

Minutes of the meeting of the AGM of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 14th May 2015 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

5.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Alastair Stevens.

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

Colin Horncastle, Unitary Councillor and Rosalind Saul, Hexham Courant were also present.

5.2 Sandra Killen, Crime Prevention Advisor, Northumbria Police

5.2.1 Gill Whatmough welcomed Sandra Killen to the meeting to discuss primarily the proposed CCTV which would be placed at the junction at Whitley Chapel. There are implications with the Data Protection Act for recording members of the public and Sandra Killen also advised that the system would have to be registered with the Information Commissioners Office which would cost approximately £35. The images would then be stored by the ICO. A Data Protection Controller who need to be appointed by the Parish Council. The images should be kept for a minimum of 14 days. A sign would be needed for Crime Prevention purposes and regular checks have to be carried out on the equipment. A power source would also be needed and the Parish Council would need to discuss siting with the Highways department. Sandra Killen advised that the process is quite a complicated one. Night time images would also need to be considered in connection with infra red or lights etc. If the camera is sited on private land only a small part of public land can be recorded.

5.2.2 Sandra Killen was asked about advice regarding general crime prevention and advised that trailers should have the postcode marked visibly on the roof which would enable the police helicopter to identify it easily. She also advised that the farm equipment should ideally be kept in one shed which should then be alarmed. Dawn to dusk lighting should be used for farmyards. Sandra Killen advised that she would provide leaflets regarding property protection and she also advised that she would email information to be incorporated into the Hexhamshire magazine.

Gill Whatmough thanked Sandra Killen for attending the meeting and for her advice.

5.3 Election of Chairman

The Clerk requested nominations for the post of Chairman. Andrew Nixon proposed Gill Whatmough and Hilary Kristensen seconded . Gill Whatmough thanked everyone for their guidance and help and took the Chair.

5.4 Election of Vice-Chairman

Alastair Stevens was nominated by Andrew Nixon and seconded by Marge Rastall and had agreed to stand if he were elected.

5.5 Appointment of Scrutineer for the annual accounts

As in previous years it was agreed that the Hendersons be asked to be Scrutineers.

5.6 Appointment of 3 Councillors to sign cheques

It was agreed that this should remain the same as the previous year.

5.7 Appointment of 2 representatives to Wetlands Sub-Committee

Davy Short and Hilary Kristensen were nominated and agreed.

5.8 Appointment of 2 representatives to Dukesfield Smelting Arches

Greg Finch and Gill Whatmough were to continue as representatives.

5.9 Appointment of 3 Councillors to the Sportsfield Sub-Committee

It was agreed that this was not necessary unless the need arose.

5.10 Appointment of 3 Representatives to the Highways Sub-Committee

Austin Iliffe, Davy Short and Ed Parker agreed to continue as representatives.

5.11 Appointment of 2 Councillors to the 4 Parishes BOATs committee.

Davy Short and Marge Rastall agreed to be representatives.

5.12 Appointment of 3 Councillors to the Broadband Sub-Committee

Austin Iliffe, Greg Finch and Marge Rastall.

5.13 Appointment of Parish Council representative to the Board of the Parish Hall Trust

Austin Iliffe agreed to be the Parish Council representative.

5.14 Appointment of the Parish Council representative to the Board of School Governors.

It was agreed that Marie Flatman be asked if she would be the representative. Andrew Nixon was to contact and advise the Parish Council.

5.15 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2015.

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

5.16 Declaration of Interests

Gill Whatmough and Andrew Nixon declared an interest in planning.

5.17 Matters Arising.

4.13.1 A bench had been located at Lightside Lane.

2.17.3 TDP had offered to supply a post if the Parish Council would give the dimensions required. It was agreed that 2 posts were required the same length as the legs. It was pointed out that the noticeboard does not appear to be waterproof and that the Parish Council was not impressed by the quality of the board.

3.11.1 The cattle grid at Gairshield had again not been emptied.

4.13.1 Trevor Golightly had replaced the 5 benches and had fixed the plaque onto one of the

benches.

4.15.2 It was reported that Neil Dawson had not been keen on another boardwalk at Moss House.

4.15.5 Gill Whatmough and Austin Iliffe had undertaken a further sportsfield inspection.

4.16.2 Four people had taken part in the litter picking day and others were going to do it on an on-going basis. NCC were to collect anything heavy that might be found. Gill Whatmough thanked those who had taken part.

5.18 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

5.19 Correspondence

5.19.1 Diversion of Footpath 12 and 13 – the County Council confirmed this on 1st May 2015.

5.19.2 An exhibition of the new bus station was to be held at the Beaumont on 26th May 2015.

5.19.3 Comments were invited regarding a Street Trading Policy by 22nd May 2015.

5.20 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £3,664.54

Savings Account - £13801.95

Wetlands Account - £82.75

The following invoices were put forward, agreed and cheques were raised.

NALC - £141.49

Robbie Nixon – Grasscutting - £70

Came and Company - £426.21

5.21 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

Colin Horncastle advised that there had been a planning meeting the previous evening. Any Applications in future that went to committee would go to 1 of the 2 new committees. The Central planning committee would deal with school, County Council applications etc and the other would also deal the rights of way issues. He advised that the area committees are changing from 3 to 4. The boundaries have now changed as Prudhoe and Ponteland have been taken out of the west area. Councillors on the Area Committee will have more responsibility than before and hopefully will have a better link with officers and more control.

5.22 Planning Application

Removal of external wall to bedrooms 2 &3 with extension to create kitchen and utility room. Bedrooms and entrance hall re-located – Springwood Farm C282 Whitley Chapel to Dipton Mill Hexham

It was agreed to support the application.

5.23 Smelting Arches

It was reported that the panels should be up for 7th June 2015 and that the invitations had

been sent out. The website had been live for 6 weeks and had had 10,000 hits. It had been agreed that the Parish Council could have the old noticeboard back.

5.23.2 The Smelting Arches project had come second in the North East Construction Excellence Awards in the Heritage category and the award had been collected the previous Friday. Particular reference had been made to local involvement in the project.

5.23.3 Lord Allendale was to cut the ribbon on the 7th June for the official opening of the Smelting Arches.

5.24 Broadband sub-committee

5.24.1 A meeting had been held with Daneco which had been productive and Austin Iliffe reported that he had been impressed with the company's knowledge. Sustainability has to be considered.

5.24.2 The issues raised were addressed and the company was keen to employ people from Hexhamshire in the project. It depends on the link from the Consett network and there seemed to be confidence that things would happen soon.

5.24.3 Austin Iliffe advised that he had requested a report in connection with bringing broadband to Shotley Low Quarter and had spoken to the Chairman who advised that although it had been in the process for two years he was confident the company would deliver.

5.24.4 Austin Iliffe advised that he had been invited to join a group regarding supplying broadband to rural areas run by Ann Dale.

5.24.5 The cabinet at the triangle is still waiting for the power supply. Phase II of the fibre broadband roll out includes additional fibre coverage of the 'Shire in 2016/17.

5.24.6 The connection voucher scheme helps small businesses in Northumberland and £3K funding may be available towards high speed broadband. Austin Iliffe was to investigate.

5.24.7 The mobile broadband mast had not gone up yet.

5.24.8 The Chairman thanked Austin for his hard work in connection with broadband.

5.25 Highways and Footpaths

5.25.1 Davy Short and Edward Parker had marked up the maps for the siting of grit heaps and were also to mark the positioning of potholes in their respective areas.

5.25.2 Kris Westerbury was to be invited to the next meeting of the Parish Council for an update.

5.26 BOATs

It was reported that there had been a lot of activity at weekends with some of the vehicles having foreign numberplates.

5.27 Reports:

Wetlands – Gill Whatmough had spoken to John Price who said that it had been put out to tender to the highest bidder. If it were let to the Parish Council a management contract could be entered into with Ted Liddle. It was agreed that this was the best course of action. Davy Short had met with Neil Dawson who advised that the footpath should be reinstated through the willow. It was agreed that Gill Whatmough would ask John Price if the Parish Council could buy the land.

Hall – Austin Iliffe advised that he was standing down as Chairman. An attempt was being made to get more people involved from the community, especially farmers and young people.

School – A meeting of the Governors was being held on the evening of the Parish Council

meeting.

Sportsfield/Play Area – it was reported that the winder was broken and also the net needed replacing. New posts were also needed. The subs were due and this was to be included in the parish notes. Gill Whatmough and Austin Iliffe had looked at the play area and Austin Iliffe had produced a schedule of work including filling in rabbit holes, rubbish clearing and moving and re-felting the shelter. Nicky Bell was to be asked to spray what needs doing.

5.28 Any Other Business

5.28.1 Confirmation of acceptance into the football league had not yet been received.

5.28.2 It was reported that the minutes, invoices over £100 and names of Councillors have to be reported on the website.

5.28.3 A volunteer is required to keep the website up to date, it also requires more information to be recorded.

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