

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday July 14th 2016 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

7.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Davy Short and Colin Horncastle.

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

7.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9th June 2016.

The minutes were approved. Alison Tweddle had been present at the meeting.

7.3 Declaration of Interests

None forward.

7.4 Matters Arising

2.16.13 It was reported that the trees at Rushwood now have a preservation order on them. The Issues on the site are on-going and are being dealt with by the Enforcement Department.

4.8 No further news was forthcoming regarding the bridleway.

6.6.2 Gill Whatmough had attended the meeting held by the Council regarding services provided but advised that it was not particularly useful.

6.13.2 Gill Whatmough advised that the Council had advised the DVLA regarding the van.

7.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

7.6 Correspondence

7.6.1 An email had been received regarding the newly introduced costs for certain items at the tips including glass, windows, rubble etc. It was agreed that this would result in increased fly tipping and Gill Whatmough advised she would write to the Council regarding this. It was also agreed that that parishioners should be asked if they would like the verges cutting before requesting the precept for the next financial year. In the meantime it was agreed that pressure should be kept up on Highways in connection with cutting the grass at junctions.

7.6.2 A public meeting was to be held regarding roadside verges on 20th July in Hexham by South Tyne Sustainability.

7.6.3 A copy of a presentation regarding reductions in budget had been received from the Town and Parish Liaison Group advising that in future grasscutting will not be undertaken by the Council but that there are not likely to be any funds transferred with this responsibility.

7.6.4 The Local Transport Priority form had been received for completion and it was agreed that the requests should remain the same:- request for 30 mph speed limit in Whitley Chapel and road widening request for the road above Barker House bridge and north of Dalton Bridge.

7.6.5 Alastair Stevens and Gill Whatmough agreed to peruse the Plan Core Strategy. The closing

date was 27th July.

7.7 Financial Report

7.7.1 It was agreed that Greg Finch should replace Andrew Nixon as a signatory on the accounts.

7.7.2 It was reported that the internal auditor had approved the accounts and they were to be forwarded to the BDO for auditing.

7.7.3 £32 from the sale of books was expected into the Dukesfield account.

7.8 Planning Applications

Proposed construction of detached implement store, The Lee, Hexham, NE46 1SR

It was agreed to support the application.

7.9 Website

There were no issues brought forward.

7.10 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues brought forward.

7.11 Smelting Arches

7.11.1 It was reported that the leases had been signed and that a letter from the Estate was expected.

7.11.2 Greg Finch advised that he was currently investigating moving the Dukesfield website so that the Parish Council could manage it and both websites could have the same host. He agreed to speak to Zen Internet to get a firm quote and will liaise with Friends of the North Pennines.

7.12 Broadband

It was reported that some progress was being made.

7.13 Highways and Footpaths

It was agreed that the verges were an issue.

7.14 BOATs

It was reported that there didn't seem to be as much activity on the BOATs.

7.15 Reports:

Wetlands:

7.15.1 It was reported that an informal licence should be drawn up outlining the agreement regarding the willow. A 5 year rolling lease was agreed. Conditions were suggested such as a contribution to the upkeep of the road, a maximum parking of 2 cars, the ditches were to be kept clear etc.

- Gill Whatmough agreed to ask Derwent Gibson to draw up an agreement along these lines.
- 7.15.2 Gill Whatmough was to discuss a more formal agreement in connection with grazing on the Wetlands.
- School:
- 7.15.3 The scarecrow weekend which had been held recently was reported as being very successful.
- Hall:
- 7.15.4 It was reported that the new Chairman was Bob Bennett.
- 7.15.5 The following funds had been confirmed:- £4.5K from Colin Horncastle and a grant of £1K from White Stuff in Hexham. Work was scheduled to start at the end of August.
- 7.15.6 The Young Farmers had asked about the possibility of buying stage extensions plus a backdrop for the stage. There were plans to approach the Arts Council.
- 7.15.7 Gill Whatmough had spoken to the Council regarding the Dog Bins who advised they will empty a bin free of charge. A bin would cost £120 plus an install of £40 if done by the Council.

7.16 Any Other Business

- 7.16.1 Gill Whatmough advised that she was investigating the fact that EE and 3 were not yet working.

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