

**Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30 pm  
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Room, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall**

- 3.1 Apologies for Absence Alison Tweddle, Davy Short, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor),  
Councillors present Alastair Stevens (Chair), Hilary Kristensen, Roger Rutherford, Edward Parker, Gillian Whatmough, Greg Finch, Marge Rastall, Nicola Matthews, Gaynor Scandle (Clerk)
- 3.3 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.
- 3.3 Declarations of interest  
None
- 3.4 Matters Arising
- 1.1 Received designation from NCC so the Neighbourhood plan can commence. Planning Consultant Jenny Ludman to be asked to lead the project and we would need a separate steering group with some members of the wider community.
- 2.8.2 Rushwood – CH was going to speak to Joe Turner - still ongoing.
- 3.5 Public Participation  
No members of the public were present
- 3.6 Correspondence  
The playground inspection report was received and discussed at length  
Wonderful Village picture competition is still ongoing and urged everyone to vote before 17/3
- 3.7 Finance
- 3.7.1 Balances as at 12<sup>th</sup> March 20
- |                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Treasurer's Account | £10,934.16 |
| Sportsfield Account | £9,027.30  |
| Dukesfield Account  | £12,814.05 |
| Wetlands Account    | £348.52    |
- 3.7.2 Sadly Lifespan Charity has closed, and we had authorised them to have £300 which they declined. Therefore, the Councillors decided to donate £300 to Chrysalis Club Tynedale, who supply dementia friendly activities and support.
- 3.8 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor
- 3.9 Planning  
Lee Nook Cottage – application for a barn has been approved.
- 3.10 Highways, footpaths and BOATS
- 3.10.1 Pot holes on Dipton Mill bank have been repaired.
- 3.10.2 During the recent poor weather many of the shire roads were not ploughed – i.e. Eshells, Westburnhope, Spittal Shield roads. Many residents and councillors want to know why some roads are gritted or ploughed and others not? Some routes maybe on School bus route or the height of the farms maybe an issue but every road should be treated the same.

How would we establish which are the 'farmers' routes i.e. when Farmers are paid by NCC to plough? Are the main gritters waiting for the 'farmers' to access these areas? No answers were available but investigation needed.

- 3.10.3 Austin Iliffe was the designated roads person for the parish and as he has left, we need a volunteer to coordinate between Highways Dept and the Parish – Gill Whatmough volunteered.
- 3.10.4 BOATS – we received a proposal from David Brookes who is the Infrastructure Manager at Northumberland County Council proposing a permanent traffic regulation order excluding all vehicles on this stretch of the byway from Rawgreen to the wood. The landowner, Derwent Gibson suggested a barrier which the Parish would support as everyone is in agreement that signs in that area are already ignored.
- 3.10.5 BOATS - David Brookes was also informed about the other 4x4 vehicle in the water at The Peth on 24/2/20. Photographs of the incident were sent to him with a suggestion that the BOAT between the Peth and Shield Hall Ponds be closed to 4x4's. on safety grounds.

### 3.11 Reports

Wetlands the 3-acre site has been advertised externally for a tenant from May 2020. The area has been under grazed and would benefit from native cattle.

#### Dukesfield Arches

The annual clean up took place on Saturday 7th March and 5 people helped – the effort is made easier by Matthew Hope doing a good job keeping on top of the site all year.

#### Hall

Work on the main hall is complete. The recent quiz night was a great success with 130 people attending and raising £1200 for the Hall.

#### School

Building work on the extension is still on going.

#### Sportsfield

Some issues were identified when discussing the Play Inspection report and a physical inspection of some of the equipment is needed therefore some Councillors agreed to meet prior to the next meeting to inspect the area. The picnic tables are to be replaced with recycled plastic tables. Urgent issues are the spring on the main gates and the slide.

The tennis courts are still on going.

### 3.12 Any Other Business

At the May meeting it will be the Parish AGM and Alastair Stevens will be standing down and a new Chairman will be required.

The meeting closed at 8.35