

**ELDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

**Community Centre  
Eldon**

**Tuesday  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Time: 7.00 p.m.**

**Present:**

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

Tom Bolton – Parish Clerk

County Councillor Shirley Quinn.

**D83/21 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from County Councillors Matt Johnson and Samantha Townsend.

**D84/21 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Gibson, Pennington and Wallace declared interests in relation to Agenda Items 8 and 11 (Eldon Community Partnership issues).

**D85/21 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**D86/21 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

The Council approved an application from Councillor Toni Wallace for her entire term of office in relation to matters appertaining to Eldon Community Partnership.

**D87/21 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES IN ELDON**

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting full details from the County Council of proposed target hardening measures in Eldon. The Community Safety Officer had asked if it would be possible to host an event for local people in the Community Centre in Eldon to discuss local issues, and he hoped to send a letter to local residents shortly. It was also hoped that local people with CCTV would agree to assist the police and County Council by sharing footage when incidents occurred locally. The Parish Council had responded positively, but was still awaiting a response from the officer.

**RESOLVED:**

That the position be noted and a further reminder be sent to the DCC Community Safety Officer.

**D88/21 QUESTIONS – TO DEAL WITH ANY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions.

**D89/21 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES OR FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

## **Outside Bodies/Meetings**

Councillor Quinn reported that she had been appointed as Chair of the Southern Area GRT.

The Clerk reported that he had represented the Parish Council at the CDALC AGM in Shildon on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the reports be noted.

## **D90/21 ELDON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

It was reported that activities at the Community Centre were returning to normal, albeit with some Covid 19 precautions in place. The Halloween Disco had been held successfully and plans were underway for the Christmas lunch for older people and a Christmas Disco for young people. There was also a forthcoming Christening Party. A brief outline was also given about a dispute with an energy brokerage company.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the information be noted.

## **D91/21 BISHOP AUCKLAND AND SHILDON AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP ISSUES**

There was nothing to report.

## **D92/21 CORRESPONDENCE/DOCUMENTS RECEIVED**

The Parish Council considered correspondence/documents received since the last meeting as follows:

- (a) Funding Opportunities in Eldon – Town and Villages Fund
- (b) DCC Tree Grants
- (c) DCC Code of Conduct – Email from CDALC
- (d) New DCC GRT Community Cohesion Officers

In relation to funding opportunities in Eldon, the Clerk reported that he had recently met with an officer from DCC, together with the Chairman and Councillor Pennington to discuss potential areas for investment, including target hardening in Eldon and improvements to the Community Centre. It was proposed that he attend a meeting of the AAP working group to discuss the ongoing issues. Councillor Quinn suggested that another possible area for investment might be the conversion of Blackie Wood to a Nature Reserve.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the correspondence be noted.
2. The Clerk represent the Parish Council on the Towns and Villages Fund Working Group.
3. That no Tree Grants be sought in the coming year.
4. That the Clerk report to the next meeting of the Council on a revised Code of Conduct.
5. The new GRT Community Cohesion Officers be invited to a future meeting of the Council.

### **D93/21 CELEBRATING STRONGER TOGETHER EVENT**

The Clerk reported that the celebrating together event utilising the Lottery VE75 monies at the end of August had not been successful, but Groundwork Trust had offered to bank the hours and the event had been run again during the half term holidays. The Parish Council had also previously enquired about the availability of the Auckland Community Big Purple Bus and this had been booked on the first Saturday of the half term holidays at a cost of £500. Both events had been reasonably well attended and the Groundwork Trust Event had produced a wall hanging which was now displayed in the Community Centre.

There had been some issues in advertising both events and it had proved necessary to use MT Print, based in Darlington to produce a Parish Council Newsletter and Flyer for the events.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the position be noted.
2. The Parish Council Newsletter/leaflets to advertise the above events and the print costs of £79.00 be approved.

### **D94/21 CHRISTMAS 2021**

The Clerk provided an update in relation to Parish Council and Eldon Community Partnership Christmas Events.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Parish Council approve the purchase and erection of a Christmas Tree in the Community Centre grounds on the same basis as in 2020 at a cost of £450 together with the purchase of new lighting.
2. That the previous arrangements for contributions towards events at the Community Centre consisting of a Christmas Disco for young people and a Christmas Luncheon for pensioners, be noted, both events to take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

### **D95/21 PARISH PLAN**

There was nothing to report.

### **D96/21 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS OR DONATIONS**

There were no applications.

### **D97/21 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2021**

The Clerk reported that a wreath from Eldon Parish Council had been laid at St Mark's Church Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. Following consultation with the Chairman, a donation of £100 had also been made to the Royal British Legion.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the position be noted and the actions in making a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion be approved and confirmed.

## **D98/21 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had responded to the DCC consultation on Minerals and Waste Development Policies and Allocations, supporting the County Council's stance that no development of MRFs should be permitted in future on the former Eldon Brickworks site.

The Clerk drew attention to a consultation on the County Council website about a proposed new tenancy strategy which Councillors could respond to individually if they wished.

## **D99/21 PLANNING MATTERS**

The Clerk reported that, following previous consultations with members, the Parish Council had offered no objections to planning application No. DM/21/03750/FPA concerning proposed alterations to a farmhouse and annexe at Eldon Hall Farm, Old Eldon.

The Council also considered Planning Application DM/21/03394/FPA: which concerned the retention of one static caravan and 1 no. touring caravans including associated residential occupation and storage of caravans for immediate family during winter months at Land to The North East of St Marks Church High Street Eldon. Whilst it was considered the Parish Council had no issues in principle with the application as it related to the existing static caravan, single touring caravan and a storage caravan, the Council did have concerns about the proposed winter use of the site for storage of caravans belonging to immediate family members, as no maximum numbers had been specified, nor was there any reassurance that such caravans would not be lived in and how this would be monitored.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Parish Council response to planning application No. DM/21/03750/FPA concerning proposed alterations to a farmhouse and annexe at Eldon Hall Farm, Old Eldon, not to object, be confirmed
2. That the Parish Council respond to the DCC consultation on planning application No. DM/21/03394/FPA concerning the retention of one static caravan and 1 no. touring caravans including associated residential occupation and storage of caravans for immediate family during winter months at Land to The North East of St Marks Church High Street Eldon, on the basis set out above.

## **D100/21 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2022 TO 2023**

The Clerk reported that details had now been received from Durham Council of the Tax Base for Eldon Parish for 2022-2023. The Band D tax base had been reduced from 100.6 to 99.1 properties. The LCTRS grant was increased from £1047 to £1422. The net position if the Council maintained a standstill budget was an increase in income of £197.52, although the Clerk reminded members that the current year's budget of £13950 was offset by a £1000 contribution from reserves resulting in a budget of £12950.

## **D101/21 ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND ISSUES**

The Clerk reported as follows:

- (a) **Parish Council Noticeboard** – The existing noticeboard was damaged and virtually unusable. Based on the previously expressed wishes of the Council, the Clerk had investigated costs and provision of a larger noticeboard (2 x A2 panels which would hold a maximum of 8 A4 sheets). from three different companies and he distributed details of designs and costs.

Company A	Prestige A2 2 door Aluminium Board (to order)	£1,170 plus VAT
Company B	Varicase Post Mounted Board 2 x A2 Board	£1669 plus VAT
Company C	Notus Double Door 2 x A2 Board	£1550.00 plus VAT

The Clerk reported that the Notus Board carried a 15 year guarantee and was a heavy duty board with additional vandal and graffiti resistance. The Board from Company B only had a 1-year parts and labour guarantee and did not include an external header panel. The Prestige Board was similar in design to the Notus Board and carried a 5 year guarantee. Of the three companies selected for comparison, only Company C had an installation service, which was quoted at £550 plus VAT, which would also include removal (and disposal if necessary) of the existing noticeboard. A board was also currently in stock and could be supplied at short notice.

**RESOLVED:**

For the reasons set out about, (guarantee period, construction, anti-vandal and graffiti resistance, and installation service) relevant Standing Orders be waived where necessary and the Notus Double Door Board be purchased at a cost of £1550 plus VAT, together with the separate installation service of £550 plus VAT from the Noticeboard Company Cumbria Limited.

- (b) **Footpath Condition Office Row** – Reference was made to the continuing issues with footpaths at Office Row and the Clerk agreed to pursue the matter with Durham County Council.

**D102/21 ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE CLERK OR CHAIRMAN**

There were no questions.

**D103/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022** at 7.00 p.m.

**D104/21 INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk circulated details of income and expenditure to date, together with a schedule of invoices paid for approval and the bank reconciliation and the Chairman initialled the latest bank statements..

**RESOLVED:**

That the information be approved.