

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 17th April 2014 in the Whitley Chapel Parish Hall Malcolm Caisley meeting rooms.

4.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Davy Short, Greg Finch, Edward Parker and Austin Iliffe.

Councillors present – Andrew Nixon, Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Alison Tweddle, Marge Rastall and Alastair Stevens.

4.2 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th March 2014

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting with the following addition to minute 2.2.11' but have not received any response from Hexham gritting department'.

4.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

4.4 Matters Arising

- 11.16 Gill Whatmough reported that she had contacted Two Castles again regarding the continuing problem with the septic tank who advised that they would be sending someone out again to inspect it. The houses are now all full. There had been no interest at affordable housing level so had opened applications to social housing level.
- 3.5 It was reported that Mr Liddle had approached NCC and registered an interest in buying the land at the wetlands should it become available. It would appear the NCC would sell the land to a body such as the parish council but not a private purchaser. The Parish Council agreed that this would be a possibility for the Parish Council to purchase the land as long as there would be a long term lease and it could be handed over without liability.
- 3.7 The seat has been purchased and is to be sited at Stobby Lee.
- 3.11.1 Austin Iliffe was to contact Newton to ascertain who dealt with their broadband. Austin was to be asked to contact Guy Opperman regarding broadband.
- 3.16.1 It was reported that Fastflow have finished work at Stotsfold which means that the repair work for the roadsides can now be requested.

4.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

4.6 Correspondence

- 4.6.1 Confirmation had been received from the planning department that the following planning applications had been granted permission:

The Farm House, Low Juniper, Hexham
Land east of Oaklea Bungalow, Steel
Tozzi Nord wind turbine – Land north of west Longlea

- 4.6.2 Letters of thanks for donations given by the Parish Council were received from Citizens Advice, Core Music, Great North Air Ambulance and Tynedale Hospice at Home.
- 4.6.3 Notification of a training session regarding the basics of planning had been received. Gill Whatmough, Alastair Stevens, Andrew Nixon, Marge Rastall and Alison Tweddle agreed that they would attend on the 24th April at Prospect House between 6 and 8 pm.

4.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £278.31
Savings Account - £13794.46
Wetlands Account - £262.46

The following had been received for payment and it was agreed that cheques should be raised:

Zen Internet - £57.46
Land Factor - £675.00, rent for the sportsfield.

Alastair Stevens agreed to check the current subscription rates for the tennis court and to include this in the magazine.

4.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues brought forward.

4.9 Smelting Arches

- 4.9.1 It was reported that several events had taken place including the dousing event during which the outline of a round house may have been discovered. Further investigations were to take place. A heritage cook-off was to be held the Saturday following the meeting of the Parish Council which had attracted a great deal of publicity.
- 4.9.2 There had been some concern expressed about the lack of parking at the road end. There was no funding available. Parking was to be encouraged elsewhere and may be possible at the Smelting Arches on the hard standing.

4.10 Broadband

The situation regarding broadband was discussed under matters arising.

4.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 4.11.1 Complaints had been received regarding the Lee Road eroding badly at the sides.
- 4.11.2 It was reported that there had been some activity at the top end of the Shire and it appeared that Highways was doing a good job.
- 4.11.3 It was reported that the Highways Department are going to pursue incidents of damage to verges by large farm machinery turning into gateways.
- 4.11.4 A few potholes had been filled in.
- 4.11.5 Dalton Bridge is particularly bad as is Nether Staples and below Channel Well.

4.12 BOATs

A meeting was to be held at Slaley on 12th May regarding BOATs. It was agreed that it was Important that there was representation by Parish Councillors at the meeting.

4.13 Reports

Hall – there was nothing to report.

School – there was nothing to report.

Sportsfield – it was reported that the grasscutting was very poor and that the grass was very long. It was agreed that this should be conveyed to Mr Sloane.

4.14. Any Other Business

- 4.14.1 It was reported that there had been activity at Rushwood. The caravan was no longer on the site but there was now a lorry around the back. A lot of trees had been cut down and there was now a fenced area in the middle. An email had been sent to Mr Stewart who is away until 22nd April 2014.
- 4.14.2 The next meeting of the Parish Council was to be held on Thursday 8th May at 7.30 pm. The Chairman advised that he would not be standing again and thanked Gill Whatmough for all her help as Vice-Chair. Hilary Kristensen thanked the Chairman for his work during the year.

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

