

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 13th July 2017 held at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall at 7.30 pm.

7.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Davy Short.

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Andrew Nixon, Alastair Stevens, Alison Tweddle, Marge Rastall, Greg Finch, Austin Iliffe and Ed Parker.

Colin Horncastle, Unitary Councillor, was also present.

7.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th July 2017

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

7.3 Declaration of Interests

There was no declaration of interests.

7.4 Matters Arising

The following applications had been granted:

Listed Building Consent: Clicken House, Steel

Proposal for store to be demolished and erection of holiday let – Leafields, Hexham.

6.13.3 Lewis Short had got rid of the old boxes.

6.14.2 Gill Whatmough had spoken to Two Castles regarding the house at St Helen's gate only being occupied for 4 or 5 weeks a year. The response was that the let had been made in line with their current policy. It was also reported that No. 8 had been empty for over a month but that Two Castles had not been aware that it was empty.

6.13.1 Alastair Stevens advised that there was a deadline for registering the land by the end of July. The application had been made and Alastair Stevens advised that he would follow this up. The Parish Council were waiting for the information pack and the application was to be made by the end of September. This may result in £100 or £200 per annum.

7.4.1 The following planning applications had been approved: Clickem House, Steel, Northumberland, NE47 OHA – listed building consent and Leafields, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1SX erection of holiday let.

7.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

7.6 Correspondence

7.6.1 Information had been received from the Information Officer for Carers Northumberland regarding access to information for carers.

7.6.2 An email had been received advising of increased resources for verge cutting.

7.6.3 Notice had been received regarding the likely closure of the road between Whitley Chapel

and Dipton for structural patching of the road.

- 7.6.4 A copy of the Integrated Fire and Rescue Plan had been received advising of the formal consultation.
- 7.6.5 Notice had been received regarding upcoming briefings regarding the core strategy planning . Dates were to be confirmed.

7.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £4,161.33
Savings Account - £12,773.93
Wetlands Account - £137.93
Dukesfield Account - £11,434.86

- 7.7.1 It was reported that there may be a suitable account with Santander. NALC were to be asked for recommendations.
- 7.7.2 An invoice had been received from Matthew Hope for the amount of £150. It was agreed that this should be paid.

7.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

- 7.8.1 Colin Horncastle advised that the Core Strategy had been withdrawn and that there were currently no policies in place.
- 7.8.2 He advised that the Local Development Strategy should be in place within 6 months.
- 7.8.3 He also reported that local infrastructure was to be considered when deciding upon new housing projects. There was also to be an adjustment in the size of houses involved in new developments.
- 7.8.4 There was some discussion regarding the tourist information site.

7.9 Smelting Arches

This section was to be included in the reports section in future.

7.10 Broadband

- 7.10.1 A recent iNorthumberland circular showed that 77.8% of properties will be able to receive superfast broadband by the end of 2018.
- 7.10.2 The cabinet at Whitley Chapel is now live.
- 7.10.3 The new backhaul upgrade to the transmitter site in Consett is working and the existing equipment is being upgraded.
- 7.10.4 There is now sufficient capacity to support telephone connections as well as broadband.
- 7.10.5 Mast quotes and delivery times had been obtained. Costs were lower than expected with a 7 to 30 days lead time, dependent upon the supplier.
- 7.10.6 The cable and material for cable laying was reported as being on site but the trench and cable laying had not yet been started.
- 7.10.7 Brackets for the aerials had been fitted at both Consett and Kiln Pit Hill intermediate Station.

7.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 7.11.1 It was reported that verges were being cut.
- 7.11.2 Following the recent meeting there did not seem to have been any activity in the 'Shire apart from sweeping the road to Lambshield.
- 7.11.3 The road surface at Dotland corner was reported as being in a poor condition.

7.12 BOATs

There was nothing to report.

7.13 Reports

Wetlands – It was reported that Galloway cattle were to be put onto the wetlands in August.

Hall

- 7.13.1 Derwent Gibson had kindly offered to advise Trustees without charge (third party fees to be Paid)
- 7.13.2 The valuation of the Hall had been carried out and the report was awaited.
- 7.13.3 Four of the original holding trustees had agreed to be named for land registration purposes.
- 7.13.4 The following events were scheduled to take place:
 - Talk by Faye Dodwell
 - Dark Skies Talk - 03.11.17
 - Christmas Fayre – 03/12/17

School

- 7.13.4 There was to be an Open Garden event at Lambshield with money raised being donated to the school.

Sportsfield/Play Area

- 7.13.5 There were no issues raised.

7.14 Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed.