

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

4.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Marge Rastall, Austin Iliffe and Davy Short.

Councillors Present – Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Andrew Nixon, Alastair Stevens and Greg Finch.

4.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017

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

4.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

4.4 Matters Arising

2.10 Notification had been received that the planning application at Clickem House to replace cement fillets with lead flashings had been granted.

3.13.1 The gate from Hackford to Embley had been reported. Kris Westerby had been invited to a meeting of the Parish Council.

4.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

4.6 Correspondence

4.6.1 The annual audit return papers had been received from BDO.

4.6.2 A letter had been received from Tynedale Hospice thanking the Parish Council for their donation.

4.6.3 NCC had forwarded the Declaration of Interest forms which were to be copied for each Councillor for the next meeting.

4.6.4 The Housing White Paper Consultation had been received.

4.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £257.39

Savings Account - £12772.34

Wetlands Account - £137.90

Dukesfield Account - £11264.74

£24 had been received for the Dukesfield account for the sale of a book.

Gill Whatmough agreed to investigate regarding an alternative bank account. The Tynedale Community bank was mentioned as an option.

#### 4.8 Website

There had been 259 sessions, 194 users of which 67% were new.

#### 4.9 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues brought forward.

#### 4.10 Planning Application

##### 4.10.1 Proposed conversion of existing barn to dwelling , Lambshield Farm, Hexham, NE46 1SF

The Parish Councillors agreed that there was no objection to this application.

##### 4.10.2 It was reported that the Planning Enforcement Officer was liaising with those responsible for putting the hardstanding in the layby at Low Dalton regarding retrospective planning permission.

#### 4.11 Smelting Arches

##### 4.11.1 The balance of the money had not yet been received from the Friends of the North Pennines.

##### 4.11.2 A form had been received from the Lottery Fund which Greg Finch advised that he would complete and return.

##### 4.11.3 It was agreed that Matthew Hope should be contacted in a month or so with a view to grass strimming.

#### 4.12 Broadband

The following report had been received from Austin Iliffe.

##### 4.12.1 Daneco has now signed a new agreement with Virgin giving them the increased capacity required to support the Shire network. Increased capacity will become available in a maximum of 65 days from the 7<sup>th</sup> April.

##### 4.12.2 The meeting between Paul Pickworth and Paul Smith had gone well with follow-up actions completed. The agreement with Paul is currently with Derwent Gibson.

##### 4.12.3 This matter needs to be progressed as well as looking at alternative aerial locations.

#### 4.13 Highways and Footpaths

##### 4.13.1 The road survey had been submitted to the County Council.

##### 4.13.2 A request had been made to the Highways Area Manager to examine the issues raised in the survey together with the following:- site lines at Black Tree Junction, the unprotected cliff edge in Juniper, the undermining of the road by ditch collapse at David Southern gate, the condition of some of the unclassified roads, road re-surfacing required at Whitley Mill, Harwood Shield and Nether Staples and dangerously leaning trees at the Lee Road.

#### 4.14 BOATs

Derwent Gibson had reported a vehicle bogged down on a closed BOAT and had reported it to 101. Gill Whatmough had also contacted the Police who advised that they would update once the owner of the vehicle had been identified.

4.15 Reports:  
Wetlands

4.15.1 Juliet Rogers had requested the grazing.

4.15.2 4,000 shoots of willow had been planted of basket quality willow.

School

4.15.3 There were no issues.

Hall

4.15.4 There was to be a fund raising plant and craft sale on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

4.15.5 A series of talks had been planned for this year and next year.

4.15.6 The decision had been taken by the Trustees to transfer the title of the Hall to the Official Custodian at the Charities Commission.

4.15.7 The Hall Trust is unincorporated and cannot hold title to property.

4.15.8 The title is currently held by Holding Trustees, the Trustees when the property was conveyed to the community in 1998. These original trustees need to be located.

4.15.9 The land upon which the Hall stands needs to be properly registered at the land registry.

Sportsfield

4.15.10 The Leek Club had requested permission to use the field for a Barbeque. It was confirmed that they should provide their own insurance for the event.

4.15.11 It was agreed to investigate the possibility of a booking page for the sportsfield on the website.

4.15.12 The possibility of some form of protection for the field be considered for the Tug of War event. It was agreed that the field should be effectively repaired after this years event and it would be preferable if the competition could be held off the football pitch.

4.16 Any Other Business

4.16.1 A litter picking day was to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Notice of this was to be included in the Notes in the Courant and the magazine.

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