

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Room, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

2.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Davy Short, Greg Finch and Andrew Nixon.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Alison Tweddle, Austin Iliffe, Alastair Stevens, Marge Rastall and Edward Parker.

Unitary Councillor Colin Horncastle was also present.

2.2 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

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

2.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests from those present.

2.4 Matters Arising

2.13.5 Gill Whatmough was to write to the homeowner opposite Dye House regarding the rocks in the verge.

1.10.1 The plans for the new farm building at Oaklea had been approved.

1.10.2 The planning application regarding the bungalow at Low Juniper were still under consideration.

1.13.4 The dates for the road closure regarding Dalton Bridge had been notified as 27<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

1.18.2 Kris Westerbury had contacted the person who had made the layby and this has now been passed to the Development team for action.

2.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

2.6 Correspondence

2.6.1 A letter had been received from NCC regarding Pre Application Advice Protocol.

2.6.2 Correspondence regarding Local Community Work had been forwarded to Tony Macklon.

2.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £23,797

Savings Account - £2771.18

Wetlands Account - £137.87

Dukesfield Account - £1383.77

## 2.8 Parish Website

- 2.8.1 Questions had been asked about the system for booking the Hall. Gill Whatmough queried whether we should reinstate Google Analytics so we can gauge traffic to the website.

## 2.9 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

- 2.9.1 Colin Horncastle advised that quite a lot of work is being undertaken by the County Council on Bridges from money allocated following the flooding.
- 2.9.2 He advised that the Homebase Retail Park in Hexham had been bought by the Council.

## 2.10 Planning Application

Listed Building Consent: Repoint front and east gable replacing the present cement mortar With a lime mortar, replace damp concrete floors with limecrete to indicated rooms on ground Floor and replace where necessary, in those same rooms, any cement based plaster with Natural lime plaster. Clickem House C278 Lilswood Farm to Whitley Chapel Slaley.

The Parish Council agreed to support the application.

## 2.11 Smelting Arches

Greg Finch was still waiting for the balance of the North Pennines money.

## 2.12 Broadband

- 2.12.1 Planning permission had been granted with conditions.
- 2.12.2 A meeting had been held with Daneco to agree priorities for moving the project forward.
- 2.12.3 The new cabinet in Juniper is part of NCC Rural Broadband Programme Phase 2 and will Become an operational fibre cabinet by June 2017. It will provide improved broadband to Ordley, Peth, the Lee and the Juniper surrounding areas (673 and 676 numbers)
- 2.12.4 The new cabinet in Whitley Chapel is expected to be operational April/May 2017.

## 2.13 Highways and Footpaths

- 2.13.1 The survey of the roads and ditches is completed and the results are to be submitted to the County Council.
- 2.13.2 An official complaint had been received regarding the mud on Lee Lane. Action had been Taken to rectify the problem.
- 2.13.3 Richard Ferguson had been approached by the Forestry Commission worried about the level of activity of bikes in the forest. The Forestry Commission have a meeting scheduled with the police about the issue and have asked for any information to be passed on to them regarding offenders including registration numbers etc. Gill Whatmough was to advise Slaley Parish of this request.

## 2.14 Reports:        Wetland

- 2.14.1 It was reported that the horses have been moved from the wetlands.

- 2.14.2 There had been a gate at one point off the track which needed to be reinstated.
- 2.14.3 It was agreed that cars should be parked within the Wetland through the gateway rather than on the track. Gill Whatmough agreed to advise of this.

#### School

- 2.14.4 There was nothing to report.

#### Parish Hall

- 2.14.5 An evening of entertainment was scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> February in aid of the Parish Hall featuring the Young Farmers and Stocksfield Stompers. The kitchen was to be formally opened by Councillor Horncastle.
- 2.14.6 The accounts were to be amended to separate capital income and expenditure from operational income and expenditure to enable more clarity of where the money raised is used.
- 2.14.7 Club hire rates had been unified at the lower rate; for all clubs. Private hire rates were to remain the same.
- 2.14.8 The leaking pipe had been repaired.
- 2.14.9 PAT testing was scheduled for the following week.

#### 2.15 Any Other Business

- 2.15.1 The elections are to be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> for Councillors willing to stand again.
- 2.15.2 A meeting had been held with Two Castles, Anna Bates and Diane Cooper. The problem of local people not getting the houses was discussed and the Councillors were advised that there were valid reasons for this. It was agreed that vacancies would be put in the Courant in future and that the Parish Council would put them on the website. The bathrooms and kitchens were to be renewed. There are two methods of applying – by the Northumbria Homefinder or a direct application to Two Castles. There are government regulations regarding to whom the properties should be let ie. 2 bedroomed properties should go to a family.
- 2.15.3 Complaints regarding residents should be made by other residents only.
- 2.15.4 The allocated parking issue would have to be discussed with the residents.
- 2.15.5 Any vehicles parked on the highway would not fall under their jurisdiction.
- 2.15.6 Gill Whatmough suggested that there should be information sheets for new residents moving into the area. Information about St Helen's Gate could be distributed in the pubs in the area.

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

