

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 11th May 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

5.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Austin Iliffe.
Councillors present – Gill Whatmough, Alison Tweddle, Hilary Kristensen, Greg Finch, Davy Short, Andrew Nixon, Davy Short, Ed Parker and Marge Rastall.

5.2 Election of Chairman

The Clerk requested nominations for the post of Chairman. Gill Whatmough was nominated by Greg Finch and seconded by Alison Tweddle.

5.3 Election of Vice-Chairman

Gill Whatmough proposed Alastair Stevens and Alison Tweddle seconded.

5.4 Appointment of Scrutineer for the annual accounts

Marion Henderson was to be asked if she was willing to be Scrutineer.

5.5 Appointment of Councillors to sign cheques/access for on-line banking

Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Alastair Stevens and Greg Finch were proposed and agreed.

5.6 Appointment of 2 Councillors onto the Wetlands Sub-Committee

Davy Short and Alastair Stevens were proposed and seconded.

5.7 Appointment of 2 representatives to Smelting Arches

Gill Whatmough and Greg Finch.

5.8 Appointment of 3 councillors onto Sportfield Sub-Committee

It was agreed that this was not needed.

5.9 Appointment of 3 Councillors to Highways Sub-Committee

Austin Iliffe, Ed Parker and Davy Short.

5.10 Appointment of 2 Councillors to 4 Parishes BOATs Committee

Davy Short and Marge Rastall.

5.11 Appointment of 3 councillors to Broadband Sub-Committee

Greg Finch, Austin Iliffe and Andrew Nixon.

5.12 Appointment of Parish Council representative to Board of Parish Hall Trust

Austin Iliffe.

5.13 Appointment of Parish Council representative to Board of School Governors

Not appointed.

5.14 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13th April 2017

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

5.15 Matters Arising

3.13.1 There had been no work undertaken on the gate from Hackford to Embley.

4.10.2 It was reported that the County Council had sent letters to determine who was responsible for putting in the hardstanding at Dalton. This would need retrospective planning permission. Gill Whatmough was going to liaise with the County Council.

4.15.1 Juliet Rogers had signed the agreement regarding the grazing on the wetlands.

4.16.1 It was reported that the litter picking had been successful.

5.16 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

5.17 Correspondence

5.17.1 An email had been received from NALC advising that there were vacancies on the County Committee.

5.17.2 An email had been received regarding the first Northumberland Day being held on 28th May.

5.17.3 A request had been received from Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services – a letter was to be sent advising to apply next financial year.

5.18 Website

Gill Whatmough advised there had been 285 sessions between 13th April and 10th May with 67% new and 33% returning.

5.19 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £4161.33

Sportsfield Account - £12772.85

Wetlands Account - £137.91

Dukesfield Account - £11415.89

£115.06 was paid to Zen re the internet.

Tynedale Community Bank was discussed as a possible bank account. Skipton Building Society was also an option. Greg Finch agreed to investigate.

5.20 Planning Applications.

Proposal for existing store to be demolished and the erection of a holiday let (use class C3)

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

Allendale Common – Proposed works to Moorland tracks

It was agreed to reply advising that the Parish Council's original objections were still valid. It was agreed that various issues needed to be addressed such as movement of materials and responsibility for damage caused by vehicles. Concern was expressed that if the project was to go ahead it would encourage more off roaders onto the common. Assurance was to be requested that the bridlepath should not be upgraded to a BOAT. Gill Whatmough agreed to email a response.

5.21 Smelting Arches

It was reported that the Parish Council had received the final £150 from Friends of the North Pennines.

5.22 Broadband

5.22.1 It was reported that the agreement had been signed.

5.22.2 Paul Pickworth was liaising with Andrew Nixon regarding the digging of a trench for the electric cable.

5.23 Highways and Footpaths

5.23.1 A meeting has been arranged with Highways who has been given the plans of Hexhamshire indicating problem areas. It was reported that some roads are as much as 3 feet narrower due to lack of verge maintenance.

5.23.2 The bridge at the bottom of the Peth needs attention.

5.24 BOATs

5.24.1 There is still quite a lot of activity on the restricted BOATs.

5.25 Reports - Wetlands

5.25.1 Willow classes are scheduled in the last week of May, June and July.

5.25.2 It may be possible to claim on the countryside stewardship scheme. The Rural Payment Agency should be contacted as a first step. Alastair Stevens was to investigate.

School

5.25.3 The school is optimistic regarding pupil numbers for next year.

Hall

5.25.4 The Spring Fayre made a total of £530. Thanks were given to Gill Whatmough.

5.25.5 Talks and the Christmas Fayre have been planned.

5.25.6 The new staging has been ordered at a total of £3600.

Sportsfield

- 5.25.7 The insurance is due for renewal. £559.56 per annum. It was agreed to tie in for 3 years for a fixed rate.
- 5.25.8 Hirers of the sportsfield are to show proof of their insurance.
- 5.25.9 It was reported that weeds are coming through the multisport facility and it needs spraying.

5.26 Any Other Business

- 5.26.1 Bins are being left on the roadside at St Helens Gate. Gill Whatmough was to request assistance from Two Castles regarding this matter.
- 5.26.2 Congratulations to Colin Horncastle on his re-election.