

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Nixon and Colin Horncastle.

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

1.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

The following amendments were to be made to the minutes:

- 12.3 Hilary Kristensen declared an interest in planning.
- 12.7.1 It was advised that 10 copies of the Ian Forbes book had been sold at the Christmas Fayre.
- 12.13 Wetlands: An application was to be submitted to the Community Chest by the Basketry group for hard standing.
- 12.14 It was reported that there had been a verbal complaint made against the Parish Council regarding the planning application at Blackhall.

1.3 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

1.4 Matters Arising

- 12.6.3 The internet domain name had been paid as agreed.
- 12.6.4 It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the playground annual inspection to be carried out.
- 12.11.1 It was reported that the problem of the water running down the road at Barker House had been sorted out.
- 12.13 Gill Whatmough had sent a letter supporting the basketry group in their application to the Community Chest.
- 12.14 It was reported that the planning application at Blackhall had been withdrawn.

1.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

1.6 Correspondence

- 1.6.1 An email had been received regarding the implementation of plans for the North of Tyne consultation. The consultation closed 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

1.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £5226.37  
Sportsfield/Savings Account - £12777.14  
Wetlands Account - £137.99  
Dukesfield Account - £12016.61

- 1.7.1 It was decided not to pursue opening a new account and transferring funds until a suitable instant access account had been found.
- 1.7.2 An application for funding had been received from Core Music in Hexham. Davy Short was to Enquire whether the Young Farmers intend to request a donation from the Parish Council. CAN also requested a donation.
- 1.7.3 The Clerk had produced a budget which was discussed by the Parish Council. The Clerk was to contact Came and Company regarding insurance.
- 1.7.4 The funding of a sign to be placed outside the Church stating 'No parking beyond this point' was discussed and agreed in principle. This was to be discussed with Andrew Patterson and Mary Macklon.
- 1.7.5 The condition of some of the seats was discussed and Austin Iliffe agreed to survey them to assess replacement or repair requirements.
- 1.7.6 Alastair Stevens was to investigate having an ecological survey of the wetlands undertaken.
- 1.7.7 It was agreed to discuss donations at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

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

There were no issues brought forward.

#### 1.9 Broadband

- 1.9.1 Austin Iliffe advised that the mast had been delivered.
- 1.9.2 The electrical work at Kiln Pit Hill had been completed.
- 1.9.3 Austin Iliffe had had a meeting with Derwent Gibson. Andrew Nixon was to be asked to meet with Angus Crozier regarding Viewly.
- 1.9.4 Once the aerial was live it was agreed that Paul Pickworth should be the first to receive Broadband. Some sort of promotion would be needed once broadband is ready.

#### 1.10 Highways and Footpaths

- 1.10.1** Potholes were reported by Stotsfold Hall plus 3 by Whitehall
- 1.10.2 The road between Channel Well and Dotland is in a very poor state of repair.
- 1.10.3 It was reported that the road between Litharge and Stotsfold was in very real danger of slipping into the ditch. The Highways department had been shown the problem.
- 1.10.4 Austin Iliffe advised that he is keeping the pressure on the Highways Department regarding outstanding highways and footpaths issues.

#### 1.11 BOATs

- 1.11.1 It was reported that there was still activity in Slaley Forest including during the night.
- 1.11.2 It had been reported that there had been an individual allegedly threatened with a knife.
- 1.11.3 An email had been sent by Ted Liddle to the Police and Forestry Commission regarding Illegal activity by trail riders. He did not challenge them but in his opinion the situation

was getting out of hand.

1.11.4 The possibility of installing CCTV was discussed and it was agreed that the Police should be invited to a meeting to discuss the possibility of some sort of surveillance.

1.11.4 The Clerk was to speak to Allendale Parish Council to ascertain where the trail riders leave the Fell.

#### 1.12 Reports:

Wetlands:

1.12.1 There was nothing further to report.

Hall:

11.12.2 The Basketry Group had applied to become an affiliate of the Parish Hall and to use it as a base.

11.12.3 The Women's Institute had the funds for the defibrillator. It was suggested that this should be placed on the front wall of the Hall. A metre of hedge would have to be cut back.

11.12.4 Conrad Dickinson was to give a talk on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at £5 per head. He is not charging a fee, but it was agreed that a donation would be made to a charity nominated by him

School:

There was nothing to report.

Sportsfield/Play Area

11.12.5 It was agreed that the tender for the grasscutting should be placed in the Hexham Courant.

11.12.6 A request had been received to hold a wedding in the Hall. It was agreed that there would be no charge for hire of the sportsfield but that the hirer would have to arrange their own insurance. A condition would be that the play area should still be available for other people to use.

#### 11.13 Any Other Business

Gill Whatmough had tried to contact Joe Turner, Enforcement Officer with no success.

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