

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 12th May 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

5.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Austin Iliffe and Davy Short.

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

Unitary Councillor Colin Horncastle was also present.

5.2 Election of Chairman

The Clerk asked for nominations for the post of Chairman. Hilary Kristenson proposed Gill Whatmough and Andrew Nixon seconded. This was agreed and accepted.

5.3 Election of Vice-Chairman

Nominations were requested for the post of Vice-Chairman. Gill Whatmough proposed Alastair Stevens and Hilary Kristensen seconded.

5.4 Appointment of Scrutineer for Annual Accounts

Advice was to be taken regarding whether a qualified accountant was needed to scrutinise the accounts. If not Marion Henderson was to be asked if she would be prepared to do the internal audit.

5.5 Appointment of 3 Councillors to sign cheques/access on-line banking.

It was agreed that Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen and Andrew Nixon would remain the Signatories.

5.6 Appointment of 2 Councillors onto the Wetlands Sub-Committee

It was agreed that the Councillors would be Davy Short and Hilary Kristensen.

5.7 Appointment of 2 Councillors for Smelting Arches

Greg Finch and Gill Whatmough were re-appointed.

5.8 Appointment of 3 Councillors onto the Sportsfield Sub-Committee

It was decided that this was not relevant.

5.9 Appointment of 3 Councillors to Highways Sub-Committee

Austin Iliffe, Davy Short and Edward Parker.

5.10 Appointment of 2 Councillors to 4 Parishes BOATs Committee

Davy Short and Marge Rastall

5.11 Appointment of 3 Councillors to Broadband Sub-Committee

Austin Iliffe, Andrew Nixon and Greg Finch.

5.12 Appointment of Parish Council representative to the Board of the Parish Hall Trust

Austin Iliffe.

5.13 Appointment of Parish Hall representative to the Board of School Governors.

There were no nominations.

5.14 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14th April 2016

The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

5.15 Matters Arising

2.16.3 It was reported that the fourth enforcement officer in 2 years is now in post.

3.16.2 It was reported that the steps taken to attempt to resolve the problem with dog fouling seemed to have improved the situation.

4.8 Gill Whatmough advised that there had been an enormous amount of environmental objections regarding the application for the improvement to the surface of the bridleway. She advised that she had written two letters of objection.

4.15.8 An email had been received from Mathew Hope reporting that the Tug of War had been very successful and was very well attended. He thanked the Parish Council for the donation and to Andrew Nixon for the use of the marquee and also to Marge Rastall for the donation of the gazebo. He advised that he hoped to repeat the competition in the future.

5.16 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

5.17 Correspondence

5.17.1 Notification had been received from NCC regarding the Tree Preservation Order for the height reduction and trimming at Crossfield, Order. Permission had been granted.

5.17.2 A letter had been received regarding the Love Northumberland Awards 2016.

5.18 Financial Report

Invoices were received from Came and Company for £444.69 for renewal of insurance which was agreed and from the Parish Hall for hire of the Hall for £60. Both were approved.

5.19 Planning Applications

Erection of shed for grounds maintenance equipment and dog kennel. The Paise Farmhouse, Lowgate, NE46 2NX

There were no objections.

5.20 Tree Preservation Order Application – Fell one mature ash tree (T15) and crown lift up to 4m of one large ash tree. Teachers Cottage, Ordley Village, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1SX

The Parish Council agreed that they would agree with whatever the Tree Preservation Officer advised.

5.21 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

5.21.1 Colin Horncastle advised that due to the flood damage during the winter additional funding had been allocated which meant that extra work can be undertaken on mainly B roads which should clear the existing backlog on B roads and should leave funding for repairs to C and U classified roads this year.

5.21.2 He advised that the 3 planning committees were reducing to 2 in June 2016.

5.21.3 Concern was expressed regarding the closure of the road due to repairs on Hexham Railway Bridge. There would be a footpath for access but major disruption to traffic will result from the work which is to last 6 weeks.

5.21.4 Colin Horncastle advised that he is allocating funds to the Parish Hall and is discussing this with Austin Iliffe.

5.21.5 Marge Rastall advised that the school is also requesting funding.

5.21.6 The Parish Council were advised that there is an offer on Prospect House in Hexham and that the tourist information office is now located in the Queens Hall. A great deal of concern was expressed about this move.

5.21.7 Colin Horncastle advised that LED lighting is being installed in Northumberland with the rural areas being done last and the south east first. A £75K trail of Wi fi is also being carried out.

5.22 Smelting Arches

5.22.1 The lease transfer was approved by the Parish Council. The Friends of the North Pennines have approved and signed it. The remaining funds will be transferred to the Parish Council to manage. Gill Whatmough signed the lease on behalf of the Parish Council to enable contracts to be exchanged. A new bank account was to be set up for the Smelting Arches money.

5.22.2 At the end of the lease in 2038 any remaining monies were to be shared equally between the Friends of the North Pennines and Hexhamshire Parish Council. Any monies from the sale of the book will come to the Parish Council in future.

5.23 Broadband

The following report had been received from Austin Iliffe who had advised his new email address as follows: Austin_iliffe@btinternet.com. He requested that Alastair Stevens run the

appeal again for the mobile phone broadband feedback with the new address.

- 5.23.1 A meeting had been held with Slaley and Healy Parish Councillors to discuss opportunities for working together.
- 5.23.2 A site inspection had revealed that no direct lines of site to Kiln Pit Hill. It seems unlikely that a joint approach would be possible.
- 5.23.3 Some further information on funding routes and structures had been obtained but nothing concrete to report. A funding fair was to be held in Wylam the week following the meeting and Austin was investigating any possible avenues.
- 5.23.4 Feedback had been requested regarding the mobile phone broadband and 4 comments had been received to date.

5.24 Highways and Footpaths

- 5.24.1 Some work on potholes had been undertaken. Kris Westbury had been emailed regarding a very rough section of road adjacent to the pumping station on Dipton Mill Road.
- 5.24.2 Gill Whatmough had reported damage to the bridge abutment at Rowley Burn.
- 5.24.3 Kris Westbury had been asked to give assurances regarding the verge cutting this year and had been given the opportunity to be given contracts for farmers prepared to contract this work.

5.25 BOATS

There was nothing to report.

5.26 Reports: Wetlands

- 5.26.1 Gill Whatmough advised that the new lease could not be signed as the Parish Council don't have a seal. The resolution was drawn up, agreed and signed by the Clerk.
- 5.26.2 Monica Haigh had been told that the Parish Council need the contract details and was to advise Gill Whatmough in the week following the Parish Council meeting.

School

- 5.26.3 The school currently has 29 pupils.
Hall
- 5.26.4 The kitchen improvements project was reported as being fully organised and ready to go.
- 5.26.5 The work is scheduled to commence as soon as the funds from Colin Horncastle are received which was expected to be later in May.
- 5.26.6 The early planning stages of improvements to the toilets was underway.
- 5.26.7 Thanks were given to Andrew Nixon for his help and advice regarding on-going projects.
Sportsfield/Play Area
- 5.26.8 The Tug of War had been a huge success.
- 5.26.9 The sportsfield needs raking.

5.27 Any Other Business

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

