

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on 8th February 2018 in the Malcolm Caisley meeting rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

2.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Greg Finch.

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

Colin Horncastle was also present.

An email had been received from the Police agreeing to attend the meeting but had not been in touch to confirm.

2.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th January 2018

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting with the following addition:

1.10.1 Potholes were reported by Barron's field at Whitehall

2.3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2.4 Matters Arising

11.13 Gill Whatmough had tried to speak to Joe Turner, the enforcement officer again about Rushwood but had had no response as yet.

1.7.2 Davy Short advised that he had spoken to the Young Farmers regarding a donation from the Parish Council. The Young Farmers were to advise if they were going to request a donation by the next meeting.

2.5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

2.6 Correspondence

2.6.1 Gill Whatmough advised that the AONB had commented regarding Allendale Common but not in any significant way. The County Ecologist report was awaited. The Clerk was to enquire from Allendale Parish Council where bikes exited the Common on the Allendale side.

2.6.2 Notification had been received advising that the National Planning Policy Framework was being revised and a draft would be published before Easter.

2.6.3 Northumberland County Council had advised that extra funding was being made available to repair the roads due to the winter weather.

2.6.4 An email had been received from NCC regarding Car Parking Studies for Alnwick, Morpeth,

Hexham and Berwick regarding the existing consultation process.
2.7 St Helen's Gate

A telephone call had been received from Two Castles advising that 1 2 bedroomed bungalow was available for immediate rental, and a shared ownership house was up for sale.

2.8 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £4644.79
Sportsfield Account - £12777.14
Wetlands Account - £137.99
Dukesfield Account - £12075.61

2.8.1 It was reported that payment had been made to Came and Company in connection with the Parish Council annual insurance of £581.58.

2.8.2 The application had been submitted in connection with the Transparency Fund for a total of £1899.00.

2.8.3 It was agreed that donations by the Parish Council would be discussed at the next meeting.

2.9 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

2.9.1 Colin Horncastle advised that there had been meetings held regarding the school reorganisation and that the consultation was now complete for schools and governing bodies. The next round of consultation for members of the public was to commence on 19th February 2018. He advised that it would be up to the governing bodies of the individual schools as to how they wish to proceed, either 2 or 3 tier system.

2.9.2 A complaint had been received from Mr and Mrs Wilson against the Parish Council who had objected to the planning application 17/02826FUL, proposed demolition of existing sunroom and construction of 3.0m x 10.8m sunroom extension to the front south east elevation 1 Agricultural Cottage Juniper Hexham Northumberland NE46 1SL. Following advice from Colin Horncastle it was agreed that Liam Henry, Monitoring Officer, Northumberland County Council, should be contacted. His advice was that the Parish Council could consider the complaint under normal procedures. Gill Whatmough had spoken to Stephen Rickett at NALC for advice. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Wilsons acknowledging their complaint

2.10 Broadband

There was nothing further to report.

2.11 Highways and Footpaths

2.11.1 It was reported that the road from Dalton to Channel Well was particularly poor.

2.11.2 Austin Iliffe advised that he had requested another site visit from Highways to assess the condition of the roads. He advised that he had sent information to Highways using Parish Online.

2.11.3 Austin Iliffe advised that he would contact Kris Westerbury if no action was taken by

Highways in the near future.

2.12 BOATs

It was reported that there was still activity on BOATs.

2.13 Reports:

Wetlands

Monica Haigh had been appointed a trustee for the basketry group. From September the Basketry group planned to rent the Hall for one day a month.

Hall

2.13.1 The siting of the defibrillator had been agreed. The W.I. had agreed to be responsible for the maintenance of the defibrillator which requires to be checked every month. The installation of a sensor light had been agreed which would be paid for by the W.I. The W.I. had also donated £1500 for the curtains.

2.13.2 It was reported that the Conrad Dickinson talk had 85 tickets reserved.

2.13.3 The Spring Fayre was to be held on 13th May 2018, which would be a plant, craft and table top sale . There was also to be an autumn event.

School

2.13.4 There was nothing further to report

Sportsfield/Play Area

2.13.5 Two quotes had been received regarding the tender for grasscutting. It was agreed to give the contract to Matthew Hope. Andrew Nixon agreed to advise Geoff Sloane and Matthew Hope of the Parish Council's decision.

Smelting Arches

There was nothing to report.

2.13.6 Any Other Business

Gill Whatmough advised the Parish Council that she intended to stand down from the post of Chairman at the AGM in May 2018.