

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 13th August 2015 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

8.1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Greg Finch, Davy Short and Alastair Stevens.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Andrew Nixon, Marge Rastall, Austin Iliffe.

Colin Horncastle, Unitary Councillor was also present.

8.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th July 2015.

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

8.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

8.4 Matters Arising

7.7 The question of referring to Hexhamshire as Slaley on planning applications was raised again. Graeme Robbie is meant to be investigating this issue.

7.6.3 Should read ' below Barker House' not above.

6.14.3 Gill Whatmough advised that she had had email correspondence with David English in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan and he had volunteered a colleague to attend a parish meeting to discuss the issue if required. Benefits of the plan would be that the County Council would have to adhere to the agreed plan. The Parish Council would be able to influence in a positive but not negative way. The Parish Council would be able to have a say on design and materials used. Colin Horncastle would liaise with David English in connection with attending a parish meeting. This was to be discussed in October.

6.14.2 The Parish Council agreed to go ahead with Digital Acorn for re-design of the website at a cost of £1700. Hosting would be a cost of £100 per annum.

7.8.2 The Clerk advised that she had received a pin number from Lloyds Bank in connection with the on-line banking.

7.12.1 Colin Horncastle advised that verges are an issue throughout the area. He reported that private contractors have not been used this year.

8.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

8.6 Correspondence

8.6.1 A request for funding had been received from Whitley Warriors Netball Club. It was agreed to support them and Gill Whatmough was to contact them to ascertain if they had a bank account. It was advised that they should approach the Community Chest for further funding. It was agreed that permission should be given for them to paint lines on the court.

8.6.2 Gill Whatmough advised that she would speak to Alastair Stevens in connection with Planning Protocols which was to take place on 21st September 2015 regarding

pre-application advice. This was to be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

8.7 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

8.7.1 Colin Horncastle advised that the contact regarding ragwort is Mr Evans at the County Council.

8.8. Freedom of Information

The Clerk had received an email regarding the Freedom of Information Act and had taken advice from NALC who reported that it had been a blanket email to parish councils and their advice had been to ignore it but to ensure that we had a publication scheme in place.

8.9 Smelting Arches

The exhibition had been displayed at Slaley Show and had had a great deal of interest.

8.10 Broadband sub-committee report

8.10.1 Austin Iliffe advised that the business voucher scheme needs to be done but advised that VAT is an issue. Private users will be charged £150 for each connection but there is a group voucher and individuals can apply under a group application. It was suggested that the Parish Council could make an application on behalf of businesses. A Community Company could be set up which could be co-ordinated by the Parish Council. The cost of a 12 metre mast would be in the vicinity of £2000 plus costs for erection etc. Could be a total cost of £20,000.

8.10.2 It was agreed that the voucher scheme should still be investigated. VAT liability remains with the business who receive the service. Agriculture is not relevant as a business.

8.10.3 It was agreed that Daneco should be invited to attend a meeting at the Parish Hall for those Interested. The funds are running out in mid September and the 14th was suggested for the meeting. It was reported that the take up on the voucher scheme has been successful so far. Hexhamshire are next on the list with Daneco. Private individuals can contract with Daneco to provide a service once the infrastructure is in place.

8.10.4 Austin Iliffe is producing some facts for people to hand out.

8.11 Highways and Footpaths

8.11.1 Attempts are still being made to get a commitment from Highways to come to a Parish Council meeting regarding the roads. Austin Iliffe is trying to contact Ray Whelans regarding this.

8.11.2 It was reported that grass is obstructing some of the road signs.

8.12 BOATs

There was nothing to report.

8.13 Reports:

Wetlands: It was reported that John Price was not averse to the land being used for agricultural purposes but that it would have to have a separate lease. This was agreed. Dilston was to be asked for permission to move the classroom to Ladycross. Once the lease is signed we can request permission. It was agreed to ask to proceed. The road

would have to be written into the lease.

School – there were no issues.

Hall – There had been a break-in and the door and store room door had been damaged.

Sportsfield – Gill Whatmough was to ask Nick Bell regarding work to be undertaken.

It was reported that the paperwork regarding the football would be sorted for the next Meeting.

8.14 Any Other Business

8.14.1 It was reported that Rosalind Saul had left the Hexham Courant and there was no replacement to date.

8.14.2 It was reported that the money had been repaid in connection with the noticeboard.

8.14.3 Some quotes had been obtained regarding replacement noticeboards. It was suggested that the noticeboard that Austin Iliffe had made could be used for the Parish Council. This was agreed.

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