

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>  
March 2014 in the Whitley Chapel Parish Hall Meeting Rooms

3.1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Councillors present – Andrew Nixon, Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Davy Short, Allison Tweddle, Davy Short, Edward Parker, Austin Iliffe, Marge Rastall and Alastair Stevens.

Anne Porter was also present.

3.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014

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

3.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

3.4 Matters Arising

2.18.2 The hedge cutting had taken place in Hexhamshire by Tom Kristensen. The quote for the hedgecutting should have read £25 per hour.

2.2.11 Hilary Kristensen reported that she had sent an email to Highways regarding gritting and had received an acknowledgement.

11.16 Reports had been received about the continuing problem with the septic tank. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Two Castles again about this problem.

2.2.12 The Clerk reported that the Police Community Officer had advised that she could attend the next meeting of the Parish Council. The meeting was advised that a meeting was to be held involving the Police and representatives from the Forestry Commission and the local parish councils. It was agreed to attend the joint meeting.

3.4.1 Alastair Stevens reported that he had attended the meeting regarding the local plan which was mainly regarding the green belt around Ponteland and Morpeth. He reported that there did not seem to have been thought given to infrastructure involved in increasing the housing. Rural areas had not been addressed. There will be further consultation in May.

3.5 Public Participation

Anne Porter advised the Parish Council that Dilston were no longer interested in their section of the Wetlands but that they would have to relinquish the lease before the Parish Council could attempt to take it over. There has been some interest from third parties in

potentially buying the land. There had been some discussion about third parties taking over the land as a trust. The land needs grazing over the winter and leaving

for the summer. A willow day is being planned for November along with workshops. It was agreed that if Dilston handed the lease back the Parish Council would investigate taking it over.

### 3.6 Correspondence

- 3.6.1 An email had been received regarding Post-16 Transport consultation and it was agreed to object strongly to the new proposals as it is particularly unfair to rural communities.
- 3.6.2 A receipt had been received from NALC for £25 for the councillor training.
- 3.6.3 Confirmation had been received that NCC had granted permission in connection with the planning application at Chapel House, Steel regarding variation of condition 2.
- 3.6.4 Notification had been received of a planning meeting to be held regarding the planning application at Lee Nook on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at Prospect House.

### 3.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £3921.75  
Savings Account - £13793.93  
Wetlands Account - £217.45

£20 was handed to the Clerk in connection with the Wetlands.

It was agreed to pay the following and cheques were raised.

£50	donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau
£250	donation to the Great North Air Ambulance
£200	donation to Tynedale Hospice
£100	donation to Core Music
£800	donation to Whitley Chapel Young Farmers
£300	Balance of Clerk's Wages – Dec, Jan, Feb and March
£120	G R Sloan- Hedgecutting.
£400	Hedgecutting with tractor
£17.44	Refreshments – ref wetlands
£1000	donation to Whitley Chapel Parish Hall
£30	Re-issue of cheque to Robbie Nixon – rolling sportsfield

It was agreed that a further bench should be purchased and a cheque was drawn for £396.00.

### 3.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

An email was to be sent to the Unitary Councillor advising him that the grit bins had not been received.

### 3.9 Planning Applications

Creation of ancillary accommodation including creation of new openings 2 no. bedrooms and 7 no. rooflights for Low Juniper Farm, Hexham.

'The Parish Council object to the application. They approved the initial application for use as a stable but not for accommodation purposes'.

Erection of an aluminium greenhouse on Organic Small Holding, Land North West of The Lee Hexham Northumberland.

It was agreed to support the application.

### 3.10 Smelting Arches

3.10.1 Greg Finch reported that there was to be a Heritage cook-off and a further dousing day to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

3.10.2 The project had had a national mention by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

### 3.11 Broadband Sub-Committee

3.11.1 Austin Iliffe advised that he had written to ask for progress to date. A report was expected but to date had not been received. High spots were to be identified for repeater stations to beam from the racecourse. It was agreed that Austin would advise Briskona that the Parish Council were considering using another company to attempt to force some progress.

### 3.12 Highways Sub-Committee Report

3.12.1 Austin Iliffe thanked Councillors for their responses regarding priorities. A meeting had been held with Paul Turnbull on site. It was agreed that drainage was a priority and that work would be done. A meeting was to be held in three months to assess progress.

3.12.2 All information provided regarding works to be done is held on a database.

3.12.3 Problem areas were identified as road surfaces at Nether Staples corner, Devils Water bridge and Whitley Mill. There is a large pothole at Dalton Bridge and ruts at the side of the road at Hamburn.

3.12.4 The cattle grid at Kings Law has not yet been cleaned out.

3.12.5 Thanks were given to Austin Iliffe for all his work in connection with highways.

### 3.13 Highways and Footpaths

There were no further issues.

### 3.14 BOATs

3.13.1 It was reported that there had been a lot of activity on the BOATs by bikes and 4 x 4 vehicles.

3.13.2 The Green Lanes organisation is taking a bill to parliament to attempt to get orders revoked.

3.15 Reports:

Wetlands: there were no further issues.

Hall: fund raising was still taking place in connection with monies required for the flat roof.

There was the possibility of funding from the Henry Bell Trust as well as from various other bodies. Work was also required for the windows, kitchen and for upgrading the toilets. An application was to be made to the Lottery Fund. A table top sale was due to be hold on April 5<sup>th</sup> with the AGM to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

School: there were no issues.

Sportsfield/Play Area:

3.16 Any Other Business

3.16.1 It was reported that there had been no further progress with Fastflow.

3.16.2 The next meeting of the Parish Council was to take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7.30pm.

As there were no further issues the meeting was declared closed.