

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

10.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Austin Iliffe.

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

10.2 Minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

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

10.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

10.4 Matters Arising

3.1 Gill Whatmough advised that she had spoken to the owner of the red car.

8.6.1 The invoices had been submitted to the Parish Council by the Netball Club re the donation.

10.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

10.6 Correspondence

10.6.1 Notification had been received regarding the Local Planning Core Strategy. Consultation begins on 14<sup>th</sup> October and lasts for six weeks. Alastair Stevens was to investigate the planning protocols. An email address was required. The following was suggested [hexhamshirepc@gmail.com](mailto:hexhamshirepc@gmail.com).

10.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £2298.

Savings Account – £6766.44

Wetlands Account – £37.75

10.7.1 Invoices had been received from the Netball Club supporting the request for a donation of £200. This was agreed.

10.7.2 The invoices were to be forwarded to the Housing Developer Fund for repayment in connection with the invoices paid by the Parish Council.

10.7.3 An invoice had been received regarding the Audit for £36. This was agreed to be paid.

## 10.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no matters brought forward.

## 10.9 Smelting Arches

- 10.9.1 Greg Finch advised that the final bill had been paid by the Lottery Fund.
- 10.9.2 All proceeds from the images of Industry book were to be put into the maintenance fund. The book was to be launched on 4<sup>th</sup> November in Newcastle and would be on sale at the Christmas Fayre.
- 10.9.3 The question of the lease was discussed and the Parish Council was advised that Ian Forbes is resigning. There will also be a new Administrator. It was agreed that a clear statement of remaining funds should be requested which is approximately £7K. It was agreed that it may be in the interests of the Parish Council to take on the lease to ensure that funds are available. The Clerk was to contact Came and Co. 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.
- 10.9.4 It was reported that the Smelting Arches project had won the 'Love Northumberland Award'.

## 10.10 Broadband sub-committee Report

- 10.10.1 The application had been submitted for broadband with a total of 9 businesses.
- 10.10.2 A total of £4369.94 VAT is to be paid by the Parish Council and subsequently reclaimed.
- 10.10.3 The total quoted by Daneco was £21,849.74 excluding VAT working out at £2427 per applicant.
- 10.10.4 As it is over £20,000 the award will have to be approved by BDUK which will add 2 weeks to the process.
- 10.10.5 The offer period will be in the region of 4 weeks.
- 10.10.6 The offer will be made to individual businesses who will be awarded a voucher only after signing a contract with Daneco. They will have a month to do this. Pressure would be on individuals to sign contracts as quickly as possible as it was reported funds were running out fast.

## 10.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 10.11.1 Ray Whelan had come to the last meeting of Slaley Parish Council. Gill Whatmough was to follow up the invitation to attend a meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council.
- 10.11.2 It was reported that there had been nothing done about the rabbit holes on the bankside before Moss House.

## 10.12 BOATs

It was reported that there had been a lot of activity with bikes and 4 x 4s in the forest.

## 10.13 Reports

Wetlands: Nothing had been heard from John Price. Anne Porter had had no objection to the shed going to Ladycross. Gill Whatmough was to speak to Derwent Gibson to check that it was permissible to give the shed to Ladycross.

School: There was nothing to report.

Hall: Austin Iliffe had sent a report as follows:

An order had been placed with The Window Shop for replacement windows and installation was expected in the first week in November.

An order had been placed with David Reid for replacement of the damaged doors and reinstatement of other damage.

The second W.I. social morning held in support of the Hall raised £120. The W.I. have decided that they would like to replace the curtains with the money raised.

An Ernie Coe evening was to be held on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Sportsfield/Play Area: A quote had been received from Matthew Hope for the work to be done for £585. It was agreed that he should be asked to proceed with the work based on this quote. It was also agreed that the playground inspection should be organised.

#### 10.14 Any Other Business

10.14.1 The website is making progress. More information is needed to include. The WI and Leek Club have submitted information. It was suggested that businesses would be automatically included on the website if they advertise in the magazine. It was decided that for those wanting to advertise solely in the magazine the price would be slightly cheaper than the magazine at £25.

10.14.2 Nathan Millar is the new Planning Officer.

10.14.3 The Housing Officer had contacted Gill Whatmough to advise of vacancies at St Helen's Gate. There are currently 2 vacancies with another imminent.

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