

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEXHAMSHIRE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH JULY 2014
IN THE MALCOLM CAISLEY MEETING ROOMS, WHITLEY CHAPEL PARISH HALL AT 7.30PM

7.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Edward Parker and Alastair Stevens.

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

7.2 Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on 12th June 2014.

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

7.3 Declaration of Interests

Nil

7.4 Matters Arising

5.25 It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the company supplying recycled benches etc and negotiate a reduced price for a noticeboard and another bench.

3.5 Gill Whatmough had spoken to Mencap who own the lease on the wetlands, who are contacting John Price regarding serving notice on the lease.

6.9 The letter of objection sent to the Caravan Club had been acknowledged but no decision was to be advised.

6.17.2 It was reported that the ammunition hut does not belong to Land Factor as previously thought. The Clerk was to try to find mention of the hut in the minutes from approximately 20 years ago. It was suggested that Beamish Museum may be interested in it.

7.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

7.6 Correspondence

7.6.1 NCC had written to confirm that the removal of condition 5 (holiday occupancy condition) from planning approval T/20071374 (Change of use and conversion to outbuilding of 1no. holiday let), Steel House, Steel had been granted permission.

7.6.2 NCC had advised that the application for extraction of 2.2 million tonnes of coal at Hoods Close, Newlands, Stocksfield had been withdrawn.

7.6.3 A questionnaire had been received from the North Pennines AONB. Gill Whatmough agreed to complete it.

7.6.4 Notification had been received from NALC regarding New Councillor/Refresher Training to be held on 6th August at Newton and Bywell Community Hall.

7.6.5 An invitation had been received for the Chairman to attend the Service of Commemoration at Hexham Abbey.

7.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £2826.20

Savings Account - £13,795.60

Wetlands Account - £262.48

It was agreed that the following invoices should be paid and cheques were raised;

G R Sloan - £280.00 grasscutting in June

Hexham Courant – Tender advertisement £34.08

NALC Annual Subscription - £119.89

7.8 Planning Applications

Storage premises and land at RushWood Slaley Northumberland NE47 OHL. Application for erection of new feed and machinery store, new poultry shed and retrospective consent for extension to existing building.

It was reported that there were 5 letters of objection online at the time of the meeting. The planning application was therefore going to committee. The County Council had been to site to investigate the tree preservation order situation and investigations are progressing.

7.9 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues brought forward.

7.10 Smelting Arches

A drawing had been received from Kevin Doonan in connection with the preservation of the wheel pit which was to be sent to Land Factor. It might require listed building consent. If it were to go ahead it may require the track to be moved by 2 feet.

There was to be more digging the week following the meeting. Children from Allendale School had visited the site and an invitation had been made to Slaley.

There was to be a 'naming of the beer' event at Slaley Show.

It was reported that an excellent talk had been given by Greg Finch at Sinderhope in connection with the Smelting Arches project.

Leaflets about the Smelting Arches were to be available at the Hexhamshire Trophy ride.

A 'Who do you think you are ?' event is also planned.

7.11 Broadband

7.11.1 The Briskona deal with Hexhamshire is no longer a possibility as on its own it is not big enough.

7.11.2 BT are expected to upgrade cable to fibre feeding into the cabinet at the triangle, the expected date would be October to December 2014. This would result in improved speeds for Juniper, Ordley, Dyhouse, Steel, Whitley Chapel and those inbetween. Properties beyond this 1500 metre cable improved speed may be possible but this would depend on a number of factors including the quality of the line. The lines have been upgraded to fibre as far as Houtley junction which has increased speeds. It was reported that David Hitchin at 2300 metres from the cabinet entered into an agreement with BT who effected a

fibre to copper connection at the cabinet.

- 7.11.3 Wildcard had still not responded to the information supplied to them. It may be that the project would not be viable for them either.
- 7.11.4 Hexhamshire have registered an interest in being part of a programme that Cybermoor are involved in where they make schemes investment ready and produce a detailed plan that can be used to raise external funding. The successful applicants were to be advised of the outcome of their application in the week following the meeting.

7.12 Highways

- 7.12.1 Some of the roadsides had been cut but there were still a number of blindspots.
- 7.12.2 Some patching work had been undertaken on classified and unclassified roads.
- 7.12.3 The priority list was unblocking pipes and ditches at various areas including Close House, Oakfield, Ardley. Large puddles were reported south of Barker House and 400 metres north of Ordley.
- 7.12.4 The cattle grid at Cockersfield needs cleaning out and the cattle grid at Kings Law is loose and is rocking.
- 7.12.5 It was reported that there is water on the road at Clickem corner.
- 7.12.6 A broken kerb was reported at Rawgreen which had caused damage to a tyre.
- 7.12.7 The gully had not been cleaned out in front of High Staples.
- 7.12.8 Pat Wilson had discussed with Paul Turnbull the possibility of a linesman employed by the Parish Councils. This would require supervising by a Councillor. It was agreed to wait to see what the outcome of any further discussion might be.
- 7.12.9 Gill Whatmough thanked Austin for his hard work in connection with Highways and the broadband issue.

7.13 Highways and Footpaths

There were no further issues.

7.14 BOATS

- 7.14.1 Davy Short advised that he had reported bike activity to the Police. The number to ring is 101 to report any illegal activity.
- 7.14.2 A camera positioned at Mire House was suggested as a means of recording any suspicious vehicles due to the amount of recent rural crime. The film could be on a continuous loop. The cost would probably be in the region of £500. There would be signage to indicate the presence of a camera. Investigations were to be made with the Community Police regarding the legal aspects of this.

7.15 Reports:

Wetlands: There was nothing to report.

Hall: The cleaning arrangements for the Hall had been changed and a deep clean had taken place.

School: There was nothing to report.

Sportsfield/Play Area: There has been discussion regarding a Hexhamshire Football Team.

7.16 Any Other Business

- 7.16.1 It was agreed that a memorial plaque for Ridley Roddam should be placed on one of the

benches and a suggestion for the wording was 'In memory of Ridley Roddam who loved this place'. Alison Tweddle was to speak to Ridley's family regarding the wording.

7.16.2 It was agreed that a card should be sent to Brian Massey congratulating him on being awarded the MBE.

7.16.3 It was reported that the whole editorial team of the Hexhamshire Magazine are to resign at the end of the year.

7.16.4 The Annual Risk Assessment was updated following the AGM of the Parish Council.

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