

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 11th December 2015 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

12.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Greg Finch and Edward Parker.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Alastair Stevens, Hilary Kristensen, Alison Tweddle, Marge Rastall, Davy Short, Austin Iliffe and Andrew Nixon.

Unitary Councillor, Colin Horncastle was also present.

12.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th November 2015.

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

12.3 Declaration of Interests

There was no declaration of interests.

12.4 Matters Arising

11.2 There had been no further developments regarding the lease.

10.7.2 The Clerk was to check on the progress of the Housing Developer Fund repayment.

10.13 It was reported that Ruth Thompson wants to manage the willow and would pay rent. Monica had advised that she wishes to use the hut to hold classes. There would be the potential to use the hut to hold basketry classes. It was also reported that the school had shown interest in using the hut. It was reported that Monica's husband would maintain the hut. It was agreed that there should be one person responsible for co-ordinating the use of the site. It was agreed that a group should be formed between the 3 people using the site. The possibility of grazing the land was also discussed with the willow being fenced off. The footpath had been discussed but it was decided that the route of the path was not an issue.

11.7 It was reported that the bench in memory of Judy Dinning was in place and a ceremony was to be held on Sunday 13th December 2015.

12.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

12.6 Correspondence

12.6.1 The Hexham Neighbourhood Plan consultation document had been received. Colin Horncastle advised that there were numerous areas of concern including car parking issues in Hexham.

12.6.2 Requests for donations were received from the Great North Air Ambulance and the Citizens Advice Bureau which were to be considered at the next meeting.

12.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £1865.54

Savings Account - £6767.01

Wetlands Account - £37.75

- 12.7.1 An invoice had been received from Matthew Hope in connection with work done on the sportsfield for the amount of £575. It was agreed that this should be paid. A quote was also received for the roof on the shelter. This was discussed but it was decided not to go ahead.
- 12.7.2 The budget and donations were to be discussed in January.
- 12.7.3 A payment was to be made into the bank for an advertisement on the website by Wagtail Press.

12.8 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

- 12.8.1 Colin Horncastle commented that he thought the website excellent.
- 12.8.2 He advised that his email address is colin.horncastle@northumberland.gov.uk
- 12.8.3 Colin Horncastle requested emails be sent to Kris Westerbury for any highways issues including grit heap requests. He asked that he be copied in to any emails sent.
- 12.8.4 It was reported that Colin Horncastle had pledged £4.5K towards Parish Hall improvements.

12.9 Broadband

- 12.9.1 Confirmation had been received from Newcastle Council that the application for funding under the Connection Voucher Scheme had failed as a result of over subscription.
- 12.9.2 The Ann Dale group consisting of Healey, Broomley, parts of Riding Mill and Stocksfield) were also affected although they had made individual applications rather than a group application.
- 12.9.3 Self funding for microwave radio had been suggested and it was agreed that this would be the best way forward. Funds would be needed for the infrastructure. A co-operative company would need to be set up. The cost for Hexhamshire would be in the region of £26K including VAT which would include connection to 9 properties.
- 12.9.4 Research needed to be undertaken to ascertain who would sign up. It was agreed to contact those people who had previously signed up.
- 12.9.5 It was agreed that all Councillors would speak to those who may be interested. Help may be forthcoming from John Cooper.

12.10 Planning Applications

- 12.10.1 Pre application for proposed conversion of redundant farm buildings to 2no dwellings – Land at White Hall Farm Slaley Hexham Northumberland.

It was agreed to support the application.

- 12.10.2 Application for single storey, 4 bedroomed house, Guards Lane –it was agreed to object to the application

- 12.10.3 Application to improve the surface along approximately 8000m of public bridle paths / Allendale Common Bridleway Allendale Tynedale District Bridleway 059 Allendale Northumberland.

The 4 parishes sub-committee had written a letter with observations including lack of sufficient information to assess the habitat regulations. There was also concern expressed regarding the

potential usage of the routes once the works are complete. It was agreed that a letter be sent from Hexhamshire Parish Council

12.11 Highways

- 12.11.1 There had been a good response following the last correspondence with Highways. The piped ditch at Close House had been unblocked, the gulley unblocked north of Ordley village and some tarmac placed where the road edge is subsiding at the west end of Lee Lane.
- 12.11.2 Requests were made to clear the pipework and unblock the gulley just south of the Steel.
- 12.11.3 Requests were made to unblock the gulley in Leazes Lane alongside the playing field.
- 12.11.4 There were still some grit heaps outstanding.

12.12 BOATs

It was reported that a prosecution was in progress by the Police of a driver whose Landrover Discovery had to be removed from a BOAT which had a TRO in place.

12.13 Reports

Wetlands:

- 12.13.1 There was nothing further to report.

Hall:

- 12.13.2 It was reported that the Christmas Fair had been very successful with takings of £730 and a profit of £650.
- 12.13.3 Further grant applications had been made for funding in support of kitchen improvements.
- 12.13.4 The new Chairman was reported as being Stefan Sobell and the Vice Chairman, Bob Bennett.
- 12.13.5 There had been a further WI social lunch in support of the Hall funds.
- 12.13.6 The Young Farmers Club and Leek Club were to run events in support of Hall funds.
- 12.13.7 Future fundraising events were to be the Young Farmers Drama Production on March 12th with table top sales on 14th May and 10th September with the Christmas Fair on 26th November.
- 12.13.8 The suggestions was made of the Stocksfield Stompers as a fundraising idea.

12.14 Sportsfield:

Davy Short advised that the re-felting had been organised.

12.15 Any Other Business

It was agreed that the dog fouling outside of the Hall was a problem. This was to be discussed at the next meeting of the Hall Committee

As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed.