

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 10th September 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

9.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Marge Rastall.

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

9.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13th August 2015.

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

9.3 Declaration of Interests

Andrew Nixon and Alison Tweddle declared an interest in planning matters.

9.4 Matters Arising

7.7 Gill Whatmough advised that she will pursue the matter of Hexhamshire planning applications having a Slaley address.

6.14.2 Gill Whatmough advised that she and Marge Rastall were to meet with Digital Acorn regarding the website on the Monday following the meeting. Andrew Pattinson had agreed that it was a good idea to update the website.

7.8.2 The on-line banking facility had been set up.

8.6.1 The Netball Club had been advised that they could paint the necessary lines on the hard sports area and had been asked for invoices to enable the Parish Council to give a donation as requested.

9.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

9.6 Correspondence

9.6.1 Correspondence had been received from NCC regarding increased charges at the tip in Hexham. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to express concern that this would increase fly-tipping which is already a problem.

9.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £3084.38

Savings Account - £6765.88

Wetlands Account - £37.75

An invoice had been received regarding grasscutting for the amount of £770 for cuts from 6.6.15 to 4.9.15. It was agreed that this should be paid.

An application had been received for a donation from Tynedale Hospice. It was agreed that this should be considered in December along with other applications.

9.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues raised.

9.9 Smelting Arches

- 9.9.1 It was reported that the Smelting Arches project had unfortunately not been successful in the Historic England Award in the Industrial Heritage category. The project had also however been shortlisted for the Love Northumberland Awards which was to take place on the Thursday following the meeting.
- 9.9.2 There was a book launch of watercolours scheduled for early November and funds raised were to be utilised for the maintenance fund for the Arches. Approximately £12K is ringfenced for maintenance for the Arches.
- 9.9.3 There was no further information regarding the lease.

9.10 Broadband

- 9.10.1 A meeting was to be held on Monday 14th September for potential business and residential users are invited. The aim of the meeting was to gain support from local businesses to establish a group application for funds through the Business Voucher Scheme.
- 9.10.2 Austin Iliffe reported that the Hedley group has split with Hedley separating from the group leaving Stocksfield, Mickley and Healy operating as a group. Hexhamshire had been invited to join the group but the timescale was not workable.

9.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 9.11.1 It was reported that the verges had still not been cut but it would appear that this is a county-wide issue.
- 9.11.2 It was reported that rabbits are causing huge problems on the bankside before Moss House.

9.12 BOATs

It was reported that there is still activity on the BOATs but there do not appear to be as many motorbikes.

9.13 Reports:

Wetlands: Marge Rastall had advised that Ladycross were keen to have the hut. Joan Jewitt had advised that if the Church were not interested in the eco-loo they would be interested. It was agreed that the eco-loo should go to the Church if they wanted it. This could not be finalised until the lease was signed over to the Parish Council.

School: There was nothing to report.

Hall: A table top sale was to be held on the Saturday following the meeting.

A quotation had been received regarding the replacement of windows and the decision taken to proceed. A quotation for the replacement of doors and repair of damage following a recent break-in and was to be accepted which would be an insurance claim. An Ernie Coe evening had been arranged for October 16th and the Christmas Fair was scheduled for 21st November.

There had been a successful first WI social raising £75.

Sportsfield: Hilary Kristensen advised she had spoken to Matthew Hope regarding work to be done. The Inspection was to be arranged.

9.14 Any Other Business

It was agreed that a facebook page should be set up for the Parish Council.