

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday August 11th 2016 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

8.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Marge Rastall and Andrew Nixon.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Alastair Stevens, Austin Iliffe, Hilary Kristensen, Greg Finch, Alison Tweddle, Davy Short and Edward Parker.

8.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14th July 2016

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

8.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

8.4 Matters Arising

2.16.3 An email had been received from the enforcement officer regarding Rushwood to advise that a site visit had taken place and that various issues had been noted by the enforcement officer which were being investigated further. A further update had been requested.

4.8 Information regarding the Allendale bridleway was being collated and an update was awaited.

6.13.2 Gill Whatmough advised that she had contacted the Police regarding the van and had been advised that it was taxed, insured and MOT'd. Gill Whatmough advised that she had contacted Two Castles who had agreed to ask the owners to move the van.

7.6.5 Gill Whatmough and Alastair Stevens had read the Core Plan Strategy and advised that the main issue in the area had been the proposed development in the west end of Hexham of 900 new houses. Colin Horncastle advised that there may be the possibility of the builders paying for a roundabout on the A69 due to the ensuing increased traffic.

7.15.17 Gill Whatmough advised that the Dog Bin had been purchased and would cost £120 for fitting with the bin free of charge.

8.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

8.6 Correspondence

8.6.1 It was reported that the planning application regarding land at Low Eshells had been granted.

8.6.2 The planning application regarding the implement store at the Lee had been approved.

8.7 Financial Report

8.7.1 Treasurer's Account - £8360.90
Sportsfield Account - £6769.02
Wetlands Account - £137.81

Dukesfield Account - £10,162.00

- 8.7.2 The Parish Online invoice was approved to be paid at £33.60 inc. VAT.
- 8.7.3 Greg Finch had completed the forms to enable him to view the Dukesfield account.
- 8.7.4 Following submission of the annual accounts to BDO the Clerk had received an email requesting further information which had been responded to.

8.8 Website

There were no issues.

8.9 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

- 8.9.1 Grasscutting was discussed as there seemed to be very little cutting being done at junctions and unclassified roads are not done.
- 8.9.2 It was reported that ragwort is on the increase, in particular at Rushwood. It was agreed that Gill Whatmough would advise the Enforcement Officer.

8.10 Planning Application

Alterations to existing garage and subsequent conversion to ancillary space. Steel Farm, Steel, Hexham, NE47 0LG.

There were no objections to the application.

8.11 Smelting Arches

- 8.12 The website transfer was given approval to go ahead at a cost of £160 which should be paid from the Dukesfield account.
- 8.13 Greg Finch advised that the books were still selling.

8.12 Broadband Sub-Committee Report

- 8.12.1 Daneco had been asked to produce timescales for action regarding broadband.
- 8.12.2 Agreement in principle had been received from the landowner at the site at Kiln Pit Hill.
- 8.12.3 Daneco had raised funds to provide a microwave service to the areas not covered by the cabinets.

8.13 Highways and Footpaths

- 8.13.1 Dalton Bridge needs repairing and the saplings cut down.
- 8.13.2 Dukesfield Mill – sections of the road were reported as being in poor condition.

8.14 BOATs

- 8.14.1 Holes and gullies were reported on the BOAT from Viewly.
- 8.14.2 There was motorbike activity reported on the BOAT.
- 8.14.3 David Brookes is the contact at County Hall.

8.15 Reports:

- 8.16.1 Wetlands: A letter is being drawn up regarding the willow agreement as reported last

month. It was agreed to ask Derwent Gibson to suggest the wording in connection with the payment of 100% of the maintenance costs.

- 8.16.2 It was agreed that if a request was made to graze cattle on the wetlands a Parks Agreement should be set up. Grazing could take place between May and November.
- 8.16.3 School: There was nothing to report.
- 8.16.4 Hall: Thanks were given to Colin Horncastle for his donation.
- 8.16.5 The installation of the new kitchen was to commence in September.
- 8.16.6 Sportsfield/Play Area: There were no issues.

8.16 Any Other Business

- 8.16.1 It was reported that there is a house vacant at St Helen's Gate. This was to be included in the magazine.
- 8.16.2 It was reported that the shop at Slaley may become community run.
- 8.16.3 It was advised that the noticeboard required attention.
- 8.16.4 It was reported that the Oil Group will be ordering its millionth litre of oil in September/October – a notice was to be included in Parish Notes.

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