

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 10th January 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

1.1 Apologies for Absence: Alison Tweddle, Edward Parker, Nicola Matthews

Councillors present: Alastair Stevens, Austin Iliffe, Greg Finch, Marge Rastall, Hilary Kristensen, Gill Whatmough, Davy Short, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor)

1.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13th December 2018:

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

1.3 Declarations of interest:

None

1.4 Matters Arising:

11.1. AS forwarded the Neighbourhood Plan from Allendale Parish for review; a small group of councillors will consider their policies before the next meeting and whether such a plan would be appropriate for Hexhamshire.

4.14.2 Lilswood Caravan Park had until Friday 14 December to comply with their Planning Contravention Notice or an Enforcement Order would be issued. In response the owners submitted sufficient detail for their retrospective planning application to be validated and the Parish Council have been consulted. See further information 1.5

8.9.2 Alex Campbell has carried out an enforcement visit at Windy Hill to inspect the works carried out over previous months and they have applied for retrospective planning permission. Still on going as the application has still not been validated.

10.13.11 Website issues (Google Maps and Updates). Mr Flatman has completed some work to the website. GS to contact Edward Robson regarding some very infrequent Website updates etc.

11.6.2 Insurance renewal – GS to pass invoice to Gill for payment.

11.11.1 Snow markers at Kingslaw – on going.

11.14.1 PAYE for Clerk- discussed under AOB.

12.7.2 Parish Magazine has submitted a request for funding but all requests will be reviewed next month

12.14.2 Rushwood – AS replied to Jo Turner (enforcement officer) to ask for an update. NM to look into probate issue?

1.5 Public Participation

There were four members of the public at the meeting. They were concerned about the development at Lilswood Caravan site and that the deadline for objections was today, but the Parish had asked for an extension.

The full application has been received and was reviewed by all those present. Concerns were raised regarding drainage, lights (in an AONB area), parking, buildings (amenity block has not been built where it states on the map), loss of trees, and landscaping, number of caravans, number of visitors, waste, the number of months the site will be open, and the need for a warden on site 12 months of the year. Environment Agency has been consulted could they inspect?

The residents present and some others have already submitted their concerns to the Planning Officer. The Parish Council intends to reply next Tues (14 Jan) and Neil Armstrong the Planning Officer is aware that the response is imminent. Objections can be made online, by email or letter. The scale of development seems to be over loading all of the facilities.

The Parish Minutes books from 1959 were presented at the meeting when the number of caravans on the site was stated as 8. In 1961 it was again limited to 8 and only licenced to be open from March to October. A further approval several years later permitted a maximum of 15 caravans with the same eight month licencing period. A later proposal to increase to 19 or 20 caravans was rejected by the planners. There is a need to establish when the licence was increased from 8 months to 10 months we have no record or local knowledge that it was ever extended.

In accordance with the views of the councillors present, the Chairman agreed to submit an objection to the application

1.6 Correspondence

- Litter picking leaflet for notice board

1.7 Financial Report

- 1.7.1 The summary accounts had been forwarded to everyone.
The precept of £8380 has been received.
The domain name has been paid to Zen £8.36

The balances on the accounts remain at: -

- Treasurer's Account - £8982.47
- Sports field/Savings Account - £10822.82
- Wetlands Account - £138.09
- Dukesfield Account - £12,650.61

- 1.7.2 The Parish Magazine has submitted a request for funding. All requests for donations from local organisations will be reviewed next month.

1.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

The Northumberland Local Plan is now active

A New Director of Planning is starting soon.

Budget meeting at the end of Feb

Road Closures – letter has been received informing everyone that all events will now be charged.

Austin asked again if the road from Houtley to the Triangle at Steel could be repaired under the allocation of funds for rural roads.

1.9 Planning Application

Formal plans for the Lilswood caravan site were distributed to the meeting, see 1.5 above.

1.10 Broadband

- 1.10.1 Airnexus confirms there is a signal at Viewley and we believe a connection has been made to the Croziers.

- Completion of local sector aerals and connections to be completed by end Jan 2019

- Anticipate service to be available from early Feb.

1.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 1.11.1 Road to Viewley needs to be looked at for Pot Holes.
- 1.11.2 Lee Road still has an overhanging tree – NCC have been informed.
- 1.11.3 GW and AS meeting Duncan, footpaths officer on 23 Jan to discuss footpaths at the Wetland.

1.12 BOATs

- 1.12.1 Still activity – even at night

1.13 Reports

Wetlands:

- 1.13.1 We have received the funds of £280 from the Countryside Stewardship scheme.
- 1.13.2 On the track the 'L' hurdle needs replacing.

Hall

- 1.13.3 Title of the Hall is now transferred to the Official Custodian for Charities where it will be held in trust for the benefit of Whitley Chapel Parish Hall Charitable Trust. We are very grateful to Derwent Gibson for his help in sorting out the land issues, Keith Henderson, David Nixon, Elizabeth Atkinson and Geoff Hubbuck for acting as Holding Trustees between registration of the Land and its transfer to the Official Custodian. These actions do not in any way effect the hall which remains to the benefit of the inhabitants of Hexhamshire and district and continues to be managed by the Trustees management committee. It does however remove the need to keep track of holding trustees and the cost of conveyance should there be any changes to them.
- 1.13.4 The Production of a 'Christmas Carol Gone Wrong', produced by Lewis Short raised £1536 for improvements to the stage lighting.
- 1.13.5 Hall committee looking into two major decoration projects, the toilets and the Hall Floor.
- 1.13.6 Ladies looking into new curtains for hall.

School

- 1.13.7 2 more new pupils bringing the total to 34.

Sportsfield/Play Area

- 1.13.8 Message received from Matthew Hope who has been working on the list of jobs from the last inspection of the play area. Most things have been attended to - swing heights, zip wire etc. Matthew is concerned that a large proportion of the report is strimmer damage to the bottom of the structures, and the tennis court. The damage is nothing to be concerned about and it does not affect the structure in anyway. Matthew would like to know the Parish plans for the future to paint/preserve the timber frames and structures?
- 1.13.9 The report on the tennis court is quite dire, it suggests replacing all the damaged plastic coping on top of the walls, which is a rather large percentage. It also points out that the timber boards round the edge of the court are rotting away and that new wires are required to tension and support the mesh fencing on several sides.
- 1.13.10 GS to get the annual play equipment inspection brought forward. Then we will be able to assess what is actually required, therefore a comprehensive list of requirements can be received. Matthew Hope to be asked to continue with maintenance of play equipment.

- 1.13.11 The group have decided that we do need to take action on the tennis courts. We are to get 3 quotes for completing the work on the tennis courts, one from Matthew Hope plus two others. Meanwhile AS and GS will meet the surveyor at the next inspection to discuss the extent of work needed to the tennis court.

Smelting Arches

- 1.13.12 As we postponed the tidy up of the Arches from November, the new date has been suggested 23rd March 2019.

1.14 Any Other Business

- 1.14.1 Annual Shire Clean Up – date suggested for Easter Holidays.

- 1.14.2 AT, MR would like to request that the white lines are painted on the parking spaces up from the Village Hall, all in agreement. GW to ask Matthew Hope to paint the lines.

- 1.14.3 AS informed the meeting that Gaynor has tendered her resignation but is prepared to wait until a new candidate can be found. PAYE – GS has tried unsuccessfully to create a PAYE account with HMRC, as it is linked to an email address, there is little point in Gaynor continuing with the registration as it will be run by a new person.

As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.15pm