

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 9th June 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms.

6.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Marge Rastall and Edward Parker.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Andrew Nixon, Alastair Stevens, Austin Iliffe, Davy Short, Hilary Kristensen, Davy Short and Greg Finch.

6.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th May 2016

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

6.3 Declaration of Interests

Andrew Nixon declared an interest in finance.

6.4 Matters Arising

5.4 Marion Henderson was to be contacted re being scrutineer for the accounts.

2.16.3 Gill Whatmough advised that she had emailed the enforcement officer regarding enforcement matters and had been advised that they are in the process of formulating a new team. Joe Turner was now dealing with the Rushwood issue.

4.8 An environmental impact assessment had been requested regarding the Allendale bridleway plan. This application may be referred to the Secretary of State for a decision.

6.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

6.6 Correspondence

6.6.1 Market towns initiative update had been received listing property for sale. Neither Prospect House nor the Tourist Office were listed.

6.6.2 Notification of a meeting had been received to be held at the Queens Hall to advise on the services provided by the Council and the future for Hexham. Marge Rastall advised she hoped to attend.

6.7 Financial Report

It was agreed that the following should be paid:

Shire Building Services - £380 inc. VAT

Debbie Nixon – grasscutting - £420.00

NALC Sub - £148.00

Matthew Hope - £300

Austin Iliffe - £20 for printing of broadband sheets.

6.8 Planning Applications

6.8.1 Construction of livestock building, Land at Low Eshells, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 2LE

The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

6.8.2 To build an agricultural dwelling at Loadman Farm, Loadman Farm Hexham Northumberland NE46 2JX

The Parish Council were in favour in principle but queried the necessity for a four bedroomed property.

6.8.3 Pre-application Enquiry Form – To replace a timber conservatory roof and doors of a listed building with a UPVC construction in a sympathetic colour and with a timber-like finish.

The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

6.9 Website

There were no issues brought forward.

6.10 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues brought forward.

6.11 Smelting Arches

6.11.1 Greg Finch advised that the Parish Council was now the leaseholder of the Dukesfield site until 2038.

6.11.2 Funds were to be transferred to the Parish Council in the near future.

6.11.3 A new bank account had been opened for this purpose.

6.11.4 The insurance policy had been extended to include the Arches, the interpretation panels and the horse milestone.

6.11.5 The website needed to be transferred to the Parish Council. Both websites could be managed under the same hosting arrangements.

6.11.6 The Parish Council was now in charge of the books and invoicing of them. Greg Finch offered to deal with book stock and invoicing.

6.12 Broadband Sub-Committee Report

The following report had been received from Austin Iliffe.

6.12.1 Money has been found for investment in rural areas from claw back arrangement in BT Contracts and new NCC resources.

6.12.2 Threshold is those areas not able to gain access to high speed broadband by the end of 2017, termed white NGA areas defined as 30 mb.

6.12.3 Detailed analysis of the 'Shire shows that 164 properties fall into this category which Includes 82 businesses broken down into 43 farm businesses and 39 other businesses.

6.12.4 Public consultation is taking place, a drop in session in Hexham on 8th June was well attended.

- 6.12.5 The Parish Council has formally represented all 164 properties identified.
- 6.12.6 Timing is uncertain as it depends on State Approval from the EU as well as the results of the public consultation exercise.
Thanks were given to Austin for all his work in connection with the broadband issue.

6.13 Highways and Footpaths

- 6.13.1 It was reported that the jet patcher had been active in the area and that some grass cutting had taken place on classified roads.
- 6.13.2 A caravan and van had been parked on the roadside at Whitley Chapel. This had been reported. Gill Whatmough advised that she would follow this up.

6.14 BOATS

Some motorbike activity had been advised at the weekend.

6.15 Reports:

- 6.15.1 Wetlands – It was reported that the agreement had been signed.
- 6.15.2 School – Marge Rastall advised that Slaley Show were to give Commemorative Medals to all children at Whitley Chapel and Slaley Schools.
- 6.15.3 Hall - £215 had been raised at the table top sale but it had not been very well supported. It was suggested that a Spring coffee morning or plant sale may be better supported. It was suggested applying for a table in the Market Place in Hexham which always seem to be well supported.
A £500 donation had been made to the Young Farmers Club.
£4,500 grant is expected from Colin Horncastle.
- 6.15.4 Sportsfield/Play Area: It was reported that there had been evidence of a dog on the sportsfield. Gill Whatmough advised that she was investigating the cost of installing a dog waste bin with the Council.

6.15 Any Other Business

- 6.15.1 Congratulations were due to the Young Farmers for their success in winning the County Rally. It was reported that the Tug of War team won their section and now go on to Preston for the Northern Championships.
- 6.15.2 It was reported that there had been another music event at Newbiggin which had been reported to the Police by a member of the public and had been advertised on facebook. The event had continued until 5.30 am.

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