

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 13th October 2016 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

10.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Davy Short and Edward Parker.

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

Colin Horncastle, Unitary Councillor was also present.

10.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 8th September 2016

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

10.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

10.4 Matters Arising

2.16.3 There had been no further updates regarding Rushwood.

4.8 There had been no further developments following a site meeting with the AONB and Footpaths Officer regarding the bridleway.

6.13.2 The van is continuing to be monitored.

7.15.7 The Dog Bin is being well used. Gill Whatmough advised that she had chased the Council regarding emptying of the bin.

8.7.3 The signatory form had been submitted again to Lloyds. Alastair Stevens is a signatory.

10.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

10.6 Correspondence

A freedom of information request had been received regarding any pre-fabricated local authority houses. This was not applicable to Hexhamshire.

10.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £11873.05

Sportsfield Account - £6769.87

Wetlands Account - £137.84

Dukesfield Account - £10320.50

Austin Iliffe agreed to look into bank accounts with a view to moving all but the Treasurer's Account to achieve a better interest rate.

10.8 Website

Greg Finch advised that he had put a link on the Smelting Arches website to link to the Parish Council website.

10.9 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

- 10.9.1 Colin Horncastle advised that the salt was to be replenished soon if not already done. Austin Iliffe advised that he would send a copy of where the heaps should be located which would then be sent to Kris Westerbury.
- 10.9.2 Colin Horncastle advised that he and Kris Westerbury were shortly to visit Hexhamshire to assess what work needs to be undertaken.
- 10.9.3 The local Police Inspector, Kevin Oates, was soon to be leaving his post.
- 10.9.4 It was reported that grasscutting had been done since the last meeting and had been done well.

10.10 Smelting Arches

- 10.10.1 Greg Finch advised that 4,200 of the books have been sold to date.
- 10.10.2 £900 is still due from Friends of the North Pennines.
- 10.10.3 If the price is to be changed for the remainder of the books the Parish Council needs to liaise with Ian Forbes and the Friends of the North Pennines.
- 10.10.4 A stock of cards had also been handed over from the Friends of the North Pennines.
- 10.10.5 A 'tidy up' at the Arches was planned for Saturday 15th October.

10.11 Broadband Sub-Committee

- 10.11.1 Austin Iliffe reported that preparation was underway for the planning application. The application forms had been drafted together with the notice to the land owner. The supporting statement had been completed along with the site location plan. More mast details were awaited to enable the site plan and elevations to be produced. It was agreed that Austin Iliffe would make the planning application on behalf of the Parish Council and that the fee would be paid by the Parish Council.
- 10.11.2 There was no further news regarding the fibre cabinet at Whitley Chapel.
- 10.11.3 There were no signal improvements for EE or 3 mobile phones.
- 10.11.4 Agreement had been achieved for a transmission dish on buildings at Greymare Farm, Kiln Pit Hill.

10.12 Highways and Footpaths

- 10.12 It was agreed that the Parish Council would request a crash barrier between the two options offered by Kris Westerbury. It was also agreed that better signage was necessary, one at Dalton and one at Eastgate, Hexham. The suggestion was also made that a sign should be placed in Hexham to advise vehicles to go via Dilston instead of Hexhamshire.

10.13 BOATs

There were no further issues raised.

10.14 Reports:

Wetlands:

It was agreed that no cattle should be allowed to graze on the wetlands as exclusivity of use had been questioned.

It was agreed that no more than 2 vehicles were to be allowed to be parked at the end of the track due to the sensitivity of the track. Only deliveries and collections were to be allowed.

It was agreed that an annual review of the agreement should be undertaken.

Information was awaited to be put onto the website regarding the willow.

School:

There was nothing to report.

Hall:

The Dave Southern concert was reported to be a sell-out.

19 tables had been sold to date for the Christmas Fayre and Father Christmas was to attend.

Prices were being obtained for stage improvements including front of house curtains, wing Curtains, back drop and stage extension. Grant applications were then to be made.

The toilets were also to be improved.

It was reported that the WI Soup Lunches had now raised in excess of £1200.

The new kitchen was now functional but some work was still to be undertaken. Crockery and pans were now on order.

It was suggested that a formal opening ceremony should take place and Colin Horncastle agreed to formally open the kitchen.

Sportsfield:

It was agreed that Matthew Hope should be asked to undertake the hedge cutting and Strimming of the bankside at a cost of £420.

A quote was to be requested for re-dressing and spraying of the paths.

It was reported that the posts and net on the tennis court had been flung into the nettles on a fairly regular basis. It was suggested that the regular players be given a key and should put the net etc away when they were finished. Gill Whatmough agreed to speak to Chris Porter regarding this.

10.15 Any Other Business

10.15.1 It was reported that Lilswood Caravan Site currently owned by Kendal Caravans is for sale.

10.15.2 The phone box at Whitley Chapel was under threat. Only 1 call had been made in a year but it was agreed that it should be kept in case of emergencies.

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

