

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 12th April 2018 in the Malcolm Caisley meeting rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

4.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Edward Parker, Alison Tweddle, Marge Rastall and Davy Short.

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

Colin Horncastle, Unitary Councillor, was also present.

4.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 15th March 2018.

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

4.3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4.4 Matters Arising

2.6.1 The application for Allendale Common had been granted but with strict conditions to be complied with.

2.8.2 It was reported that the Transparency Fund money had been received.

3.7 The Blackhall Mill planning application had been withdrawn.

3.11 It was reported that work on the ditches is currently taking place near Stotsfold.

A representative of the Highways Department was to meet with the Parish Council in May.

3.14.4 Gill Whatmough advised that Top Signs would produce a double sided 20" sign with 'No Parking beyond this point' for £20 per side. They would donate the wood for erecting the sign.

4.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

4.6 Correspondence

4.6.1 A letter of thanks had been received from CAN for the donation made by the Parish Council.

4.6.2 Notification of the Northumberland Local Plan Spring Consultation had been received with a deadline for comments of 2nd May 2018. Gill Whatmough and Alastair Stevens agreed to look at it.

4.6.3 A letter of thanks had been received from Tynedale Hospice for the donation made by the Parish Council.

4.6.4 An email had been received from Pat Wilson advising that she had been contacted by Julie Humes, a qualified youth worker who was wanting to organise a meeting with parents to ascertain what activities parents would like to have introduced for their children. Activities could include singing, dance, youth clubs, theatre etc. The meeting would take place on Tuesday 19th June at Slaley Commemoration Hall at 7 pm.

4.7 Financial Report

Treasurers Account - £8442.85
Wetlands Account - £138.02
Dukesfield Account - £12282.10
Savings Account - £12778.71

- 4.7.1 Austin Iliffe advised that he had surveyed the benches and that three of them would need replacing in the not too distant future. It was agreed that 4 should be ordered.
- 4.7.2 It was agreed that Austin Iliffe would discuss with Matthew Hope the work to be done on the playing field. Provision should be made for this.

4.8 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

- 4.8.1 The state of the roads was exceptionally poor partly due to the extreme winter conditions recently experienced. Colin Horncastle advised that an extra £4 million had been allocated by the Government for emergency repairs.
- 4.8.2 Emergency road repairs were taking place but were not a permanent fix.
- 4.8.3 Colin Horncastle advised that he would contact enforcement regarding the ongoing concerns at Rushwood.
- 4.8.4 Colin Horncastle advised that the education consultation had finished and that it was an informal consultation with no power to close schools. Various solutions had been proposed by the Heads of schools. Councillor Horncastle advised that the County Council may not do anything following consultation.
- 4.8.5 It was agreed that projected student numbers would be useful in deciding the way forward.
- 4.8.6 The decision regarding the outcome of the consultation was to be announced in early May. Colin Horncastle advised that he would keep the Parish Council informed.
- 4.8.7 Colin Horncastle thanked Gill Whatmough for her hard work as Chairman.

4.9 Policies and Procedures.

- 4.9.1 It was agreed that the grant procedure for applications to the Parish Council for support should be included on the website.
- 4.9.2 Greg Finch suggested that a shortened version of the standing order and financial Regulations be included.
- 4.9.3 The Clerk was to contact Nicholson and Portnell in connection with any documentation they may still hold.

4.10 Broadband

- 4.10.1 Austin Iliffe advised that Paul is away for a couple of months. Paul Pickworth has put the cable in and will be the first to have broadband. Once this is confirmed as working broadband can then be promoted to the public.
- 4.10.2 The intention is to request that broadband is put into the Parish Hall with no charge.

4.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 4.11.1 It was reiterated that the potholes are a huge problem following the recent snow.
- 4.11.2 Gill Whatmough advised that she had contacted the street sweeping officer and was assured that the C roads would be swept.

- 4.11.3 Volunteers and Police had undertaken an operation on 8th April in connection with the potential illegal use of BOATs in the area. It was reported as having been very successful. The Police had stopped a number of vehicles and made riders aware of their presence. The Police advised that most riders had been legitimate and co-operative but that 9 motorcyclists had been given suitable warnings regarding the unauthorised use of a footbridge. They also advised that 1 4x4 had been uplifted on a Byway with no valid insurance. The Police had advised that they hoped that this would become a regular event. They encouraged continued reporting of illegal activity via 101 or 999 if necessary or by emailing northernhexhamnpt@northumbria.pnn.police.uk.
- 4.11.4 It was advised that the snow poles needed to be replaced from Stobby Lee to Harwood Shield and at the top of Kings Law between the cattle grids.

4.12 BOATs

There was nothing further to report.

4.13 Reports

Wetlands

- 4.13.1 It was agreed that the opportunity for grazing the Wetlands should be advertised in the Magazine.

Hall

- 4.13.2 A meeting was to be held on the Monday following the meeting to discuss the installation of the defibrillator.
- 4.13.3 It was reported that the ladder to the loft had been installed.
- 4.13.4 It had been decided with Derwent Gibson to resubmit the land registration again which would involve another fee. All those named on the conveyance were to be named.

School

- 4.13.5 There was nothing to report.

Sportsfield/Play Area

- 4.13.6 Matthew Hope had quoted £60 to clear the moss. This was agreed.

Smelting Arches

- 4.13.7 Greg Finch advised that more books had been sold this week.
- 4.13.8 Greg Finch had contacted Allendale Estates to see if there had been any change in the leaseholder. Allendale Estates had advised that there were no plans to sell the Dukesfield Estate.

4.14 Any Other Business

- 4.14.1 It was agreed that a litter picking day would be held the weekend of the 12th and 13th May.
- 4.14.2 It was reported that Lilswood Caravan Park had been sold and that there were a number of trees that had been felled.
- 4.14.3 It was agreed that an advertisement be placed in the Hexham Courant following receipt of the resignation of the Clerk.

