

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 9th October 2014 at 7.30pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

10.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Austin Iliffe and Alison Tweddle.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Alastair Stevens, Andrew Nixon, Davy Short, Marge Rastall, Edward Parker and Greg Finch.

10.2 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 18th September 2014.

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting after the change to Kris Westerbury's name under 9.12.1.

10.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations made.

10.4 Matters Arising

9.7 It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange the purchase of 4 benches from TDP at the agreed price of £1350 plus VAT. The benches should be delivered to Chapel House. The plaque to be placed on one of the benches is on order.

9.12.2 It was reported that the road at Dukesfield Mill had been repaired.

9.12.3 It was reported that Austin Iliffe had contacted the newly appointed officer in connection with the ditches.

9.12.4 Davy Short advised that he had met with Neil Dawson who was waiting for confirmation of funding to clean the ditch by the boardwalk. The bridlepath between Aydon Shields and Salmonfield is also being repaired. Neil Dawson had asked for any other issues to be reported to him. Davy Short had advised Mr Stephenson that the fence belonged to him and explained where the boundary of the land was.

9.12.5 An email had been sent advising of the stile on the footpath from the weir to High Staples.

6.17.2 A letter had been received regarding the ammunitions hut from the MOD advising that it did not belong to them and suggesting that Allendale Estates be contacted. This route had been investigated in the past but they do not own it. Beamish Museum was to be contacted to ascertain if they would be interested in taking the hut for the museum.

7.14.2 The subject of putting cameras on the Hall was to be discussed at the next meeting.

10.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

10.6 Correspondence.

10.6.1 A request for a donation had been received from the Great North Air Ambulance. This was to be considered at the end of the financial year.

10.6.2 Notice of the Joint Meeting of the NCC and Parish Council to be held on 21st October had been received.

10.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £5895.54

Savings Account - £13797.38

Wetlands Account - £267.51

The completed Audit had been received from BDO and approved by them.

10.8 Planning Application

Proposed porch over the front door, first floor extension to side and rear over existing ground floor to add 2 bedrooms and a bathroom, Dotrobin Low Juniper Hexham Northumberland.

It was agreed to support the application.

Gill Whatmough advised that she had spoken to Colin Horncastle regarding the planning application at Rushwood which is not on the agenda for the next planning meeting. He was to advise.

10.9 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no further issues.

10.10 Smelting Arches

10.10.1 An Open Evening was to be held at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall to give an update on the project.

10.10.2 It was reported that the beer is selling well.

10.11 Broadband

10.11.1 We are still waiting for decisions on the outcome of the submission as part of Phase 1 of the Fibre to Premise project being managed by Cybermmor. Final approval is expected on 9/10/14.

10.11.2 The £2 million (SEP) money will be used to support investment in post code areas not benefitting from the current programme to deliver high speed broadband, those that get less than 15Mbps. NCC is currently deciding how to allocate this money. A decision is expected within the next two months. Austin Iliffe had emailed Colin Horncastle who may be involved in the decision.

10.11.3 The time scale for up-grading the existing cabinet in the Shire (at the triangle) is by the end of 2014. An area of 1200m cable length of the box will be able to get high speed broadband, which will include most of Whitley Chapel, Steel, Dyehouse, Blackhall Mill and Juniper. Houses between 1200m and 1500m cable length of the box will get significantly improved broadband service. This should include Ordley and Lee.

10.12 Highways and Footpaths

10.12.1 Kris Westerby, now responsible for highways has been twice notified of the defects given high priority and has also been invited to attend this month's Parish Council meeting. He has not responded

10.12.2 No action has been taken on the items listed on the priority defects list. Pot holes in the road east of the Devils Water bridge on the C280 remain dangerous.

10.12.2 Austin Iliffe had also emailed Ray Wealleans with a request to clean out gullies

which was not done following their exposure during the summer. No response had been received.

10.13 BOATs

10.13.1 Davy Short reported that there was still bike activity on BOATs.

10.13.2 Embley and Viewly BOATs are closed for the winter.

10.14 Reports

10.14.1 Wetlands - John Price had advised that Dilston College had relinquished the lease on the wetlands and offered it to the Parish Council to who could then lease it out. The Parish Council was to get back to John Price in connection with this and Marge Rastall agreed to put a report together. If the land were to be leased it would have to be on a 99 year lease basis.

10.14.2 School – It was reported that Whitley Chapel and Slaley First Schools are co-operating with each other in sharing transport for trips and the School Secretarys are liaising.

10.14.3 Hall – Decision taken to proceed with flat roof replacement above the toilet area.

- GRP option chosen for the roof covering
- Contract to be awarded to Beck Roofing in the sum of £10457 including VAT
- Price also includes provision of external outlet vent at ceiling level to improve boiler room ventilation, re-positioning gutter outlet to the main roof and providing ceiling cavity ventilation to the flat roof
- Funding for the work, grants received £5000, 100 Club £3000, Hall reserves £1500
- Work to start in November and expected to take 4 weeks
- Operation of the hall and the toilets will be maintained throughout construction period

10.14.4 Sportsfield/Play Area – Gill Whatmough had researched prices for the equipment in connection with the Housing Developer Fund. The deadline was 24/10/14 for applications to the Fund.

10.15 Any Other Business

It was reported that there had been interest in taking the running of Hexhamshire Magazine over. Lorna Common was co-ordinating and volunteers were to shadow the production of the next magazine as a training exercise before the handover of the running of the magazine to the new team. The Parish Council wished to thank the existing team for all of their hard work in connection with the Hexhamshire Magazine.

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

