

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 8th September 2016 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

9.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Alastair Stevens.

Councillors present – Gill Whatmough, Austin Iliffe, Hilary Kristensen, Alison Twedde, Andrew Nixon, Davy Short, Marge Rastall, Edward Parker and Greg Finch.

9.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 11th August 2016

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

9.3 Declaration of Interests

None forward.

9.4 Matters Arising

2.16.3 Gill Whatmough advised that she had had a telephone conversation with the Enforcement Officer who had advised that a report is awaited following a visit by the Tree Preservation Officer to Rushwood. Gill Whatmough advised that she is keeping in touch with the Enforcement Department.

4.8 Some repair works had been undertaken to the bridleway close to Westburnhope under a Natural England licence, but were not done as proposed. The planning department are following up.

6.13.2 Gill Whatmough had spoken to Two Castles regarding the van. They had spoken to the owner who had advised that the van is for sale so would hopefully go soon. It was decided that this would be monitored to pursue if the van did not disappear.

7.15.7 The Dog Bin was now in place and was being used. NCC had been informed that it was in place and would need emptying.

8.7.3 The forms had still not arrived from Lloyds regarding Greg Finch being added to the Signatories.

8.13.1 It was advised that Dalton Bridge was to be repaired by the end of October. Gill Whatmough had emailed Kris Westerbury but to date had had no response. It was agreed that signage should be put in place.

8.14.1 Photographs and an email were sent to Highways regarding the BOAT at Viewley.

9.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

9.6 Correspondence

9.6.1 A letter had been received from NCC regarding changes to the opening hours at the Household Waste Recovery Centres and the recent consultation process. New opening arrangements were to start.

9.7 Financial Report

- 9.7.1 It was agreed that a transfer should be made from the treasurer's account. It was agreed to pay Derwent Gibson's invoice for £598 in connection with work done relating to the Willow.
- 9.7.2 BDO Audit had contacted the Clerk regarding the amount included in the asset column to advise that it should increase in line with the new container. It was agreed to request that the return should be sent back for amendment at a cost of £30.
- 9.7.3 It was agreed that the Clerk should question depreciation of assets with BDO and whether the Arches would be regarded as an asset.

9.8 Website

Gill Whatmough advised that she had sent an email to the Baby and Toddler group requesting them to send information regarding the group to Marge Rastall for inclusion on the website.

9.9 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no matters raised.

9.10 Planning Application

Proposed agricultural workers dwelling at: Loadman Farm, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 2JX.

The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

9.11 Smelting Arches

- 9.11.1 A reduction in price for the book could be considered in the future if stocks began to stick. Greg Finch advised that he would bring a statement of stock next month.
- 9.11.2 A cheque is expected from the Friends of the North Pennines for approximately £900. Greg Finch advised that he is chasing it up.
- 9.11.3 Marge Rastall advised that she would check if there was a link between the Dukesfield and Parish Council websites.
- 9.11.4 The brambles etc need to be cut back. It was decided to hold a 'Working Party Day' and to invite anyone interested to get involved. The maintenance plan from last year is still available. The Young Farmers may want to be involved. Amy Swallow is the new secretary and Dan Miller is Chair. It was agreed that October the 15th at 10.30 am would be a suitable day and this was to be included on the website, in the magazine and in the notes.
- 9.11.5 It was agreed that the risk assessment should take place on the 15th October.

9.12 Broadband Sub-Committee Report

- 9.12.1 A programme of work received from Daneco showed the expected start date for mast Foundations in January 2016.
- 9.12.2 The mast site was re-surveyed using Andrew Nixon's manatou confirming both the location and the mast height of 10 to 12 metres.
- 9.12.3 The licence agreement has been submitted to both Land Owner and tenant of Greymare Farm for the aerial at Kiln Pit Hill for signature.

9.12.4 A Broadband delivery service tracker had been established for the Hexhamshire project.

9.13 Highways and Footpaths

9.13.1 The County Council would not make any allowance if the Parish Council undertook cutting the verges. It was agreed that a tender could be put together for cutting the grass verges and saplings on the unclassified roads. Gill Whatmough would ask about the trees.

9.13.2 It was reported that black and white posts are required on the edge of the road in Juniper where the road has eroded away. The erosion would be covered under the capital budget.

9.13.3 There was a large hole on the roadside at Whitehall. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Richard Barron in relation to his responsibility. Also a letter was to be sent to the Lees at Harwood Shield for the same reason.

9.14 Reports:
Sportsfield

9.14.1 Davy Short agreed to investigate the drain near the cabin which was blocked.

9.14.2 It was agreed to request quotes from Matthew Hope in connection with hedging. The embankment also required strimming. It was pointed out to Matthew that all cuttings were to be tidied up.

Wetlands

9.14.3 Derwent Gibson had sent a letter regarding the Willow agreement but to date there had been no response.

9.14.4 A parks agreement relating to grazing would cost a similar amount to the willow if it were to go ahead. It was agreed that this would be done by the Parish Council.

School

9.14.5 There were no issues.

Hall

9.14.6 It was reported that work had started on the kitchen which would be complete by the beginning of October.

9.14.7 The Parish Hall Committee had given permission for the school to use the Hall for physical Education on a Thursday afternoon.

9.14.8 The Christmas Fayre was to be held on 26th November 2016.

9.14.9 Dave Southern was holding an event in October in aid of the Parish Hall and the Young Farmers and Stocksfield Stompers were holding an event in the Spring.

9.14.10 The Women's Institute were continuing with the soup lunches and over £1,000 had been raised to date. The target was the replacement of the curtains in the Hall.

9.14.11 Some painting work was to be done and a quote was to be obtained regarding refurbishment of the toilets.

9.15 Any Other Business

9.15.1 Steven Wood had advised that there had been more trouble involving music in the field adjacent to his property. The Police had been called at midnight. Steven Wood advised that the wall had been pulled down. Gill Whatmough had contacted the environmental department at the Council. If there was any subsequent indication that this was happening again the advice was to call 999.

9.15.2 Susie White gardening writer, had requested the flora and fauna survey as reference for an article she was writing for the Guardian. It had been requested from Derwent Gibson who had it in his possession.

9.15.3 The continuing problem of ragwort was discussed and it was agreed that it should be pulled up whenever seen.

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