

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Room at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

10.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Nixon.

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

Robert Carter, a member of the public also attended.

10.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

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

10.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

10.4 Matters Arising

- 8.11.3 It was reported that some of the potholes had been repaired but there still remained some to be completed. The road between the two cattle grids had not yet been completed.
- 6.14.2 It was reported that a family had moved into No. 9 St Helen's Gate. There had also been a report of a disturbance at St Helen's Gate which the police were investigating.
- 9.10.5 A discussion had taken place with Mary Macklon regarding the parking issues at the Church. The suggestion had been made that bollards should be used to prevent poor parking during Church services.
- 9.10.6 Duncan Lovatt from Northumberland County Council had been to inspect the path at Mire Meadows and a plan of action is anticipated. It was reported that the gate at Hackford had been repaired.
- 9.11.2 Juliet Rogers had advised that the ponies were to be put onto the wetlands later in the week. It was also reported that she would be interested in grazing the area north of the track next year but at present this is not fenced.
- 9.11.1 The application for Countryside Stewardship funding had been submitted and a response was expected before the end of the year.
- 9.15.1 The annual clear up at the Arches had been advertised.

10.5 Public Participation

It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the Planning Department regarding the potential hazard to walkers in connection with the car which had been dumped and subsequently damaged on the footpath by Blackhall Barn.

10.6 Correspondence

- 10.6.1 Nomination cards for the Community Champion Awards had been received from Guy Opperman. The cards were to be placed in the Hall and Dipton Mill pub.
- 10.6.2 Information had been received from NALC regarding data protection to advise that further information is to be received regarding this matter.

- 10.6.3 The Tree Charter are offering a free tree. It was decided to request a flowering cherry tree to be planted on the sportsfield.
- 10.6.4 An offer had been made by John Boardman to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to advise on developing a Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that this would be beneficial.

#### 10.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account – £7,996.73  
Savings Account – £12,775.04  
Wetlands Account – £137.95  
Dukesfield Account - £11,612.69

- 10.7.1 It had been agreed to increase the Clerk's salary in line with guidance by the NALC to £1027 per annum backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. It was agreed to pay the Clerk for the six months to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
- 10.7.2 It was advised that the Cambridge and Counties account had been re-introduced offering an interest rate of 1.25%. The investment to be transferred was £10,000.
- 10.7.3 The approved audit had been received from BDO. The Annual Return including the Certificate was approved and accepted by the Parish Council.
- 10.7.4 The invoice for the Audit of £156 had been received and was approved for payment.

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

There were no matters raised.

#### 10.9 Planning Application

Conversion of traditional agricultural buildings to two dwellings together with minor link Extension and external alterations. Land at East of Houtley Farm Hexham Northumberland.

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

The Parish Council had no objections to the above applications.

#### 10.10 Broadband

- 10.10.1 It was reported that the proposed mast would not be strong enough as Daneco had over requested what was required for the mast. A re-assessment was taking place to confirm what was actually required and a new proposal requested.
- 10.10.2 Austin Iliffe was to have a meeting with Derwent Gibson.
- 10.10.3 A further cabinet was to be installed opposite Red House by the Petrel field junction.

#### 10.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 10.11.1 It was reported that work had been done between Dipton Mill and Channel Well although water was still running down the road above the pumping station.
- 10.11.2 The road between Dotland and Channel Well was reported as being in a very poor state.

10.12. BOATs

It was reported that there was still bike activity from Kings Law.

10.13 Reports:

Wetlands

10.13.1 It was agreed that the ditch by the wetlands should be dredged.

Parish Hall

10.13.2 There was to be a talk 'Dark Skies' at the Parish Hall on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.30 pm.

10.13.3 23 tables had already been sold for the Christmas Fayre on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017.

School

10.13.4 There was nothing to report.

Sportsfield/Play Area

10.13.5 Hugo Remnant, Land Factor, had agreed a slightly reduced rental increase to £750 until 31/3/20. The suggestion was made that consideration could be given to potentially buying the section of land currently owned by the Newcastle Diocese.

Smelting Arches

10.13.6 Greg Finch advised that another 12 books had been sold leaving 230 left in stock. It was suggested that a special offer price could be agreed for the Christmas Fayre.

10.14 Any Other Business

10.14.1 No responses had been received from the Planning Department regarding requests for updates regarding Rushwood.

10.14.2 It was suggested that boulders could be placed by the roadside to prevent antisocial driving and littering which is currently a problem.

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