

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thurs 8th April 2021 at 7.30 pm
Held via TEAMS call

- 4.1 Apologies for Absence Hilary Kristensen, Alison Tweddle, Edward Parker, Roger Rutherford, Davy Short.

Councillors present Marge Rastall (Chair), Nicola Matthews, Gillian Whatmough, Alastair Stevens, Greg Finch, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor), Gaynor Scandle (Clerk).

- 4.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 11th March 2021
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

- 4.3 Declarations of interest
None

- 4.4 Matters Arising

2.8.2 Rushwood – Still ongoing – things may change after upcoming elections.

12.4.2 Lilswood Caravan Site – NCC Planning Dept have contacted the neighbouring resident regarding with proposals for the drainage, to discuss the options. The Caravan Site were using Broadwell House as their ‘pin’ for Google Maps and on their website.

12.14 Lighting at the Church Gates - meeting has taken place, the electricity will run across the road and the cables for gate lights will be dug in then.

- 4.5 Neighbourhood Plan – the monies remaining from the grant for the year end 2021 – must be returned to NCC and we will need to reapply next year for more funding.

Cllr Horncastle expressed a strong interest in joining the steering group. The Steering Group: Alastair Stevens, Roger Rutherford, Emma Wright, Andrew Patterson, Susie White, Rosie Johnston

- 4.6 Public Participation
No members of the public were present

- 4.7 Correspondence

- 4.8 Finance

- 4.8.1 Balances as at 6th April 2021

Treasurer’s Account	£14042.05
Sportsfield Account	£2683.15
Dukesfield Account	£13152.61
Wetlands Account	£672.41

- 4.8.2 The draft year end accounts have been circulated to all of the Councillors. These will be passed to Marion Henderson for auditing and can hopefully be approved at the next meeting.

- 4.8.3 Galbraiths invoice for the rent of the Sportsfield £750 was approved.

- 4.8.4 Zen invoice for hosting website has been paid - £129

4.9 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor
Cllr Horncastle attending on the call

4.9.1 Cllr Horncastle discussed the forthcoming Elections and we were recommended to advertise if anyone would like to join the Parish Council. This will be done on Facebook, the Website and Courant notes.

4.9.2 The possibility of having fibre broadband in the Shire was discussed. The Allen Valley had a community lead programme with BARN and now most houses in the area have fibre.

4.10 Planning

3.10.1 21/00371/FULL / Proposed shepherds hut for use as a self-catering holiday accommodation/ High Rawgreen Cottage, Steel, Hexham, NE47 0HL – it was noted that ground works have commenced for this.

4.10.2 Moss House – permission granted.

4.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

4.11.1 GW contacted Highways re signs at Dalton, Mill Bank Top and the list of ‘U’ roads

4.11.2 Two styles - Lilswood to Kingslaw need attention.

4.12 Reports

Wetlands – summer grazing is available; this will be advertised on Facebook that the Wetlands is available for a 6 months tenancy.

GS did contact to Duncan Lovett requesting additional boards on the footpath near Moss House/ Mire House

Dukesfield Arches – Budgeting estimates were provided of the possible cost of work classed as ‘necessary’ and ‘desirable’.

Options:

- Carry out the work as specified. This would probably secure the chimneys for many years to come, just as the main structure of the arches now are.
- Carry out the ‘necessary’ works to the chimney only.
- Do nothing. The chimneys would have to be fenced off before too long for safety reasons, and will eventually crumble.

It was agreed to seek 3 bids for the work as specified, and that Doonan Architects be asked to assist with the procurement given the likelihood of technical queries during the process. Greg to contact Doonan’s accordingly.

Hall – Repairs have not commenced on the ceiling in the Supper Room. This needs to be completed before the election on 6 May 21.

School -

Sportsfield – Two tenders have been received for the grass cutting and maintenance at the sportsfield and arches and the Councillors spent time considering the 2 different quotes. After much careful consideration Matt Hope was awarded the contract for 3 years.

4.13 Any Other Business

The Election Nomination forms for the election on the 6th May have been registered with NCC, we have 9 nominations. Alistair Stevens has decided to stand down from the Parish Council, but is willing to remain on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Clerk Salary, following HMRC guidance it is now against the law to employ a Clerk on a self-employed basis. All clerks must be paid PAYE and guidance from NALC regarding the number of hours and pay scales had been passed to the Chairman for consideration. The Councillors have been given time to consider the options. Clerk to register with Government Gate for HMRC Reference numbers etc.

AGM will be held when we can next meet in the Village Hall.

Alistair Stevens was thanked for his contribution to the Parish Council especially for standing as Chair.

The meeting closed at 9.05