

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 9th March 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Room, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

3.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Marge Rastall.

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

Councillor Colin Horncastle was also present.

The Parish Council expressed sadness at the loss of Derek White who had recently died.

3.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9th February 2017

The minutes were acknowledged to be a true record of the meeting.

3.3 Declaration of Interests

Andrew Nixon declared an interest in finance.

3.4 Matters Arising

2.13.5 Gill Whatmough had been in contact with the homeowner regarding the rocks in the verge which he had removed. He had enquired whether the Parish Council had contacted other homeowners regarding this issue. It was agreed that Alastair Stevens would include a note in the report in the magazine to advise that if a motorist hit a stone the person who placed the stones could be responsible for any damage.

1.10.2 The planning application at Low Juniper had been granted. The Parish Council's comments regarding the pitched roof had been taken into account.

2.10 The planning application at Clickem House was expected to be approved imminently.

2.13.1 The road survey was to be submitted once the final report was received.

3.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

3.6 Correspondence

3.6.1 A letter had been received from Land Factor regarding Greenridge Estate Woodlands regarding timber production. The Parish Council had no issues with the proposals.

3.6.2 It was agreed that the Parish Council did not wish to participate in a housing survey by Northumberland County Council as it was not appropriate for Hexhamshire.

3.7 Financial Report

It was reported that, unfortunately, the account with the Cambridge Building Society was no longer available and therefore an alternative would have to be identified.

Treasurer's Account - £22817.39

Savings Account - £2771.67

Wetlands Account - £137.88

Dukesfield Account - £1384.20

It was agreed that money should be transferred back to the savings account.

Invoices had been received and were approved as follows:-

Shire Building Services re Dukesfield Arches - £120 plus VAT = £144.00

Subscription for Hexhamshire Magazine = £10

It was agreed to grant the following donations:-

The Great North Air Ambulance - £300

Tynedale Hospice - £300

Whitley Chapel Parish Hall - £1000

Whitley Chapel Young Farmers Club - £500

3.8 Elections

3.8.1 It was agreed that the Clerk should request the Electoral Roll when it was available.

3.8.2 Papers were to be handed in between the 21st March and 4th April 2017. Gill Whatmough agreed to make the necessary appointment to do this.

3.9 Website

Gill Whatmough advised that google analytics had been reinstated and 158 people had visited the site in the previous month with 77% of those being new visitors.

3.10 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

3.10.1 Colin Horncastle agreed to request information regarding the impending visit to Rushwood regarding the potential replanting of trees on the site.

3.10.2 There was a discussion regarding the problem of the Statutory Notices no longer being published in the Hexham Courant. Notices were now only appearing in Alnwick papers.

3.10.3 It was agreed that Kris Westerby should be invited to a meeting.

3.10.4 It was pointed out that the grit wagon had not been gritting the school routes. Colin Horncastle advised that this was a problem county-wide.

3.10.5 The problem of wagons coming through Hexhamshire was discussed and Austin Illiffe agreed to ask Kris Westerby about amended signage re-directing wagons via Dilston.

3.11 Smelting Arches

3.11.1 It was reported that the grilles had been fitted to the end of the mill race.

3.11.2 Greg Finch advised that the remaining money had not yet been received from the Friends of the North Pennines.

3.12 Broadband Sub-Committee Report

3.12.1 It was reported that the Draft Agreement has been prepared and a meeting scheduled to agree the report.

3.12.2 Daneco were currently having problems with Virgin and pursuing the complaints procedure.

There would be no further progress until this issue was finalised.

3.13. Highways and Footpaths

- 3.13.1 It was reported that the gate from Hackford which joins Embley at the Ford needs attention as it is very difficult to open. This has been reported previously.
- 3.13.2 The Whitley Mill road is very poor.
- 3.13.3 Davy Short is advising Austin Iliffe when he has completed the road survey.
- 3.13.4 Various areas are in need of resurfacing including by Nether Staples, the pumping station and the lay by at Barker House.

3.14 BOATs

- 3.14.1 It was reported that members of the public should ring 101 if there was unlawful activity on the BOATs. This was to be included in the magazine.
- 3.14.2 It was suggested that a 'kissing' gate be installed by the Peth from Juniper.

3.15 Reports

Wetlands

- 3.15.1 Monica had signed the agreement for the wetlands.
- 3.15.2 It was agreed that the grazing should be advertised.
- 3.15.3 It was agreed that a gate may have to be installed for access.

School

- 3.15.4 It was reported that there were now 34 pupils at the school.

Hall

- 3.15.5 £1000 had been raised by the Hall at the musical evening.
- 3.15.6 The official opening of the new kitchen by Colin Horncastle had been very successful.
- 3.15.7 £1500 had been raised by the Womens Institute for the new curtains which would have to be made out of fireproof material and a darker colour than the present curtains.
- 3.15.8 The AGM was to be held on 14th March 2017.
- 3.15.9 It was reported that there is a 'Hall Master' on line booking system. Gill Whatmough had investigated and the costs were £130 for booking only and £180 for invoicing.

Sportsfield

- 3.15.10 The Tug of War event was to be held on 30th April 2017. Access to the toilets would again be required.

3.16 Any Other Business

There were no issues raised.

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

