

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEXHAMSHIRE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 IN THE MALCOLM CAISLEY MEETING ROOMS AT WHITLEY CHAPEL AT 7.30 PM.**

**6.1     Apologies for Absence**

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Austin Iliffe, Andrew Nixon, Marge Rastall, Alison Tweddle, Alastair Stevens, Davy Short and Edward Parker.

Colin Horncastle, Unitary Councillor, was also present.

**6.2     Minutes of the AGM of the Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

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

**6.3     Declaration of Interests**

There were no declaration of interests.

**6.4     Matters Arising**

- 6.4.1 Two parishioners had requested that Highways be congratulated on the improvements at Dalton Bridge. The Hexhamshire survey had been submitted to Highways.

**6.5     Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

**6.6     Correspondence**

**6.7     Financial Report**

A £70 quote had been received from Matthew Hope regarding strimming the Smelting Arches.

**6.8     Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor**

- 6.8.1 Colin Horncastle advised that he had been appointed Chair of Strategic Planning.  
6.8.2 The plans for the new County Hall at Ashington had been cancelled.  
6.8.3 Colin Horncastle agreed to investigate the enforcement issue.

**6.9     Smelting Arches**

There were no further issues.

**6.10    Broadband**

- 6.10.1 The cable delivery was expected in the week following the meeting and it was reported that work was beginning on the broadband issue.

#### 6.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 6.11.1 Gill Whatmough advised that she would write to Northumbrian Water with reference to a burst at High Staples.
- 6.11.2 Hilary Kristensen advised that she would confirm if the 'No Motorbike' sign had been broken off at Kings Law. She would advise Gill Whatmough before the next meeting of the Parish Council.

#### 6.12 BOATs

- 6.12.1 There had been quite a lot of activity on the BOATs. The police had been monitoring Ladycross road and checking registrations and it was reported that some bikes had been seized.
- 6.12.2 It was reported that funds were to be made available for the repairing of fords.

#### 6.13 Reports

##### Wetlands

- 6.13.1 Alastair Stevens was to investigate the stewardship scheme.
- 6.13.2 The first class had been held for the willow class.

##### Hall

- 6.13.3 The staging had been delivered. Lewis Short was to get rid of the old boxes.
- 6.13.4 The old hut on the sportsfield needs to be destroyed.
- 6.13.5 Faye Dodswell had agreed to give a talk.
- 6.13.6 There was also to be a talk on Dark Skies.

##### School

There was nothing to report.

##### Sportsfield

- 6.13.7 Matthew Hope had quoted £80 for the bike track.

#### 6.14 Any Other Business

- 6.14.1 It was reported that there had been a complaint of members of the public using the car park at St Helen's Gate. Signage had been requested to prevent this to be installed by Two Castles.
- 6.14.2 It was reported that one of the houses at St Helen's Gate was only occupied for 4 or 5 weeks of the year. The policy was to be questioned by the Parish Council.
- 6.14.3 It was reported that the Young Farmers were to be congratulated on their success at winning the rally.

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

