

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at 7.30 pm.

3.1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Marge Rastall.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Greg Finch, Alastair Stevens, Austin Iliffe, Andrew Nixon, Davy Short and Ed Parker.

Unitary Councillor, Colin Horncastle was also present.  
Mr Phillipson, a member of the public was also present.

3.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th February 2015.

The minutes were approved as a true record.

3.3 Declaration of Interests

Colin Horncastle declared an interest in any planning matters.

3.4 Matters Arising.

- 2.7.2 Gill Whatmough advised that she had replied regarding the areas of historical interest in the woodland.
- 2.7.3 The Housing Developer Fund letter had been sent back to the school. Colin Horncastle advised that he had given a grant to the school for £5K.
- 12.15 Gill Whatmough had left a message with the vicar regarding parking at the Church.
- 2.11 Davy Short and Marge Rastall had been to the meeting regarding the defibrillator which has to be sited somewhere with electricity and which also has to be in a warm environment. It was decided that it was not really feasible for the 'Shire. The suggestion was made that first responders should be encouraged in Hexhamshire.
- 2.17.3 The noticeboard is still unstable and TDP were to be contacted to supply stays to stabilise it.
- 2.17.5 Austin Iliffe offered to drive around to check on the condition of the benches. It was reported that Kenny Spears was expected to contact the Parish Council regarding placing a bench at Whitley Mill.

3.5 Public Participation

Mr Phillipson was observing the meeting.

3.6 Correspondence

- 3.6.1 Notice of approval had been received from the planning department regarding the application at Rushwood with conditions attached.
- 3.6.2 Comments had been requested regarding the North East Combined Authority Devolution Proposals.

Colin Horncastle advised that planning targets were not being met. The 4 existing Planning committees were to be reduced to 2. He reported that there were to be 4 representatives from the west area on a committee of 15. A recent proposal was that the

parish councils were to be cut out of the consultation process. Comments from County Councillors may also not be considered. Deloittes were involved in the new proposals. The number of applications going to committee are going to be substantially less. The Issue is coming up before the full committee on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

### 3.7 Financial Report including requests for Funding.

Treasurers Account - £2624.54  
Sportsfield Account - £13800.83  
Wetlands Account - £82.75

It was agreed that the Clerk's wages for the year be paid and a cheque for £900 was raised. It was agreed to make the following grants:

Citizens Advice Bureau - £50  
Great North Air Ambulance - £250  
Tynedale Hospice - £250  
Ladycross Nature Reserve - £25  
Whitley Chapel Parish Hall - £1000

### 3.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

Colin Horncastle advised that there had been a meeting regarding broadband at Hedley which had been quite positive. Discussions were currently being held with Paul Smith regarding locations in Hexhamshire which would be suitable to receive a signal from Kiln Pit Hill. One point can be seen quite clearly from three positions in Hexhamshire. It was noted that the Parish Council may have to go to the County Council for financial help to set up broadband.

### 3.9 Smelting Arches

- 3.9.1 The planning application for the noticeboard will probably come up next month.
- 3.9.2 The walks leaflets have been distributed to various outlets. The walks will also be available to be downloaded.

### 3.10 Broadband sub-Committee Report

See above under 3.8

### 3.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 3.11.1 Austin Iliffe reported that he had requested again that the cattle grid next to Gairshield be cleared out.
- 3.11.2 The map had not yet been sent in to the Highways Department. The plan was to try to use the Parish Online map for this purpose.

### 3.12 BOATs

There was not much activity to report on the BOATs.

### 3.13 Reports:

- Wetlands: A meeting was to be held with Austin Iliffe, Davy Short, Gill Whatmough and Ted Liddle to finalise the work to be done before handing over the Ted Liddle. Liabilities are that the Parish Council would be responsible for all the Ditches under the lease arrangement which would then be passed on to Ted Liddle once he took on the lease.
- School: Nothing to report.
- Hall: £300 had been raised by the Carry on Mining production.  
The lost farms in Weardale talk was to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- Sportsfield: It was reported that once the league approval for the football is received the work can begin in connection with the funding received in relation to the Housing Developer Fund. Andrew Nixon was to arrange for the container.

### 3.14 Any Other Business

It was reported that the Young Farmers are through to the next round at Retford in the drama competition with their pantomime.

As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed.