

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 11th June 2015 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

6.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Greg Finch.

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

6.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14th May 2015

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

6.3 Declaration of Interests

Andrew Nixon declared an interest in the financial report.

6.4 Matters Arising

5.5 John Henderson had agreed to be scrutineer for the accounts.

5.2 Sandra Killen had forwarded information regarding crime prevention but it had been at a basic level and not therefore very useful. It was agreed that CCTV was not a viable proposition for the Parish Council. Gill Whatmough advised that the number to ring to report anything suspicious to the Police is 101. Alastair Stevens agreed to include this information in his report for the magazine.

2.17.3 The Clerk had heard back from TDP regarding the stays for the noticeboard who had quoted £80 including delivery and advising that they did not manufacture the noticeboards but would contact the manufacturer. Gill Whatmough advised that she would email photographs to them to show the extent of the problems. It was agreed that the Parish Council should ask for the stays to be free of charge and if this was refused then the Parish Council would organise to supply and fit stays.

3.11.1 It was reported that the cattle grid at Gairshield had now been emptied and that the potholes had also been repaired between the cattle grids.

6.5 Public Participation

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

6.6 Correspondence

6.6.1 Notification had been received from NCC regarding the planning tree preservation Order at Crossfield Ordley advising that permission was refused.

6.6.2 A letter had been received requesting nominations for the Love Northumberland Awards. It was agreed to nominate Whitley Chapel Young Farmers and Gill Whatmough agreed to request an application form.

6.6.3 It was reported that Gill Whatmough and Alastair Stevens had raised the issue of the lack of focus on rural areas regarding NECA – The Devolution Debate. It was advised that 63% of responses had raised this issue.

6.6.4 A receipt had been received from NALC for £141.49.

6.6.5 NCC had requested a response to the Private Housing Strategy by 2nd July 2015.

6.6.6 Notification of a planning training session had been received which was to take place on

Thursday 9th July between 6.00pm and 9.00pm. Gill Whatmough and Andrew Nixon advised that they would attend.

- 6.6.7 The Clerk was to email Kris Westerbury to advise that the date of the next meeting would now be 16th July.

6.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £2689.38

Savings Account - £13802.56

Wetlands Account - £82.75

The following invoices were brought forward, payment was agreed and cheques signed.

Trevor Golightly – Position and fix 5 seats - £132.00

Robbie Nixon – Grasscutting - £280.00

Zen Internet – Annual Charge - £57.46

The annual accounts were circulated and approved by the Parish Council.

6.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no matters brought forward.

6.9 Smelting Arches

It was reported that the official opening of the Smelting Arches project had been very successful with Lord Allendale unveiling the milestone. The interpretation panels are in place. The website will continue. The project ends at the end of June 2015. There will be a maintenance arrangement in place. The old noticeboard can now be removed from the site.

6.10 Broadband

- 6.10.1 It was reported by Austin Iliffe that fibre based high speed broadband will be available at the end of June to Juniper, Blackhall, Dye House, Steel, Dukesfield and the east of Whitley Chapel. An application has to be made by individuals to BT who will supply equipment. Who to contact should be on the box at the triangle. Ordley and Whitley Chapel should also benefit from increased speeds. Phase 2 will bring fibre into Whitley Chapel and timing is to be confirmed.

- 6.10.2 Austin Iliffe had spoken to Daneco who reported that they are very close to getting a connection to enable them to provide wireless broadband to Low Shotley.

- 6.10.3 There is a line of sight from Kiln Pit Hill to Dotland which could then be beamed into the Shire.

- 6.10.4 Austin Iliffe advised that the voucher scheme could be co-ordinated by the Parish Council which would need 10 businesses to apply to obtain vouchers which would then be given to one contractor which would go a long way to fund a mast. The businesses would have to undertake a 12 month contract with the supplier. The conditions for this are that they would have to be self employed and working from an office inside their home. Austin Iliffe advised that he had a list of those people who may qualify. It was agreed that Councillors should approach those they know personally to discuss this possibility. An agreement in principle to participate would be required.

- 6.10.5 Costs quoted by Daneco are as follows:

Residential – Installation £150 – Router £35 – 15 Mbps £25 per month and 30Mbps £35 per month. Costs would be customised to suit business needs.

6.10.6 It was agreed that Austin Iliffe was to advise Daneco that the Parish Council agreed to invite them to see potential sites in the 'Shire.

6.11 Highways and Footpaths

6.11.1 Gill Whatmough advised that she had spoken to NCC regarding the path at Moss House. Davy Short is to give an estimate of the cost. Neil Dawson is looking at the situation with the path through the wetland. Davy Short was to liaise with Neil Dawson.

6.11.2 It was pointed out that the grass is causing a dangerous situation at may junctions and it was agreed that the Clerk include this in the email to Kris Westerbury.

6.12 BOATs

Gill Whatmough advised that she had had a phone call from Richard Ferguson, Forestry Commission Ranger to advise that there had been an exercise involving the Police in the forest which had resulted in prosecutions.

6.13 Reports: Wetlands

6.13.1 Gill Whatmough reported that John Price advised that NCC would consider selling the wetlands to the Parish Council and would check to see what the value would be. This may result in legal fees up to approx. £2k.

6.13.2 There would also be a lease option which could be tacked onto the existing lease.

6.13.3 The Parish Council would be responsible for drainage but NCC would clear it out before the Parish Council took it on. The existing wetland could be included in the transaction. Purchase would ensure the future of the land.

Hall

6.13.4 It was reported that the table top sale was not going ahead in June.

Sportsfield/Play Area

6.13.5 Andrew Nixon advised that he had located a container at a price of £5865 fully fitted out with changing rooms, bench seating etc. This would be placed onto hardcore. He would view an alternative in Carlisle before making a final decision. Other equipment had also been sourced including goalposts, training nets, cones, training kits at a cost of £1872 plus VAT.

6.13.6 The new tennis net had been sourced at a price of £275 plus £15 delivery charge. It was agreed that this should go ahead. Details of the tennis court fees were to be included in the magazine.

6.13.7 Austin Iliffe was to send the schedule for the work to be done on the sportsfield.

6.14 Any Other Business

6.14.1 Details of the Parish Councillors are to be included on the website.

6.14.2 Gill Whatmough advised that she had emailed Michael Elphick regarding maintenance of the website. Keeping the information included on the website up to date is vital.

6.14.3 A meeting regarding Hexham Neighbourhood Plan was to take place on 15th July which could affect the design, layout, appearance and signage in Hexham. Colin Horncastle had advised that someone could speak to the Parish Council regarding this. Colin Horncastle was to be asked about this issue.

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