

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday January 12th at 7:30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Room, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Hilary Kristensen, Marge Rastall, Colin Horncastle and Mandy Charlton

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Alastair Stevens, Austin Iliffe, Alison Tweddle, Davy Short, Andrew Nixon, Greg Finch

1.2 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the last meeting.

1.3 Declaration of interests

There were no declaration of interests from those present.

1.4 Matters Arising (para nos. from last minutes)

2.4.4. Gill Whatmough has emailed the enforcement team about outstanding matters at Rushwood

2.4.5 Gill Whatmough has requested a meeting with the new personnel at Two Castles Housing Association to discuss the tenant selection process and other issues. Members expressed general concern that local applicants with family and work connections in the parish had been turned down in recent years. As many councillors as possible were requested to attend the meeting, date to be arranged.

2.7.1 Discussion on annual donations to local organisations was postponed until the February meeting.

2.11.3 The grilles are to be installed on the leat entrances, not the drift mine.

2.13.4 Colin Horncastle has agreed to discuss the state of the road at East Peteral field with Hexham Town Council.

2.13.5 Gill Whatmough agreed to write to the homeowner opposite Dye House regarding the rocks in the verge.

1.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

1.6 Correspondence

1.6.1 The deadline for comments on the planning Validation Checklist is 25th January. Gill Whatmough and Alastair Stevens agreed to review the document.

1.6.2 Steve Ricketts confirmed the planning exemption rules for farm building conversions to dwellings. The building must be at least 10 years old and converted to three or less dwellings to qualify.

1.6.3 The County have advised that elections are required this May if there are more nominees than places on the Parish Council.

1.7 Financial Report

1.7.1 The current balances are:

Treasurers Account £3,797.39

Sports Field Account £12,771.18

Wetland Account £137.87

Dukesfield Account £11,383.77

1.7.2 It was agreed to invest £20,000 in the Cambridge and Counties Building Society 30 day notice account. This will leave approximately £8,000 available for short term expenditure.

1.8 Parish Website

1.8.1 Information is awaited from the Church.

1.9 Matters for discussion with the unitary councillor

1.9.1 As Colin Horncastle was not present, there was no discussion on this item.

1.10 Planning

1.10.1 Plans for a new farm building at Oaklea, Steel were supported.

1.10.2 An application for partial demolition and rebuilding of a bungalow at Low Juniper was discussed. A neighbour has objected on the grounds of loss of light. The application was supported in principle, though it was agreed the neighbour had a valid concern. Gill Whatmough has requested the roofline be amended to address the objection.

1.10.3 A pre application for a hardcore track at the Lea was supported.

1.10.4 Replacement of cement fillets with lead flashing at Click em in House was supported.

1.11 Dukesfield Arches

1.11.1 The metal grilles for the leat entrances have been ordered but not delivered as yet.

1.12 Broadband

1.12.1 Upgrading of the green cabinet at Whitley Chapel is expected to be operational by April or May 2017.

1.12.2 The planning application decision date for the mast at Walley Thorn is now 27th January. This is due to delays in posting the notice on the site. All consultees have now responded; there are no objections and 14 letters of support.

1.12.3 The AONB have requested the mast, cabinet and dishes be mid grey. Austin Iliffe has advised the planners the mast will be galvanised and weather to a mid grey in time. The cabinet can be matched to the mid grey colour. The dishes are difficult to paint due to the nature of the construction material and A.I. has requested they remain off white.

1.13 Highways and footpaths

1.13.1 A.I. has requested the raised manhole on the Dipton Mill Road be repaired.

1.13.2 Uneven road surfaces were reported near the pumping station on the Dipton Mill Road, above the Devils Water bridge on the Slaley road and adjacent to Nether Staples, also on the Slaley road.

1.13.3 The Highways subcommittee are carrying out a condition survey of all highways in the parish.

1.13.4 We have been notified of road closures at Dalton Bridge and Juniper to allow essential works to take place. The closures are scheduled for yet to be confirmed dates in February.

1.13.5 A grassy strip has developed on the Whitley Mill road which needs removal.

1.13.6 Unauthorised motor bike activity was reported on the fell between Hexhamshire and Allendale. There is an increase in 4WD traffic on the track running down to Peth Foot.

1.14 Wetland

1.14.1 Draft agreements have been prepared for the grazing and willow management. These were approved.

1.14.2 The grazing will be advertised on the website, Parish magazine and the Hexhamshire notes in the Courant, offers of interest by 1st April.

1.15 School

1.15.1 There was no report on the school.

1.16 Parish hall

1.16.1 There was no report on the Parish Hall.

1.17 Sportsfield

1.17.1 There is a molehill problem; Davy Short offered to set traps.

1.17.1 The annual playground inspection is due.

1.18 AOB

1.18.1 The Young Farmers are holding a racenight at The Hall on February 4th, contact Dan Nixon on 673354.

1.18.2 A layby has been constructed by a member of the public on the Whitley Mill road. This will

be reported to the Highway Authority.

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