

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 8th January 2015 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Room, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

The Parish Council acknowledged the recent death of Margaret Nieuwelands nee Alexander who was from a long established Hexhamshire family.

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Nixon and Edward Parker.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Alastair Stevens, Greg Finch, Austin Iliffe, Hilary Kristensen, Marge Rastall, Davy Short and Alison Tweddle.

1.2 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th December 2014

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

1.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests made.

1.4 Matters Arising

11.5 It was reported that the new team were working on their first edition of the magazine.

12.8 Notification had been received regarding the Rushwood application indicating that the environmental team had approved the application in principle but that further details of proposed manure handling and storage was to be submitted in writing before approval was granted. A site meeting was to be arranged. It was suggested that a referral of the planning application should have been made until the previous issues at the site were resolved.

12.15 Gill Whatmough was to speak to the vicar regarding the parking issue outside the Church.] The suggestion was made that bollards be put outside the Church before services and removed afterwards to prevent dangerous parking.

1.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

1.6 Correspondence

1.6.1 Notification had been received confirming receipt of the Housing Developer Fund. A copy of the letter was to be forwarded to Andrew Nixon.

1.6.2 The Core Strategy full draft plan consultation had been received and was passed to Alastair Stevens who agreed to liaise with Gill Whatmough.

1.6.3 Hagwood had been chosen as the location in Hexhamshire for a mobile infrastructure project which may or may not be useful for broadband. It was reported that Cybermoor have considered whether transmitters could be attached to it. Comments are requested as this is currently at consultation stage. It was agreed that it should be stated that we would be particularly interested in connection with hosting broadband relay equipment.

1.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £2754.54
Savings Account - £13798.50
Wetlands Account - £267.54

It was agreed that the precept should remain the same at £8380.

1.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues raised.

1.9 Smelting Arches

- 1.9.1 Greg Finch advised that it was only four months until the end of the project.
- 1.9.2 A meeting was to be held regarding the panel to be placed to the west of the arches and to include the reconstruction view showing how busy the site would have been. A board was also to be placed close to the millrace to explain the process and also one by the chimneys.
- 1.9.3 The path over the burn has now been finished.
- 1.9.4 Two walks leaflets had been made available on the website. The leaflets would also be made available for bed and breakfast establishments and tourist information centres.
- 1.9.5 Milestones are planned to be placed at Killhope, Sinderhope and Allendale with a display panel at Blaydon.
- 1.9.6 The formal opening is planned to take place in Anthony White's shed.

1.10 Broadband

- 1.10.1 A meeting was to take place between Cybermoor and Briskona. Kevin Wood was running a Feasibility study and advised that he would report back by the end of January. He also advised that he would speak to BT who were planning to put cabinets on posts in Hexhamshire. Funding is available from the government and alternative sources of funding were also being investigated.
- 1.10.2 Austin Illiffe was to contact Danco.
- 1.10.3 David Hitchin offered to collect information regarding broadband speeds in Hexhamshire on a regular basis which may be useful for future funding projects. The time of day has an affect on the broadband speed.

1.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 1.11.2 Austin Illiffe reported that he had written regarding the lack of grit.
- 1.11.3 The updated schedule has been sent to Highways.
- 1.11.4 It was agreed that communications with the correct people at Highways is vital.
- 1.11.5 The question of shooting on or near a footpath was raised. It was agreed to investigate the situation regarding whether this was legal.

1.12 BOATs

- 1.12 There had been a small of amount of activity on the BOATs.

1.13 Reports

1.13.1 Wetlands - It was reported that items had been taken from the shed. The tractor was there in August. There was a possibility that it belonged to Dilston.

1.13.2 School – there was nothing to report.

1.13.3 Hall - £425 had been raised at the Christmas Fayre.

Work had almost been completed on the re-roofing. A large amount of money had been raised from the 100 Club. It was suggested again that more money might be raised if the subs were reduced. It was pointed out that there is a substantial amount of administrative work involved in the Club.

There is to be a talk regarding Lost Farmhouses in Weardale.

Preliminary prices for the kitchen have been sourced. Commercial sized equipment is needed. Advice was to be taken from Humshaugh Village Hall which has a very well equipped kitchen.

Sportsfield/Play Area – there were no issues.

1.14 Any Other Business

1.14.1 There was to be a training session regarding the defibrillator at Slaley.

1.14.2 It was agreed that signs should be requested to attempt to stop the problem of dog fouling past the sportsfield. It was also suggested that stencils could be put on the road.

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