

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 11th December 2014 at 7.30pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

12.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Hilary Kristensen and Alison Tweddle.

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

Unitary Councillor, Colin Horncastle was also present.

12.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13th November 2014.

The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

12.3 Declaration of Interests

Colin Horncastle declared an interest in planning matters.

12.4 Matters Arising

9.7 It was reported that the plaque has been placed on the seat at Stobby Lee and that the noticeboard is in situ. It was agreed that handles were required for the noticeboard and Andrew Nixon agreed to organise this.

11.8.4 Colin Horncastle advised that the Parish Council would still be consulted regarding planning applications apart from the permitted development applications. Councillors asked Colin Horncastle about the lack of prior notification, that the planning application was not appearing on the website. Colin Horncastle agreed to investigate this and advise the Parish Council regarding applications such as the recent one at Newbiggin Home Farm.

6.17.2 No further action regarding the ammunitions hut was to be taken.

11.5 It was reported that the new team had taken over the running of the Hexhamshire Magazine.

11.13a John Price had advised that he would organise a digger to clear the ditches but that this would not take place until the Spring. Gill Whatmough had requested a list of the liabilities that the Parish Council would be taking on. A risk assessment is still to be completed.

11.4.1 The North East Ambulance Service were to give a training session regarding the defibrillator. Davy Short agreed to attend.

12.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

12.6 Correspondence

12.6.1 Notification had been received advising the Parish Council that the weekly planning list document on the website had been removed.

12.6.2 A request for further clarification regarding the Housing Developer Fund had been received and sent prior to the meeting. Andrew Nixon advised that he had spoken to Kathie Keady who had advised that the application had been successful and written confirmation was expected in the near future.

12.6.3 A request for a grant had been received from Tynedale Hospice which was to be considered with other requests made at the end of the financial year.

12.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £4374.54

Savings Account - £13798.50

Wetlands Account - £267,54

12.8 Planning Applications

Application for erection of new stable and feed store, new poultry shed and retrospective consent for extension to existing building. Storage premises and land at Rush Wood, Hexham, Northumberland.

It was agreed that Gill Whatmough would write to the planning department to clarify queries regarding the size, proximity to the adjoining house etc. There was also a query regarding the fence which it was considered should have been added to the retrospective planning application.

Proposal to erect 2 polytunnels, land south of The Lee Hexham Northumberland. The Parish Council agreed to support the application.

Discharge to condition 2 of planning permission 11/00232/FUL construction of one Monopole wind turbine (as amended) East Greenridge, Hexham Northumberland. The Parish Council agreed to support the application.

Tree Preservation Order: Removal of four branches to one ash tree (T13) and removal of two branches to another ash tree (T14) Crossfield Ordley Village Hexham Northumberland NE46 1SX.

The Parish Council agreed to support the application.

12.9 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

12.9.1 Colin Horncastle requested that Councillors email him with any Highways issues ie grit heaps etc.

12.9.2 Colin Horncastle advised that the grant in connection with the Smelting Arches was looking promising. It would be confirmed either way early in the New Year.

12.9.3 He advised that the broadband issue was complicated. The County Council and BT had fallen out, it would appear that BT had their own geographical agenda. He reported that Daneco are currently working with Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council and that a meeting was to be organised for the end of January. Slaley were being targeted to benefit from this co-operation but as Slaley already have fibre it would be a better outcome if Hexhamshire were to benefit. Avonline also operate elsewhere in Northumberland.

12.9.4 Colin Horncastle had spoken to David English at the County Council who would be happy to speak to the Parish Council to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan. The Allendale plan is close to going out to referendum. It was decided to possibly invite Mr English to speak at one of the Spring meetings.

12.10 Smelting Arches

12.10.1 Greg Finch advised that it may be necessary to apply for planning permission for the

interpretation panels to be put up. This would possibly include a viewing frame with a sketch of the arches as they were. There is a small amount of work still to be undertaken.
12.10.2 The project comes to an end in June.

12.11 Broadband Sub-Committee Report

12.11.1 Austin Iliffe was to investigate 3G in connection with broadband.

12.11.2 An email had been received from John Cooper advising that Hexhamshire were unlikely to get BDUK money so wireless would probably be the best option. It may be necessary to set up a company. The outcome of the meeting was awaited before further decisions were to be taken.

12.12 Highways and Footpaths

12.12.1 Davy Short advised that he had updated his list for his allocated area of Hexhamshire. All 3 areas had now been updated. Most of the problems previously highlighted to Highways were still outstanding.

12.2.2 It was reported some gritting had been done.

12.13 BOATs

There had been some 4 x 4 and bike activity.

12.14 Reports:

Wetlands – there was nothing to report.

School – It was reported that Slaley and Whitley Chapel Schools had been sharing transport to sports competitions etc and that the Heads are meeting on a regular basis.

Administration are also working together.

Sportsfield/Play Area – there were no issues.

12.15 Any Other Business

Concern had been expressed regarding parking on the road above the Church gate which is a hazard to road users. The possibility of yellow lines was discussed. Gill Whatmough was to discuss this with the Vicar.

As there were no further issues the meeting was declared closed.