

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 14th August 2014 in the Malcom Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall at 7.30 pm

8.1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Alison Tweddle, Marge Rastall, Andrew Nixon, Austin Iliffe, Greg Finch, Alastair Stevens, Davy Short and Edward Parker.

8.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 10th July 2014.

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

8.3 Declaration of Interests

Andrew Nixon declared an interest in the Chapel House planning application and grasscutting.

8.4 Matters Arising

7.16.1 Alison Tweddle reported that she had spoken to Ridley Roddam's family and it had been agreed that the wording for the plaque should read 'In memory of Ridley and Margery Roddam who loved Hexhamshire'. This was to be placed on the seat at Stobby Lee.

5.25 The bench and noticeboard had been delivered.

3.5 It was reported that the lease for the wetlands was being surrendered. Further details were to follow at a later date.

6.9 No further information had been received regarding the potential caravan club site although it was reported that trees had been planted around the edge of the site.

7.14.2 Corbridge Parish Council were to be contacted to find out if they had put up a camera.

6.17.2 The Clerk was to try to find out if the ammunition hut belonged to the Ministry of Defence.

7.8.1 The plans for Rushwood had been resubmitted. Gill Whatmough was to write to the planning department. It was reported that Richard Dodds had suggested lobbying the planning committee regarding this issue. Alison Tweddle was to contact the members of the planning committee.

8.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

8.6 Correspondence

8.6.1 Notification had been received regarding Hexham bus station of an exhibition at the Queens Hall on 11th to 15th August.

8.6.2 Notification of the Definitive Map Modification Order (No 1) 2014 had been received in connection with bridleways 48,52 and 102.

8.6.3 Notification had been received of drop in sessions in connection with the relocation of the fire station and a consultation survey at www.northumberland.gov.uk.

8.6.4 Notification had been received of the Annual Town and Parish Council Conference to be held on the 25th September.

8.7 Financial Report

- 8.7.1 It was agreed that the Clerk should organise some flowers as a thank you to Marion Henderson in connection with the audit.
- 8.7.2 Treasurer's Account - £2448.08
Savings Account - £13796.76
Wetlands Account - £262.50.
- 8.7.3 It was agreed to pay the following and cheques were raised as follows:
Parish Online - £33.60
G. Sloan – grasscutting - £280.00
TDP – bench and noticeboard - £1100.00.
- 8.7.4 A request had been received from Ladycross Nature Reserve for funding. It was agreed to reply to advise that the Parish Council would consider the application at the end of the financial year.
- 8.7.5 Tenders had been received in connection with grasscutting from Robbie Nixon and GMS. No tender had been received from Mr Sloan. Andrew Nixon left the room while the tender was discussed. It was agreed that the tender be awarded to Robbie Nixon. The area in front of the Hall and on both sides of the hedge was to be included to be cut. A letter was to be sent to Mr Sloan thanking him for his services over the last 3 years and advising him of the outcome of the tender process.

8.8 Planning Applications

The Parish Council considered the following planning applications and it was agreed that there were no objections to any of the applications.

- 8.8.1 Replacement of flat felt covered roof of 1970s extension with pitched, slated roof. Removal of north facing bedroom window and installation of Velux roof light to existing north facing roof, Steel Grove, Steel, Hexham, Northumberland NE47 OJD.
- 8.8.2 Erection of a steel portal framed agricultural hobby/leisure shed, Stotsfold Lodge, Steel.
- 8.8.3 Construct new garage with workshop/garden store and log store to ground floor and storage room above. Chapel House, Steel, Hexham

8.9 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues.

8.10 Smelting Arches

- 8.10.1 Greg Finch reported that a plan of the the wheelpit conservation had been prepared. Confirmation had been received that the unused funds can be used in connection with the wheelpit conservation. Consideration is being given to how to display information to visitors to the site.
- 8.10.2 The naming of the beer is still open. It will be a one off brew. There was good feedback from the show.
- 8.10.3 The Hall has been booked for 10th October 2014 for an update on the project.

8.11 Broadband

- 8.11.1 Wildcard had been written to but no response had been received and this was not to be pursued further.

- 8.11.2 A meeting had been held regarding the Cybermoor Project and Hexhamshire had been chosen for Phase 1. It was hoped that local people would become involved in the project. There were various elements to be identified including the parish boundary, the properties in the area, recording expressions of interest and potential cable routes.
- 8.11.3 It was reported that there would probably be a meeting at the beginning of September to identify how people could help. It would be in Hexhamshire's favour to offer to supply high levels of help.
- 8.11.4 There are five phases in the process and Hexhamshire may not get past phase 1. 3 out of the 9 interested parties would be chosen by the end of November 2014. Greg Finch advised that he had a map identifying all of the properties. Andrew Nixon, Davy Short and Ed Parker agreed to be involved in mapping the cable route.

8.12 Highways and Footpaths

- 8.12.1 The road surface at the bottom of the Mill by the Hexhamshire sign is deteriorating badly. Slaley Parish were to be asked to report this as well.
- 8.12.2 Dalton Bridge has been hit again.
- 8.12.3 The layby below Barker House continues to be a problem.
- 8.12.4 The corner at Clickem corner is permanently wet, possibly a water main problem.
- 8.12.5 Duncan Lovatt is going to advise the action to be taken regarding the boardwalk at the Wetlands.
- 8.12.6 A beech tree is hanging over the road from the churchyard. Gill Whatmough is to speak to Tony Macklon regarding this.

8.13 BOATS

Motorbikes are still in evidence in the area.

8.14 Reports:

Wetlands: Mr Stephenson had reported that the ditch was overflowing onto his drive. Davy Short advised that he would clear the ditch. Mr Stephenson also queried replacing the fence at the side of his property as he believed that it was the responsibility of the Parish Council. Gill Whatmough advised that she would check this.

Hall: The World War I event had been very successful with an attendance of 40-50 people. There was to be a talk by Will Nichols on 5th September 2014, an illustrated talk on red Squirrels for 5 per head.

School: there was no report.

Sportsfield/Play Area: Councillors were to consider what the Developers Fund could be utilised for. New football goals and nets were suggested. Colin Horncastle was to be contacted.

8.15 Any Other Business

The date of the next meeting was to be 18th September 2014.