

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

6.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Nixon, Austin Iliffe and Ed Parker.

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

Gaynor Shotton, the newly appointed Clerk, was also present.

6.2 Minutes of the AGM and meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meetings.

6.3 Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

6.4 Matters Arising

3.14.4 The Vicar had been consulted whether the 'No Parking' sign sited outside the Church had made a difference. Apparently cars were still parking beyond the sign although there had been an improvement on Sunday mornings.

4.11.3 Another joint Police and volunteer BOATs operation had taken place resulting in 2 vehicles being stopped without a licence. The Parish Council were impressed that the Police had instigated 2 days in quick succession.

4.14.2 A letter had been sent to the Enforcement Department regarding the situation at Lilswood. No response had been received to date. Various works had been taking place on the site. It was agreed that another letter be sent.

5.5.4 There had been no further correspondence received.

5.9 The privacy document had been put on the website.

5.13 Matthew Hope had quoted £60 per cut in connection with the Smelting Arches. It was agreed that he be asked to go ahead with the grass cuts on this basis. Gill Whatmough was to email him.

6.5 Public Participation

There were no issues raised.

6.6 Correspondence

6.6.1 Documentation had been received in connection with Northumberland Local Plan: Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation. The consultation was to commence on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 until 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Consultation documents can be viewed on [www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan).

6.6.2 An email had been received regarding joining the Aerial Photograph Great Britain Agreement. This enables free access to aerial photography and height data from 1/4/18. It was agreed that the Parish Council should join the APGBA and this was done automatically by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

## 6.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £7799.89  
Sportsfield/Savings Account - £12779.82  
Wetlands Account - £138.04  
Dukesfield Account - £12443.17

An invoice had been received from Land Factor for the amount of £750 for rental of sportsfield. It was agreed that this should be paid.

- 6.7.1 The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Parish Council.
- 6.7.2 The Annual Accounts were circulated and approved by the Parish Council and were to be audited by Marion Henderson before being published on the website as per the new regulations.

## 6.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

There were no issues raised.

## 6.9 Planning Application

Removal of existing lean to side extension and replacement with two storey side extension. The Barn, Hamburn Hall, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 2LF.

It was agreed that there were no objections to this application.

## 6.10 Broadband

Austin Iliffe had sent a report in his absence.

- 6.10.1 The mast at Wally Thorn was now operational.
- 6.10.2 5 installs had been completed with 3 more expected the following week.
- 6.10.3 The survey had been completed for the aerial location at Viewly. A phone call was expected from Andrew Watson to confirm the location.
- 6.10.4 The Air Nexus website was to be publicised in the Hexhamshire Magazine for applications.
- 6.10.5 The Parish Council wished to record thanks to Austin Iliffe for his hard work and dedication in getting broadband into Hexhamshire.

## 6.11 Highways

- 6.11.1 A request had been made to replace the snow poles at Stobby Lea and Kingslaw.
- 6.11.2 A further request had been submitted to NCC to resurface parts of the road from Dotland to Channel Well. Several requests had been previously made and assurances that the work would be done but only local patching of potholes had so far been carried out.
- 6.11.3 There had been some pothole repair done elsewhere in Hexhamshire in the last month.
- 6.11.4 Austin Iliffe had advised that he was going to remind NCC regarding verge cutting but not until the wild flowers had gone.
- 6.11.5 It was reported that the ditch between Dotland and Channel Well had been dug out but had only been done on part of the ditch.
- 6.11.6 The drains on the Lee Road were still very poor.
- 6.11.7 The drains by Pasture House were reported as being blocked.
- 6.11.8 The signage at Kings Law had been in a very poor state. Gill Whatmough had contacted the footpaths department who had replaced part of the sign.
- 6.11.9 The Footpaths Department had been asked to look at the footpath which goes through the

willow at the Wetlands.

6.11.10 The gate below Hackford now swings open, the catch is located at the bottom of the gate.

6.11.11 A gate has fallen down on the footpath in Blackhall Wood.

## 6.12 BOATs

6.12.1 Some motorbike activity had been reported but there seemed to be less activity than normal.

6.12.2 There had been no recent reportings of 4 x 4 motorbike.

## 6.13 Reports

### Wetlands:

6.13.1 Alastair Stevens advised that the Parish Council had been successful in securing £326 pa from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme from Defra.

6.13.2 Gill Whatmough was sending another copy of the agreement for grazing to Juliet Rogers.

6.13.3 There was a discussion regarding the income generated by the Wetlands. It was agreed that there could be various improvements including extra and improved signage, the installation of a circular walk etc. The possibility of putting a sign at the top of the track and improve access was also discussed.

### Hall

6.13.4 The Parish Hall was investigating the installation of a grease trap to reduce contamination of pipes and treatment plant at the school.

6.13.5 The septic tank, shared between the Parish Hall and the school, was reported as being approximately 40 years old and possibly in need of replacement.

### School

6.13.6 There was nothing to report.

### Sportsfield/Play Area

6.13.7 There was nothing to report.

### Smelting Arches

6.13.8 Gill Whatmough agreed to contact Matthew Hope regarding the grasscutting at the Smelting arches at the agreed price of £60 per cut. It would probably need 3 cuts a year.

## 6.14 Any Other Business

6.14.1 It was reported that there had been a considerable number of dumper trucks taking spoil to Windy Hill to create a silage pad.

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

