

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 9th April 2015 held in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms in Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

4.1 Apologies for Absence

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

4.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th March 2015

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

4.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

4.4 Matters Arising

12.15 Gill Whatmough advised that she had spoken to the vicar who advised that traffic is being directed away from outside of the Church during weddings etc and that cones will be put up in future.

2.17.3 The Clerk was to contact TDP in connection with stays for the noticeboard.

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

3.6.2 Alastair Stevens and Gill Whatmough had responded regarding the North East Combined Authority Devolution Proposals advising of concern about an urban bias and requesting proposals for rural areas.

4.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

4.6 Correspondence

4.6.1 Notification had been received from NCC regarding the variation of condition 2 planning permission East Greenridge for the construction of one monopole wind turbine as amended – this was Granted permission.

4.6.2 Letters of thanks had been received from the following regarding grants made by the Parish Council: The Great North Air Ambulance, Tynedale Hospice, Ladycross Nature Reserve, the Citizens Advice Bureau.

4.6.3 An invitation had been received from Community Action Northumberland for the Spring Conference on the 28th April.

4.6.4 A volunteer had been requested from the Parish Council for the Hexham Neighbourhood Plan Forum. Alastair Stevens agreed to represent the Parish Council.

4.6.5 An open meeting of the Area West Committee was to be held on 14th April 2015. The sale of County Council property was to be discussed. It was agreed to ask for further details of the proposals.

4.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £149.54

Savings Account - £13,801.36

Wetlands Account - £82.75

4.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no matters brought forward.

4.9 Planning Applications:

Placement of three interpretation panels close to the Dukesfield Arches to explain their purposes. Dukesfield Mill Hexham

It was agreed to support the application.

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) from planning approval 14/02093/FUL (Erection Of steel portal framed agricultural hobby/leisure shed) Stotsfold Lodge Hexham

There was no objection to this application.

Listed building consent for consolidation works including roof repairs, masonry and walltop Repairs, repointing and window and door repair. The Linnels B6306 Linnels Bank to Hexham Fellside.

It was agreed to support this application.

4.10 Security

It was agreed to invite a Community Police Officer to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council.

4.11 Smelting Arches

4.11.1 The panels were to be in place by the end of May.

4.11.2 The website was now live and attracting traffic already.

4.11.3 An invitation had been received to apply for the National Lottery Awards and an application had been made, the outcome of which would be heard in June. An exhibition was to be held in Newcastle Central Library until 19th April and was then to move to Gateshead, Hexham. The website address is: www.dukesfield.org.uk.

4.12 Broadband

4.12.1 A meeting was to be held with Danco in the week following the meeting.

4.12.2 Initial approaches for siting were favourable in principle.

4.12.3 Austin Iliffe advised that he would report back following the meeting with BT.

4.13 Highways and Footpaths

4.13.1 9 benches have been identified with one WI commemorative seat on the playing field. It was reported that there are 4 benches which require replacing . The benches at Kings Law, Stobby Lea and Lilswood Bank have been replaced. The bench at the triangle is broken and dangerous and a replacement is needed. The bench at Whitley Chapel crossroads has loose joints and rocks on mounting brackets – replacement needed. The bench on Lithhouse lane is broken and requires a replacement as does the bench at Hamburn Hall and on the playing field to the east of the tennis court. The bench on Lee lane is sound. There may be another

bench towards Newbiggin Hall Home Farm.

- 4.13.2 The Clerk was to investigate how many benches are insured.
- 4.13.3 There has been no response regarding the proposed map based identification for road highway defects to NCC.
- 4.13.4 The proposal was made to identify the locations of grit heaps on a map to be sent to NCC for future reference.

4.14 BOATs

There were no issues.

4.15 Reports:

Wetlands:

- 4.15.1 Gill Whatmough advised that she had spoken to John Price and had been informed that the Parish Council would not be able to sublet the wetlands but that NCC could do this direct to Ted Little without any Parish Council involvement. It was agreed that this was the best course of action.
- 4.15.2 It was reported that the path past Moss House to the gate is sodden, some work is being done there currently.

Hall

- 4.15.3 The talk on the lost farmhouses of Weardale raised approximately £320.
- 4.15.4 The flat roof had been completed at a total cost of £10553.52, £96.62 above the tendered price but includes additional work.

Sportsfield

- 4.15.5 There are a number of defects requiring attention on the playing field:
 - A hole at the top of the slide
 - Rabbit holes
 - Embankment slip
 - The shelter needs a concrete base as anchor to prevent overturning.
 - The cycle path is overgrown
 - The bonfire pit needs clearing out

It was suggested that further inspection should be carried out and an action plan compiled. Gill Whatmough and Alastair Stevens were to compile a report. It was suggested that quotes should be requested.

4.16 Any Other Business

- 4.16.1 It was reported that the Enforcement Officers are inspecting Rushwood on a three monthly basis.
- 4.16.2 The problem of litter in Hexhamshire was raised and a community exercise was suggested. This was to be planned after lambing and a note put into the magazine to request help.

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

