

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 13th November 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

11.1 Apologies for Absence

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

Lorna Common, Helen Tranter and David Flatman were also present.

11.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9th October 2014.

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

11.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

11.4 Matters Arising

10.8 There had been no further developments regarding Rushwood.

10.14.4 Andrew Nixon had organised the bid in connection with the Housing Developer Fund. The decision was to be made on 11th November 2014.

6.17.2 It was reported that Beamish Museum were not interested in the Ammunitions Hut. Gill Whatmough was to speak to Roy Ward before any further action was to be taken.

9.7 The new benches had been delivered and the plaque was now ready. Davy Short and Andrew Nixon volunteered to put the noticeboard in place.

11.5 Public Participation

Lorna Common and Helen Tranter attended in the meeting to update Councillors regarding the new editorial team for the Hexhamshire Magazine. A team of six had agreed to take on the running of the magazine, 2 editors, 2 treasurers and 2 distributors. It was agreed that Gill Whatmough would write to the outgoing team in connection with the list of subscribers and the availability of the computer and publisher.

11.6 Correspondence

11.6.1 Notification had been received that NCC had granted permission at Dotrobin, Low Juniper for a proposed porch over the front door and first floor extension to side and rear over existing ground floor to add 2 bedrooms and a bathroom.

11.6.2 Acknowledgement had been received regarding the application for funding (10.14.4).

11.6.3 Letters had been received from NCC requesting councillor's views regarding the removing of BT phone boxes at Dipton Mill Road and nr Broadwell, Steel. It was agreed to write to NCC to advise that these should remain in the view of Councillors due to the poor mobile phone coverage in the area.

11.6.4 Gill Whatmough was to circulate the email in connection with Allendale Parish Neighbourhood Plan for Councillors to comment.

11.6.5 Nominations were requested for Northumberland Local Heroes for those who by acts of neighbourliness in their communities by caring for others or for the place they live make a

positive contribution to life in Northumberland. Nominations were to be forwarded to Gareth Davies, Internal communications and Branding Manager.

- 11.6.6 It was reported that Guy Opperman is proposing to establish a Tynedale Community Bank to help with saving, especially for fuel bills. A similar bank operates in the Durham area the Prince Bishops Community Bank. He is looking for the support of parish councils for this venture. It was agreed that this would be beneficial.

11.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Report - £4,402.54

Savings Account - £13,798.50

Wetlands Account - £267.53

An invoice was presented by the Clerk in connection with the purchase and engraving of the plaque for Ridley Roddam for the amount of £28. This was approved and a cheque was raised.

Invoices had been received from Mr Sloan in connection with cutting the hedge (£120) and grasscutting for the month of September (£280). A cheque was raised for £400.

An invoice had been received from TDP in connection with the benches for the amount of £1620. A cheque was raised for this amount. It was agreed that this amount would be transferred from the Savings account to the Treasurers account.

11.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

Gill Whatmough advised that she had spoken to Colin Horncastle regarding the new planning arrangements which are summarised below:

- 11.8.1 Permitted development rights have been extended.
- 11.8.2 Certain types of building can now be converted without the need for full planning permission, such as agricultural buildings.
- 11.8.3 Considerations such as highways, contamination, noise, proximity to other properties footprint, will still be taken into consideration.
- 11.8.4 The requirement to consult (parish councils and neighbours etc) is no longer there, and the normal rules re objections (10 objections to trigger a hearing by the planning committee) no longer apply. However if we become aware of an application and want to object or support it we can still do so either by letter or on the website.
- 11.8.5 The proposal at Newbiggin Home Farm fits in with these permitted development rights (no extension of footprint, off the road) whereas Dotrobin (extension and building of extra bedroom) did not.
- 11.8.6 Planning applications in the Courant are placed there by the Courant and not the planning Authority
- 11.8.7 Listed buildings will still have to obtain listed building consent.
- 11.8.8 Properties within the AONB – to be advised.
- 11.8.9 It will be necessary, therefore to be vigilant and keep an eye on the paper.
- 11.8.10 The new policy is meant to streamline the planning process.

11.9 Smelting Arches

Greg Finch had sent the following report:

- 11.9.1 The wheelpit conservation and groundworks are now complete. The immediate surrounding

area has been seeded with a woodland mix to encourage growth next Spring.

- 11.9.2 The security fencing has consequently been removed.
- 11.9.3 Conservation of millrace/leat will be completed within the following two weeks and this year's other excavations will be backfilled in the near future and the ground landscaped for safety and access, and a safety fence ast the head of the mill leat.
- 11.9.4 Instead of a marked footpath up to the Arches a more low-key approach is preferred, with steps set into the bank either side of the burn and steppin g stones and matching safe access to the chimney area at the top of the bank.
- 11.9.5 Design work is underway on Dukesfield site interpretation/signboards
- 11.9.6 Ore'some Ale has been a sell-out as was the premiere of the play 'Carry On Mining Ore...' at Slaley
- 11.9.7 The self-guided Shire walking route on a lead industry theme is nearly complete, as is a similar one for Allenheads and a cycle route linking Blaydon and Dukesfield.

11.10 Broadband

- 11.10.1 Hexhamshire was not successful in the submission for inclusion in the Fibre to Premise Project.
- 11.10.2 It was agreed that Austin Iliffe would speak to Cybermoor to advise that we are keen to progress and to ask for some advice regarding broadband. There was some concern regarding the fact that the interest for broadband in Hexhamshire was second highest but that we were still not successful in the bid. There is a huge demand for increased broadband speed.

11.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 11.11.1 It was agreed that Austin Iliffe, Davy Short and Edward Parker would survey their area of the 'Shire in order to submit an up to date picture regarding the condition of the roads to Highways.
- 11.11.2 Some of the grit heaps needed topping up.
- 11.11.3 The road from Dalton Bridge was reported as being very greasy.

11.12 BOATs

- 11.12.1 A police car had been seen in Slaley Forest, presumably checking BOAT activity.

11.13 Reports

- a) Wetlands
 - i) Gill Whatmough had written to John Price regarding the drainage issues experienced on Anthony White's land from the wetlands. John Price had replied that he would be happy for Anthony to clear out the ditch and that he would inspect the issue soon.
 - ii) Davy Short advised that he had undertaken some ditching work.
 - iii) Gill Whatmough was to send an email to John Price regarding the liabilities the Parish Council would be responsible for were they to take the Dilston wetland over.
- b) School

There were no issues brought forward.
- c) Hall
 - i) Norman Tweddle had been given the contract for the roof repair.
 - ii) The Christmas Fayre was to take place on 22nd November 2014.

c) Sportsfield/Play Area

- i) The annual report on the play area was discussed which listed items of work to be undertaken.
- ii) Gill Whatmough was to investigate the risk assessment issues.
- iii) Davy Short was to look at the zip wire.

11.14 Any Other Business

11.14.1 Information had been received regarding defibrillators. Pat Wilson of Slaley Parish Council was contacting the Ambulance Service regarding training in the use of the defibrillator. Gill Whatmough was to report back.

11.14.2 It had been reported that there was a lot of poaching in the area which had been reported to the police.

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