

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

7.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Austin Iliffe, Andrew Nixon and Edward Parker.  
Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Alison Tweddle, Marge Rastall, Alastair Stevens, Davy Short and Greg Finch.

7.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

The minutes were approved as a true record.

7.3 Declaration of Interests

No declaration of interests were brought forward.

7.4 Matters Arising

- 6.9 Thanks were given to Gill Whatmough for removing the old noticeboard from the Smelting Arches.
- 6.13.7 Austin Iliffe was to forward the schedule of work to be done on the sportsfield to Davy Short. It was agreed that Robbie Nixon should be approached to see if he would be prepared to do the necessary work.
- 6.14.3 The possibility of combining with Slaley Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Plan was mentioned.
- 6.14.2 The website was discussed and it was agreed that the website requires updating at the very least. Alison Tweddle agreed to speak to Edward Robson to get a quote for updating or redesigning the website.

7.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

7.6 Correspondence

- 7.6.1 Springwood Farm Whitley Chapel – removal of external wall to bedrooms 2 & 3 with extension to create kitchen and utility room. Bedrooms and entrance hall re-located. This application was granted permission.
- 7.6.2 There was to be a life support training session at Slaley Parish Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 7.30pm.
- 7.6.3 A request had been received from NCC regarding transport priorities. It was agreed that these should remain the same as follows: request for 30 mph speed limit in Whitley Chapel, road widening C282 north of Dalton Bridge and road widening C282 above Barker House.

7.7 Planning Application

Demolish a range of 30-40 year old dilapidated farm buildings and replace with one steel portal framed building for housing cattle. Whitehall Farm (Barron) Slaley Northumberland.

It was agreed that there were no objections to this application.

## 7.8 Financial Report

- 7.8.1 Gill Whatmough advised that £7038 had been transferred from the Savings Account to the Treasurers Account to pay Nixon Hire in connection with the container for the football field.
- 7.8.2 Due to problems experienced due to un-presented cheques with the Annual Audit Gill Whatmough had set up on-line banking for the Parish Council which would eliminate the problem in future years. This still requires two signatures.
- 7.8.3 Alastair Stevens advised he had the change of signatory forms.
- 7.8.4 A cheque was raised for Greggs Sports for £295 for tennis posts and net.

## 7.9 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues raised.

## 7.10 Smelting Arches

- 7.10.1 It was reported that there are now milestones at Killhope and Sinderhope and an interpretation panel at Blaydon. A book is to be produced of watercolours. The project has an extension to the end of September.
- 7.10.2 The Friends of the North Pennines hold the lease at present but there is the possibility that the Parish Council could take it over. Public liability would have to be considered. There may also be maintenance issues. There is a fund available and the lease would probably come with the funds. In practical terms there would be no legal liability to keep it in the condition it is currently. There would be a maintenance manual for work to be done.

## 7.11 Broadband

- 7.11.1 Greg Finch reported that he had tried to contact John Cooper as there are a few issues to be resolved. Care would have to be taken in signing businesses up as there are various conditions attached including the necessity to be VAT registered. It had been hoped that a group application could be submitted but this would not be possible. Applications would have to be submitted individually which may result in some being approved and some not. Greg Finch advised that he would continue to try to contact John Cooper.
- 7.11.2 It was reported that Daneco are currently not supplying broadband. It was agreed that the Parish Council should wait until Daneco are supplying Shotley Low Quarter.
- 7.11.3 Austin Iliffe had submitted a report advising a map had been received from iNorthumberland showing the area of benefit for fibre broadband from cabinets at the triangle and at Whitley Chapel. He advised that cabinet at the triangle was now live and about 70 premises would benefit from high speed broadband from the cabinet.
- 7.11.4 It had been confirmed that a second fibre cabinet was to be installed in Whitley Chapel which would benefit a further 57 premises in either 2016 or 2017.
- 7.11.5 A further meeting of the Hedley on the Hill group at which Wildcard and Advantex were both interviewed.
- 7.11.6 A site meeting had been held with Daneco at which 3 possible mast sites were visited.

7.11.7 Austin Iliffe advised that he estimated up to 150 premises will require microwave broadband service mainly in the West and High Quarters with a few in the Low Quarter.

#### 7.12 Highways and Footpaths

7.12.1 The verges still require urgent cutting back. It was agreed that another email be sent advising Highways.

7.12.2 Kris Westerbury had advised that work on unclassified roads U8077 and U8075 is taking place.

7.12.3 It was agreed that a passing place sign should be requested for the Lee Road.

7.12.4 Electronic maps showing the lengths of roads requiring grit heaps in winter had been sent to the County Council. The Clerk has a copy of this.

7.12.5 Electronic maps have also been sent showing the location of potholes and rough road up to June 2015.

#### 7.13 BOATs

It was reported that the Broadway is not being used as frequently but Slaley forest is still being used.

#### 7.14 Reports:

##### Wetlands

7.14.1 Davy Short advised that he is waiting for Neil Dawson to get back to him regarding the wetlands.

7.14.2 A long lease would be preferable, along the lines of the existing one. The idea would be to have a back to back lease with Ted Liddle with a management contract in place. The County Council would still be liable for the footpaths over the wetlands. Drains would be the main liability along with the road. The payment for the water meter and liability for the sheds would have to be taken on. There was some discussion regarding Ladycross taking the toilet and shed if they were prepared to move them. Marge Rastall was to ring Joan Jewitt.

7.14.3 It was agreed that the Parish Council should take on the lease. The sub-lease should be clarified in connection with grazing. The maintenance of the track would also need to be agreed. A draft tenancy agreement from John Price would need to be supplied as a basis for discussion.

7.14.4 School – there were no issues brought forward.

7.14.5 Hall – The hall is now on twitter and facebook.

Application had been made for grants to up-grade the kitchen.

The following fundraising events have been arranged:

Table top sale – 12<sup>th</sup> September

Ernie Co and Friends – 16<sup>th</sup> October

Christmas Fair – 21<sup>st</sup> November.

7.14.6 Support had been received from two volunteers to help with the running of the Hall but no volunteers for the Chairman position to date.

#### 7.15 Any Other Business

There were no issues raised.