (Land issues - tenancies).

D130/22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on10th January and 21st March 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

D131/22 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no applications.

D132/22 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES IN ELDON

The Chairman welcomed Katherine Ward from DCC to the meeting who provided an update in connection with the joint Eldon Lane/Eldon anti-social behaviour project bid. Katherine outlined the funding issues in connection with the proposed element for floodlighting of the MUGA, which was unlikely to be achievable as costs had come in from between £12.5K and £35K and she asked for alternative proposals from the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that the Council would seek quotations from JSC Electrics for the MUGA but it was **AGREED** that, should this floodlighting element not be achievable, an additional CCTV camera should be sought. Katherine said she would take this forward and would also survey the best position for the already approved CCTV camera.

The Council noted a report of the police providing statistics **(for copy see file of minutes).** It was pointed out that some of the issues reported at South Row had resulted from a neighbour dispute. County Councillor Quinn had also drawn attention to these issues.

RESOLVED:

1. That the position be noted.
2. The Clerk ask JSC Electrics to provide quotations for both solar and electric hard-wired floodlighting for the MUGA.

D133/22 QUESTIONS – TO DEAL WITH ANY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman referred to issues that had been raised in relation to the tipping of hardcore on the former Eldon Deep site and concerns about development on the site.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk report the issue to the County Council's planning enforcement officer.

D134/22 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES OR FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(a) Outside Bodies/Meetings

The Clerk reported on a recent meeting of the AAP Towns and Villages Project Forum.

(b) County Councillors

There was nothing to report.

D135/22 ELDON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

A brief update was provided about events at the Community Centre.

D136/22 BISHOP AUCKLAND AND SHILDON AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP ISSUES

There was nothing to report.

D137/22 CORRESPONDENCE/DOCUMENTS RECEIVED OR SENT

There was nothing to report

D138/22 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

The Council considered a report about a Parish Council Health and Safety Policy **(for copy see file of Minutes).** A report was also provided on the arrangements for the Councils insurance in 2023-2024 at the price of £598.69 and for a three-year tie-in.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Health and Safety Policy be adopted.
2. That the renewal of the Council's insurance for 2023-2024 in the sum of £598.69 with Hiscox and for a three-year tie-in be confirmed and approved.

D139/22 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS OR DONATIONS

The Clerk reported the receipt of an application for a grant of £1,700 for 2023-2024 from Eldon Community Partnership.

RESOLVED:

That the grant be approved.

D140/22 PARISH CLERK APPOINTMENT PROCESS

The Clerk provided an update on the Parish Clerk appointment process, the deadline for which was 28th April 2023, and sought instructions about the shortlisting process.

RESOLVED:

That shortlisting by the previously appointed Appointments Panel take place on 16th May 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

D141/22 PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report.

D142/22 KING'S CORONATION TEA PARTY AND VILLAGE FETE

The Clerk referred to the previously agreed arrangements for a Coronation Tea Party on Sunday 7th May 2023 in Eldon Community Centre. Unfortunately, it had not been possible to obtain any disco provision for young people.

In relation to the Village Fete on 22nd July, the Clerk reported that Carnival Funfairs had indicated that it could provide three children's rides for £1200 plus VAT.

RESOLVED:

1. That a maximum budget for the Coronation Tea Party be set at £500 and Eldon Community Partnership be asked to provide catering/venue etc. for the event.
2. The Clerk draw up a risk assessment for the Tea Party event.
3. Carnival Funfairs be contracted to provide Children's Rides for the Village Fete at in the sum of £1200 plus VAT.

D143/22 DURHAM COUNCIL COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REVIEW CONSULTATION

The Clerk reported on a consultation by Durham County Council about community engagement and the future of Area Action Partnerships.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be authorised to formulate a response in consultation with the Chairman to the DCC consultation on Community Engagement, in which the Parish Council should express its concerns about the proposals for the changes outlined in the consultation document and its view that the current arrangements are satisfactory.

D144/22 TENANCIES – LAND AT ELDON

The Clerk reported that he had written to the tenant for the former Allotment site and had received confirmation that the tenant wished to renew the tenancy for a further year. He was also to write to the Pasture Rows tenant.

RESOLVED:

That approval be given for an agreement with the existing tenant of the former allotment site for 2023-2024 on the existing terms and conditions.

D145/22 ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND ISSUES

The Clerk reported as follows:

(a) **Hedge Cutting** – The contractor had now cut the hedges at a cost of £444.00 including VAT.
(b) **Hedgehog Highway Project** – Invitation to participate in national project.
(c) **Eldon Bank Blocked Gully** – The Clerk had reported this to DCC.
(d) **Tipping of Soil adjacent to Garages Opposite Pasture Row** – This had been reported by Councillor Wallace to LIVIN, the landowners.
(e) **Grounds Maintenance Contract with Durham County Council for Gateway 2023/2024** - Notification of Proposed fee £408.42 plus VAT
(f) **Soil and Rubble Mound on Village Green** – The County Council had been asked to remove the mound of soil containing bricks which had been left on the village green following the new playground installation which was a magnet for motorcyclists and also a hazard given the content of the mound.
(g) **Fly tipping in Alleyway at Pasture Row** – To be investigated.
(h) **Noticeboard** – A new frame and polycarbonate panel were to be supplied by the manufacturers.

RESOLVED:

1. That the issues/correspondence be noted.
2. That the fee of £444.00 for hedge cutting be noted.
3. That the proposed DCC fee for grounds maintenance be agreed and the invoice be awaited.
4. The invitation to participate in the Highway Hedgehog project be declined.

D146/22 ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE CLERK OR CHAIRMAN

There were no questions.

D147/22 AGAR FOR 2022 TO 2023

The Clerk reported that the AGAR for 2022 to 2023 had now been received.

D148/22 INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND ACCOUNTS

The Clerk circulated details of income and expenditure for 2022-2023 and also to date in 2023-2024, together with a schedule of invoices paid for approval and the bank reconciliation. The Chairman initialled the Bank Statements accordingly

RESOLVED:

That the information be approved.

D149/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be the Annual Meeting on **Tuesday 30th May 2023 at 7.00 p.m. and will be preceded by the Annual Meeting for Parishioners at 6.30 p.m.**