

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 13th March 2025 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

1. Present – Marge Rastall (Chair), John Austin, Nicola Matthews, Roger Rutherford, Gill Whatmough, Ed Parker, Hillary Kristensen, Davy Short, Lauren Kristensen, Greg Finch, County Cllr Colin Horncastle, Susanna Nixon (Clerk)
Apologies for Absence – None

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13TH February 2025 – Approved

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Lilswood Caravan Park complaint

Cllr Colin Horncastle reported that Alex Campbell, Enforcement Officer got all relevant information to the legal departments in December. In January, the legal department asked for amendments made by Alex Campbell, this was done. Cllr Colin Horncastle has been monitoring the process closely, and when contacted the line manager, was able to report that the matter has been made a priority and legal notices will be imminently served.

5. Public Participation - None

6. Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

Cllr Colin Horncastle recently drove the roads in the South Tynedale area and noted that when trying to travel the Windy Hill road, it became apparent how bad it is. This road was reported on numerous occasions over the last 3 years to the County Council as a priority road for repairs, which have failed to be done. Cllr Colin Horncastle contacted Glen Harrison at the Highways Department immediately, who has asked for further information.

7. Resilience Hub

7.1 The new Flyer has been received well and discussions were had as to how best to advertise them. Flyers will be displayed in public places and online platforms.

7.2 It has been asked that Ross Henderson is to service the generator. Ross has said that he would do so.

8. Correspondence

8.1 – Letter from Ted Liddle proposing a solution to the access problem regarding FP525/010. Points were considered and it was felt that a Site visit from County Council is needed to resolve the situation. This will be arranged and relevant parties notified so they can also attend to discuss their concerns and views.

8.2 – Annual Playground Inspection is due to take place in May 2025. It was agreed the quote of £94.95 was acceptable and this will be organised.

8.3 – The Highways department reported that the interactive 20mph sign on the West side of Whitley Chapel is still under warranty, and will be inspected in the next couple of months.

9. Finance

9.1 – It was decided there would be a small amount of monies available to donate to a local cause this year. It was proposed by the Chair Marge Rastall that £250 would be donated to the Great North Air Ambulance, and Whitley Chapel Parish Magazine. This was approved.

9.4 – Edward Robson has been doing the works for the website. Edward offers website support for £20 a month. It has been proposed we accept the proposal and set up the support plan.

10. Planning Applications - None

11. Highways, footpaths and BOATS

11.1 BOATS - Peth Foot Bridge Ford impassable – A parishioner has raised the concern that the surface under the water is loose. The matter has been reported on Fix My Street.

11.2 – It was sadly reported that an incident in Slaley forest where a parishioner confronted off road cyclists, was then driven at. The parishioner was left shaken but unhurt. All incidents must be reported to Northumbria police. We encourage any incidents to be reported to Northumbria Police. If you feel in immediate danger, call 999. Call 101 if you have an incident to report and try to give as much information as possible. This can include the number of people involved, number and type of vehicles, location, date and time.

11.3 – BOATS – The sandy track from Viewly is badly damaged due to off road vehicles. It will be asked that when the County Council comes out to visit the site for the footpath issue, they inspect the sandy track also.

12. Reports

12.1 School - None

12.2 Wetlands – None

12.3 Hall – Northumbria Water will begin works on the Bird hide at the Wetlands, and on the path behind the hall shortly.

12.4 Dukesfield Arches - None

12.5 Sportsfield & Play Area – A new wire is thought to be needed to tighten up the tennis net as it has reportedly snapped. This will be ordered and fitted.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 - 2 Houses at St Helens Gate are both still vacant.

13.2 – Local elections are due on 01st May 2025. Nominations must be received between March 21st 2025 and April 07th 2025. It was announced that Greg

Finch, Hilary Kristensen and Davy Short will be stepping down after this year.

Meeting closed at 9pm