

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 15th March 2018 in the Malcolm Caisley meeting rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

3.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Marge Rastall, Andrew Nixon and Davy Short.

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

Sergeant Anthony Pattinson from Northumbria Police was also present.

3.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 8th February 2018

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

3.3 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3.4 Matters Arising.

2.6.1 It was reported that the archaeologist report had been submitted in connection with the application for Allendale Common. The report stipulated various conditions with a time frame to be agreed.

2.7 It was reported that the shared ownership house at St Helen's Gate had been sold. Efforts were being made to rent the other rental property to a local person but without much success so far.

2.8.2 Confirmation had been received that the Parish Council had been successful in the request for a grant from the Transparency Fund . The bank details had been provided for transfer of the money to the Parish Council.

2.13.2 130 tickets were sold for the Conrad Dickinson talk at the Parish Hall. A donation had been made to the Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

3.5 Sergeant Pattinson

Gill Whatmough welcomed Sergeant Pattinson to the meeting who had attended to discuss the problem of illegal bikes in Hexhamshire.

3.5.1 Sergeant Pattinson advised that the police need to be informed of any activity that looks to be illegal by members of the public. He advised that the more reports made the more resources can be channelled towards solving the problem. Anonymous reporting is acceptable. Ideally a visual description of the vehicle including registration number if there is one is required but if not as much information as possible should be provided. Members of the public can report by ringing 101 or by using the Neighbourhood Team email address. Sergeant Pattinson advised that he would supply his email address and contact details to the Chairman. The registration numbers of associated vehicles should also be reported to the Police. If people were not happy contacting the police direct they could advise via the Parish Council.

3.5.2 In reponse to a question regarding having unmarked police cars in the area he advised that this would follow intelligence received from the public.

- 3.5.3 There are various offences committed by bikes including insurance issues. They can be charged under section 59 which involves causing a nuisance.
- 3.5.4 There was a discussion regarding the use of CCTV. Sergeant Pattinson advised that the Police have signage that they could install in the event of the Parish Council going ahead with cameras. The Police could advise where to install the cameras.
- 3.5.5 Sergeant Pattinson advised that fines can be high and can be 3 times a monthly salary. If the bike is not road registered it can be seized and destroyed. The Police give a warning but can seize and destroy a vehicle if there is a second offence.
- 3.5.6 It was agreed that a notice to the public regarding the importance of reporting any illegal activity is essential and should be extended to Slaley and Allendale parish councils.
- 3.5.7 It was agreed that once sufficient information is received from the public a joint operation between members of the public, the forestry commission and the Parish Council could be organised, possibly on a Sunday. The main trouble spots were reported as being the Peth, Gingleshaugh and the Broadway.
- 3.5.8 The Chairman thanked Sergeant Pattinson for attending the meeting and his useful input regarding the current issues.

3.6 Correspondence

- 3.6.1 Complaints had been received regarding the Hexham Motor Club Rally which had not been publicised beforehand. Gill Whatmough advised that she would write a letter of complaint regarding the lack of warning of the event to residents.
- 3.6.2 A letter had been received from Northumberland County Council regarding the Northumberland Local Plan Update and 'Call for Sites' inviting landowners, developers, agents, residents and interested parties to submit potential development sites for consideration. Details of sites to be submitted by 12th March 2018.
- 3.6.3 The Basketry Group had been awarded £750 towards the development of the car parking area and to help make the classroom and WC accessible from the NCC Community Chest.
- 3.6.4 The following planning applications had been granted:
 - 3.6.4.1 Listed Building Consent for conversion of traditional agricultural buildings to two dwellings Together with minor link extension and external alterations, Houtley Farm, NE46 1TA
 - 3.6.4.2 Conversion of traditional agricultural buildings, Houtley Farm (as above).
 - 3.6.4.3 Listed building consent for change of use from holiday cottage to permanent residential dwelling with internal alterations including the replacement of spiral staircase with standard staircase fitted to stud wall and the fitting of a log burner using the external chimney to vent smoke, Dye House Chapel Steel Hexham.
 - 3.6.4.4 Change of use from holiday cottage to permanent residential dwelling with internal alterations, Riverside Chapel, Steel, Hexham, Northumberland.
- 3.6.5 A request had been received to link Healthwatch to the Parish Council website which Gill Whatmough agreed to do.
- 3.6.6 The Play Inspection Report had been received. It was agreed that a schedule of works was required.

3.7 Planning Application

Construction of two storey side extension, The Mill, Blackhall Mill C278 Steel to Low Juniper Steel, NE47 0LF.

'The Parish Council have no objections to this application on the assumption that it complies with all planning conditions'.

3.8 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £4644.79
Sportsfield Account - £12778.17
Wetlands Account - £138.01
Dukesfield Account - £12135.58

3.8.1 The following donations were approved by the Parish Council:

Great North Air Ambulance	£300
Parish Hall	£1000
Tynedale Hospice	£300
Community Action Northumberland	£150
Northumberland Domestic Abuse	£250

3.9 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues brought forward.

3.10 Broadband

3.10.1 It was reported that the mast had now been installed.

3.10.2 The dishes for the aerials have now been ordered. Paul Smith had been asked to contact Paul Pickworth as more cables were needed to be laid.

3.11 Highways and Footpaths

3.11.1 Gill Whatmough had had a meeting with the Highways Department to request priorities for the work to be done. The Dotland to Channel Well road was a priority.

3.11.2 A pothole survey had also taken place but due to the very snowy conditions since it took place would be out of date and road conditions would be worse.

3.11.3 A potholes league table had been published by the Hexham Courant and Hexhamshire was second for the worst potholes.

3.11.4 A request had been received for the re-painting of the yellow box at Eastgate. Austin Iliffe was to advise Highways.

3.12 BOATs

There were no further issues.

3.13 Reports

Wetlands

3.13.1 The basketry group had booked the hall one day a month from September.

3.13.2 Alastair Stevens was waiting to hear regarding the countryside stewardship. Agreements would be issued by the end of March.

Hall

3.13.3 Thanks were given to Gill Whatmough for her work in connection with the Conrad Dickinson talk which raised in the region of £600.

3.13.4 The Spring Plant and Craft sale was to take place on 13th May 2018.

3.13.5 The Christmas Fayre was scheduled for 25th November 2018.

3.13.6 An invitation was to be extended to Beamish Museum for a talk in the Autumn.

3.13.7 It was reported that Hexham Book Festival at the end of April use venues outside of Hexham. Gill Whatmough was to contact them regarding the possible use of the Hall.

3.13.8 A ladder had been purchased for access to the roof space.

3.13.9 The Women's Institute were in the process of organising replacement curtains.

School

3.13.10 It was agreed that a letter should be sent from the Parish Council objecting to the re-organisation of the education system and the potential planned closure of Whitley Chapel School. A petition was also being organised which to date had over 1200 signatures. It was also suggested that individuals should write letters of objection and a template was available to assist with this. A meeting had been held with a drop in session planned regarding the consultation relating to the High School and Haydon Bridge. It was reported that there were areas in the consultation documents which did not supply fundamental information regarding future projected numbers of pupils.

3.13.11 It was pointed out that if the school were to close it would affect the Hall due to the shared waste water facility. It was agreed that an agreement should be entered into with the Church that, in the event of the school closing, the Hall still had the right to use the septic tank.

Sportsfield

3.13.12 Gill Whatmough advised that she was going to plant the tree which was donated by the Woodland Trust

3.13.13 Matthew Hope was to be asked for a quote to treat the moss on the hard play area.

3.13.14 Austin Iliffe agreed to formulate schedule for the work to be done in the playground .

Smelting Arches

3.13.15 £48 had been received from Nenthead Mines Conservation Society for the sale of books.

3.14 Any Other Business

3.14.1 Alastair Stevens agreed to contact a speaker regarding the Parish Plan.

3.14.2 Gill Whatmough advised that she would visit Marge Rastall who had been in hospital.

3.14.3 There had been no further information from Enforcement regarding Rushwood.

3.14.4 Gill Whatmough was to speak to Top Signs regarding a 'No parking beyond this point' sign to be placed outside the Church to make it clear where parking is permitted.

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