

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 14th April 2016 at 7.30pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

4.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Davy Short and Greg Finch.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Alastair Stevens, Marge Rastall, Edward Parker, Austin Iliffe and Andrew Nixon.

4.2 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2016

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

4.3 Declaration of Interests

Edward Parker declared an interest in the planning application and Gill Whatmough declared an interest in the willow.

4.4 Matters Arising

2.4.2 Gill Whatmough advised that she had spoken to David Francis who had advised that it was too late to apply for grant aid for this year in connection with the website but that it is possible to apply retrospectively.

2.16.3 Gill Whatmough had sent an email regarding Rushwood to the planning department following advice. Further enforcement officers are being recruited which is a positive move.

3.7 The request had been made to opt out of the SAAA. (Smaller Authorities Audit Departments)

3.10 The planning application for the school playground had been approved.

3.16.2 Gill Whatmough advised that the signs had been put in place relating to the dog fouling issues and the fluorescent paint had also been used to highlight the problem.

4.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

4.6 Correspondence

4.6.1 A letter had been received from Sport Tynedale requesting a donation. It was agreed to write to advise them to re-apply next year.

4.6.2 Letters of thanks had been received from the Great North Air Ambulance and Tynedale Hospice in connection with donations awarded.

4.6.3 A letter had been received from Guy Opperman in connection with the Tynedale Community Bank Conference to be held on Friday 29th April at the Beaumont Hotel, Hexham.

4.6.4 A letter had been received from Arqiva advising that the mast was now built and that Vodafone and O2 were already on air and providing a service from the site. EE and 3 were not expecting their service to be available until June.

4.6.5 Notification of the Town and Parish Council meetings on the 10th May at Hexham Auction Mart had been received.

- 4.6.6 Notification of the stock valuation for the playground equipment had been received from Play Inspections UK with a value of £70,298.78. The Clerk was to check with Came and Company regarding the insurance cover.

The changing rooms were also to be included in the insurance policy.

- 4.6.7 The West End Funding Fair was to be held on Thursday 19th May 2016 at Wylam Institute.

4.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £10328.56

Savings Account - £6768.17

Wetlands Account - £137.78

4.8 Planning Application:

Re-submission of application to improve the surface along approximately 8000m of public bridle Paths/Allendale Common Bridleway Allendale Tynedale District Bridleway 059 Allendale Northumberland.

It was decided that we would object on the grounds of the danger of increased illegal off road activity, and that the use of motorised vehicles on bridle paths is strictly speaking illegal. We will also raise the issue of the transport of the hard core through Hexhamshire with the resultant damage to roads and bridges.

4.9 Website

There were no issues raised.

4.10 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues raised.

4.11 Smelting Arches

- 4.11.1 It was reported that the draft agreement to be signed by the Friends and the Parish Council had been drawn up and was circulated to Councillors. This had not yet been approved by the Friends of the North Pennines.

- 4.11.2 Assuming both sides approve the agreement a formal request is expected to be made to the Estate asking for the lease to be assigned to the Parish Council from 1st June. A draft of the letter had been sent to the Estate and their response was awaited.

- 4.11.3 A separate bank account and the additions to the insurance would need to be finalised.

- 4.11.4 A photo shoot had been held at the Smelting Arches with Carol Melia.

4.12 Broadband Sub-Committee Report

- 4.12.1 A joint meeting had been held with Healy and Slaley Parish Councils where it had been agreed to Investigate a joint approach to providing broadband.

- 4.12.2 A site meeting was to be held to investigate the technical feasibility for Healey and Slaley outer areas. There may be an issue with trees around Healey.

- 4.12.3 Discussions are on-going.

4.12.4 A possible structure has been proposed for an Enterprise investment scheme.

4.13 Highways and Footpaths

- 4.13.1 It was reported that the High Quarter highway survey had been submitted for action.
- 4.13.2 A further request had been submitted by Gill Whatmough for gulley and ditch clearing.
- 4.13.3 Minor amounts of patching had been completed and some gulley cleaning.
- 4.13.4 The overall progress needed to be reviewed.
- 4.13.5 Roadside grasscutting needed to be chased up.
- 4.13.6 There is an issue with dog excrement from Eads Bush to Hill House.

4.14 BOATs

- 4.14.1 It was reported that the sign at the top at Kings Law is broken.

4.15 Reports:

Wetlands

- 4.15.1 Gill Whatmough advised that she had had an email from Monica advising that the group would operate as part of the Northumbria Basketry Group using their constitution and insurance for activities on the site. She advised that they were planning to mend fences and make a hard standing area for cars. Parish Councillors discussed this and agreed that a hard standing area was not a necessary requirement. A square basket making weekend was to be held in May or June and a spoon carving day was to be held in the autumn. Members of the group advised that once the initial repair of the track was completed they would then be happy to contribute to the future upkeep.
- 4.15.2 Derwent Gibson had advised that the agreement was ready to be signed and the parish Councillors agreed that Gill Whatmough should sign on the Council's behalf.

School

- 4.15.3 It was reported that Whitley Chapel, Corbridge 1st and Newbrough are considering forming a trust as all are struggling for numbers and have issues in common.

Hall

- 4.15.4 A very successful and enjoyable YFC fund raising auction had been held raising over £1,700 and a donation was to be made to the YFC by the Parish Hall in recognition of their support.
- 4.15.5 The W.I. were continuing with their soup lunches and the total to date raised for the curtain replacement was £830.
- 4.15.6 Work on the kitchen was anticipated to commence in the second half of May. Cost comparisons were being prepared for kitchen work in relation to the funding through Colin Horncastle's allocation.
- 4.15.7 A table top sale was to be held on 14th May at Whitley Chapel Hall.
- 4.15.8 A tug of war tournament was to be held on the sportsfield on 1st May and permission was requested to put up a marquee which was granted. The suggestion was made that the tug of war team could apply to the Housing Developer Fund for funding towards new rope.

Sportsfield

- 4.15.9 It was reported that the grass had been cut for the first time.
- 4.15.10 It was agreed that the hedges needed cutting but that it needed to be done imminently. It was

agreed that Hilary Kristensen would ask Matthew Hope to provide a quote.
4.15.11 The sportsfield had been rolled.

4.16 Any Other Business

4.16.1 The litter pick was scheduled to take place on Saturday 16th April meeting at 10.30 am in the Hall.

4.16.1 It was reported that a lot of people in Hexhamshire litter pick on a regular basis.

4.16.2 Gill Whatmough advised that she was marking on maps the areas that had already been done and what was still to be done.

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