

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HEXHAMSHIRE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015 IN THE MALCOLM CAISLEY MEETING ROOMS IN WHITLEY CHAPEL PARISH HALL.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Hilary Kristensen.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Alastair Stevens, Alison Tweddle, Andrew Nixon, Davy Short, Edward Parker, Marge Rastall, Austin Iliffe and Greg Finch. Colin Horncastle was also present.

2. Broadband

- 2.1 It was reported that following the broadband meeting 9 companies in the area had committed to the scheme with the possibility of 1 or 2 additional companies. It was advised that an individual has to take responsibility for the Group Application and Austin Iliffe advised that he was willing to do this which was agreed.
- 2.2 Austin Iliffe advised that all 'lines of sight' had been inspected by Daneco and himself to ensure that these were workable.
- 2.3 An initial estimate of costs for the project were in the region of £32K but it was advised that it should be possible to reduce this estimate.
- 2.4 The relevant landowners had been visited to advise what would be required and all had agreed in principle. Daneco had offered free internet connection for the siting of the mast to landowners.

Implications for the Parish Council.

- 2.5 The Parish Council would act as an agent and complete the application form.
- 2.6 Each of the companies would make an individual application. The businesses would be awarded a voucher of £3K each. Each business would have had to sign a service contract for 18 months with Daneco.
- 2.7 Daneco can then be paid with the vouchers via Newcastle City Council.
- 2.8 The Parish Council would pay the VAT but could reclaim the VAT which had been confirmed by NALC.
- 2.9 Newcastle City Council vet the applications from businesses to confirm their suitability for the scheme.
- 2.10 Daneco will have to fund the scheme initially although it may be possible for interim payments to be made to ease his cash flow. It was reported that Daneco are prepared to take investors if necessary.
- 2.11 Once the contract is signed the money is earmarked for the project. There is then a period of 9 months to deliver the project.
- 2.12 A planning application for the mast at Whalley Thorn will have to be made by Daneco.
- 2.13 The Parish Councillors expressed their thanks to Austin Iliffe for all his hard work and perseverance in connection with the broadband issue.

3. Any Other Business

- 3.1 Concerns were expressed regarding a red car parked on the bend by the Church. Gill Whatmough agreed to speak to those responsible.
- 3.2 An email had been forwarded by Gill Whatmough with alternative colour options. It was agreed that the lighter green was preferable.

3.3 The Vicar had confirmed that the Church would be interested in obtaining the eco-loo.

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