

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 14th September 2017 at 7:30pm in the Malcolm Caisley Room at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

Present: Gill Whatmough, Colin Horncastle, Greg Finch, Hilary Kristensen, Andrew Nixon, Alison Tweddle, Austin Iliffe, Davy Short, Marge Rastall, Alastair Stevens

9.1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ed Parker and Mandy Charlton

9.2 Garth Parker

A minute's silence was observed for the recent death of Garth Parker. Our thoughts are with Barbara and her family.

9.3 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th August 2017

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

9.4 Declaration of interests

There was no declaration of interests.

9.5 Matters arising

6.14.2 Joan Lamb is moving into 8, St Helens Gate in November. A tenant has also been selected for no 9.

8.11.3 The correct pothole location is along the Stotsfold-Westburnhope road, not at Gairshield.

8.12.2 The damaged sign at Kings Law may still need to be reported to Natural England.

8.14.2 The bags of ragwort have still to be collected from Lee Farm. Colin Horncastle agreed to inform Mr Keen, the council official responsible.

9.6 Matters for discussion with District Councillor

9.6.1 A Regional Commissioner is carrying out a review of the County's schools. Replacement of the current three tier system with two tier is under consideration. Recent criticism of "Bright Tribe" may lead to their removal as managers of Haydon Bridge School.

9.6.2 Thanks to a strongly worded objection by the Parish Council and a number of other objections, the proposed forestry building on the Lee Road is being reviewed by planning department lawyer, Liz Cinnamon.

9.6.3 There was a lively discussion about the siting of the proposed agricultural buildings at Black Hall. CH explained that the planners might not be able to take any further action as full planning approval was not required.

9.6.3 It was unanimously agreed to object to the proposed extension at Agricultural Cottages, Juniper. The grounds for objection were the effect on the openness of the greenbelt, its size in addition to previous extension of the house, loss of light and privacy to a neighbour and it was out of character.

9.7 Correspondence

9.7.1 Notice had been received regarding the Parish Councils AGM at Pegswood.

9.7.2 The Hexham Debate will be about housing on 16th September.

9.7.3 A meeting to discuss planning issues in Tynedale will be held on 10th October.

9.7.4 The recent planning application at Lambshield has been approved.

9.7.5 Grants are available for the equipment needs of Parish Councils under the Transparency Fund.

9.8 Financial Report

9.8.1 The precept was paid into the bank account on September 13th.

9.8.2 The current balance of the various accounts are:

General	3977.73
Sportsfield	12775
Wetland	175.35
Dukesfield Arches	11571

9.9 Broadband

9.9.1 AI reported on a recent meeting with Paul Smith of Daneco. Slow progress on the wireless scheme this summer was due to Paul's recent illness, from which he is now recovered. He planned to order the Wally Thorn mast on 15th September and expected delivery in 4-6 weeks. Soil testing of the mast site was still needed before construction of the foundations. It was noted that some urgency was needed as ground conditions will soon become unsuitable for construction works.

9.9.2 Some electrical work is still needed at the Greymare Farm mast. Proposals for the aerial at Viewley are to be discussed with Derwent Gibson, the landowner.

9.10 Highways and Footpaths

9.10.1 AI requested photos of the potholes near Kings Law. He will send these to the Highways department.

9.10.2 Recent drainage work on the Dipton Mill bank has much improved the disposal of stormwater and reduced flood risk at the pub.

9.10.3 Work on the Lamb Shield road will take place in the near future.

9.10.4 There had been recent removal of overhanging tree branches at various locations recently. This included the black tree at the Lee road end.

9.10.5 Poor parking outside the church continues to be an issue. It was agreed that cars should not park south of the entrance gate on road safety grounds.

9.10.6 There are four outstanding footpath issues. The path at Mire Meadows has been washed away, the Peth footbridge is being used by motor cycles, the BOAT above Viewley remains in a poor state and the gate at Hackwood has yet to be repaired.

9.11 Wetland

9.11.1 An application for Countryside Stewardship funding will be made before the 30th September deadline. The low input grassland option was the most appropriate.

9.11.2 It was agreed that grazing could continue until the end of October if ground conditions permit.

12 Village Hall

9.12.1 The application to register the changed ownership has now been made.

9.12.2 The next event is the Leek Show on September 16th.

13 School

9.13.1 There was general concern that pupil numbers are falling which may have an impact on the long term future of the school.

14 Sportsfield

9.14.1 Hugo Remnant from Land Factor, acting on behalf of the Newcastle Diocese who own half of the sportsfield, has requested a rent increase from the current £675 to £800 pa until the end of tenancy in 2020. It was agreed to negotiate on the basis of extending the lease at the same time.

9.14.2 The annual inspection of the play equipment was now due.

15 Dukesfield Arches

9.15.1 It was agreed to hold an annual clear up of the site. This will take place on Saturday 28th October at 10:00 am.

16 AOB

9.16.1 It was agreed that a subgroup would discuss a possible increase in salary for Mandy Charlton.

9.16.2 Slaley Community Shop is looking for investors.

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