

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 12th November 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

11.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Nixon.

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

11.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 10th September 2015

It was agreed that 10.9.3 in October's minutes should be amended as follows:

The site lease at Dukesfield was granted in 2013 by the Allendale Estate on a peppercorn rent for 25 years to the Friends of the North Pennines (FotNP). The Parish Council was advised that Ian Forbes, who has been actively involved in the project, is resigning as chairman of FotNP and there will also be a new Administrator so there will be little continuity from the period of the project and therefore a significant risk that FotNP will have little interest or knowledge of the site and yet still hold the balance of funds earmarked for maintenance of the Arches. It was agreed that it may therefore be in the interests of the Parish Council to seek to take on the lease from FotNP together with the earmarked funds. It was agreed that a clear statement of the remaining funds should be requested which is approximately £7K. Proceeds from the sale of the project book 'Images of Industry' will be added to this fund. The Clerk was to contact Came and Company with a view to adding the Arches to the insurance policy and to clarify any extra cost. Greg Finch agreed to speak to Ian Forbes about the Parish Council taking over the lease.

11.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

11.4 Matters Arising

3.1 It was reported that the red car still parks in a dangerous position on the road. This was to be monitored and if the problem persists action was to be taken.

10.7.1 The donation had been made to the Netball Club.

10.7.2 The invoices had been forwarded for repayment in relation to the Housing Developer Fund.

10.6.1 Alastair Stevens reported that he was currently reading the documentation regarding the Local Planning Core Strategy.

10.13 Marge Rastall advised that she had been in contact with Derwent Gibson who had spoken to John Price. Derwent Gibson had advised that the shed could be given to Ladycross.

11.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

11.6 Correspondence

- 11.6.1 Notification had been received from NCC regarding the Hackney Carriage Consultation. Comments were to be received by 11th December 2015.
- 11.6.2 An email had been received regarding Tesco Local Community Grants advising that applications were still being sought for the current round of new Tesco Community Grants programme. Gill Whatmough had forwarded the email to Ladycross and the Church.

11.7 Financial Report – Precept 2016/17

Treasurer's Account - £6766.44
Savings Account - £6447.48
Wetlands Account – £37.75

Gill Whatmough reported that the on-line banking was going well.
It was agreed to pay the Clerk's wages of £450 for 6 months ending 30th September 2015.
The invoice was received from the Parish Hall for the Parish Council meetings for £130 for the months of January to October 2015 and was approved to be paid.
The invoice had been received for Judy Dinning's bench for £402.00 including £67 VAT. It was agreed that this should be paid.

The precept was discussed and it was agreed that it should remain the same at £8380.

11.8 Website

- 11.8.1 The Parish Councillors agreed that the development of the website was progressing well and looking very professional. Information for the website was expected from the football team and netball team.
- 11.8.2 Gill Whatmough advised that she had emailed the advertisers in the magazine regarding advertising on the website. It was agreed that advertising would be limited to those living or trading in Hexhamshire. There would be no charge for those already advertising in the magazine.
- 11.8.3 It was agreed that the cost per advert on the website should be £25.
- 11.8.4 It was agreed that information regarding the advertising on the website should be put in Shire Notes and in the magazine.

11.9 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no matters brought forward.

11.10 Smelting Arches

- 11.10.1 Greg Finch advised that there was to be a Board Meeting of the Friends of the North Pennines where the lease being handed over to the Parish Council was to be discussed.
- 11.10.2 The question of insurance was to be clarified.
- 11.10.3 It was reported that site maintenance was not too onerous and a tidy up of the area should probably be carried out twice a year.
- 11.10.4 It was agreed that the project website should be taken over as part of the lease which would

cost approximately £90 per year plus VAT for the website. Occasional inspections and remedial work would be necessary. There is currently £7430 in the fund.

11.10.5 Approximately £1,000 had been banked to date in connection with the sale of the book. The fund would need to be transferred to the Parish Council in the event of the lease being transferred.

11.10.6 There would be costs involved in the transfer of the lease including legal fees.

11.11 Broadband Sub-Committee Report

11.11.1 It was reported that the application had been suspended on 12th October 2015 due to a sudden influx of approved applications for funding and remains in the system.

A final decision was to be made within the next 7 to 10 days.

11.11.2 Guy Opperman had been lobbied, who has requested a meeting with the minister. Anne Marie Trevelyan is also lobbying in support of more funds. Colin Horncastle advised that he had also contacted Guy Opperman.

11.11.3 John Cooper had advised that there had been no movement until after 24th November regarding additional or alternative funding.

11.11.4 Austin Iliffe advised that he was collecting information from the Newton/Bywell strategy document. Cybermoor would be happy to advise regarding funding. Austin Iliffe also advised that he had been in touch with Anne Dale who advised that individuals applied rather than a group application.

11.12. Highways

11.12.1 It was reported that the grit heaps have been replenished.

11.12.2 The problems with the rabbit holes on the bankside had been tackled but not satisfactorily.

11.12.3 A broken stile opposite Dotland farmhouse was reported where the treads are coming loose.

11.12.4 Kris Westerbury and Ray Weallans had both been invited to the meeting and declined.

11.13 BOATs

It was reported that TROs were imposed from 30th September for the winter.

11.14 Reports:

Wetlands:

11.14.1 Gill Whatmough advised that Ruth Thompson would like to manage and use the willow and also advised that she would like to use the shed during December. Monica Hague was also using the willow and the shed. It was agreed that the shed should be given to Ladycross in January 2016.

11.14.2 An email had been received from John Price advising that the lease for the additional land would mirror the existing lease dated 1/10/03. The term of the lease would be 86 years to terminate on 30/09/2102 at a rent of £1 if demanded. The land would be used for agriculture, amenity woodland and wetland park. The tenant would take responsibility for all and any liabilities falling currently on the Landlord for maintenance of the access track and for drainage and fencing.

- 11.14.3 The access track may be an issue if the property were sold.
- 11.14.4 It was agreed that Marge Rastall would confirm with Derwent Gibson regarding how to manage donations in connection with the use of the willow. A clause may need to be written to confirm that the Parish Council would expect a donation in return for use of willow.
- 11.14.5 It was agreed that Gill Whatmough should advise that the Parish Council would take on the lease.

School:

There were no issues.

Hall:

- 11.14.6 New windows had been installed at a cost of £2900 funded by the 100 Club.
- 11.14.7 £7.5K had been received towards the cost of the kitchen from a grant from the community foundation. The estimated cost of the kitchen refurbishment was £14500. The balance is still to be raised.
- 11.14.8 It was reported that the W.I. continue to raise funds through their social lunches for the Hall and so far had raised £400. Support was anticipated from the Leek Club and the YFC in raising money for the Hall. £285 had been raised by the Ernie Coe night.
- 11.14.9 It was reported that sales of stands for the Christmas Fayre was excellent. It was suggested that Father Christmas could attend next year's event as an added attraction for children.

Sportsfield:

- 11.14.10 It was reported that Matthew Hope had undertaken some of the work on the sportsfield. It was reported that there are some problems with wormcasts on the field. Spray could be used to prevent this. Davy Short was to investigate the price.

11.15 Any Other Business

John Price had advised via email that he had received information from Arqiva who are the mast's main sponsor advising that the mast would be operational by 31.3.16. The equipment is in place but each telecom provider would have to commission their equipment which was likely to take place in January and February. This would be likely to result in sporadic improvements to signal whilst the equipment is calibrated.

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