

8.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Colin Horncastle and Alastair Stevens

Councillors present: Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Marge Rastall, Davy Short, Alison Tweddle, Andrew Nixon, Greg Finch.

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

The minutes were agreed as being a true record of the meeting after the following amendment at minute 7.13.1 which should have read Derwent Gibson not Tony.

8.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

8.4 Matters Arising

- 6.14.2 Gill Whatmough had chased Two Castles regarding the situation at No. 8 St Helens Gate but had not heard anything from them to date. It was reported that the tenants in No 9 were also moving out.
- 6.13.1 Alastair Stevens reported that the application pack had been received but that the wrong maps had been sent. Once the correct maps were received the application could be made.
- 7.13.4 It was reported that Faye Dodwell may be giving her talk to the W.I. rather than as a general talk in the Parish Hall.
- 7.13.5 The funds raised from the teas at the Lambshild Garden Open Day were to be donated to the school.

8.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

8.6 Correspondence

- 8.6.1 Notification had been received from Northumberland County Council to advise that the Planning application regarding Oakfield House, Mr and Mrs Stevens, had been withdrawn.
- 8.6.2 A request had been received regarding the Local Transport Programme 2018-2019 for a list of the Parish Council's top 3 priorities. The bank edge at Juniper, opposite Low Juniper Farm, urgently needs a barrier as there is a sheer drop. The ditch from Stotsfold to Litharge needs attention as the road is in danger of subsiding.
- 8.6.3 Information had been received regarding defibrillators which had been passed to the W.I.
- 8.6.4 Notification had been received regarding the Annual Town and Parish Council Conference to be held on 5th October 2017. Councillors interested in attending should contact Gill Whatmough
- 8.6.5 A briefing for Town and Parish Councillors was to be held on 15th August 2017 at 6.00 pm at Dene Park House in connection with Draft Core Strategy and Planning considerations, enforcement etc.
- 8.6.6 Information had been received regarding the Community Chest. This had been forwarded to the toddler groups, W.I. and Young Farmers.

8.7 Financial Report

8.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues raised.

8.9 Planning Applications

Change of use of existing dog kennels to be used as Dog Boarding kennels and Dog Grooming Room. Stotsfold Lodge, Stotsfold Farm

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

Listed Building Consent to conversion of traditional agricultural buildings to two dwelling with together with minor link extension and external alterations. Houtley Farm Hexham.

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

8.10 Broadband

Austin Iliffe was to advise Daneco that the cable was laid and ready for the next stage. It was reported that Daneco would buy the mast and finish upgrading the equipment. He was keen to use local people.

8.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 8.11.1 It was reported that a substantial amount of road resurfacing had been undertaken. The remaining work to be done at Black House and Chancel Well was to be done the following month.
- 8.11.2 The work undertaken at Lambshield was not satisfactory. A great deal of work was still to be Done.
- 8.11.3 Very large potholes were reported at Gairshield. Hilary Kristensen was to take photographs and forward them to Austin Iliffe.
- 8.11.4 The road past Nether Staples was reported as being extremely poor and in need of urgent attention.
- 8.11.5 The road at the pumping house corner is falling away.
- 8.11.6 Michael Pickworth had reported that cyclists were using the public footpath across the field. It was suggested that signs should be put up advising this is prohibited.

8.12 BOATS

- 8.12.1 Motorcycle activity had been reported at Kings Law.
- 8.12.2 The SSI sign at Kings Law is the property of English Nature and needed to be reported as damaged and needing repair.

8.13 Reports

Wetlands

- 8.13.1 It was reported that there had been a basket making class held which had been well supported.

Hall

- 8.13.2 The land registration was reported as progressing. Once submitted it was estimated that it would take approximately 5 months to complete. The valuation placed on the Hall was £90K.

School

There were no issues raised.

Sportsfield

There were no issues raised.

8.13.3 Dukesfield

It was reported that 9 further books had been sold for a total of £160. Greg Finch advised that he had a float of £28 which was approved by the Parish Council.

8.14 Any Other Business

8.14.1 Gill Whatmough advised that she had spoken to the Enforcement Officer who advised that the enforcement issues in the Parish were not being followed up currently due to the volume of work.

8.14.2 The problem of ragwort was discussed. It was suggested that this could be reported to Defra. Alison Tweddle advised that the Council may collect dumpy bags of ragwort for disposal.

As there were no further issues the meeting was declared closed.