

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 9th August 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

8.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Austin Iliffe.

Councillors present: Alastair Stevens, Ed Parker, Davy Short, Greg Finch Marge Rastall, Hilary Kristensen, Gill Whatmough, Alison Tweddle, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor).

8.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th July 2018.

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

8.3 Declarations of interest.

None

8.4 Matters Arising

6.11.1 No new snow poles have been erected at either Stobby Lea nor Kings Law. Reminder sent

7.14.2 St Helens Gate – the property for rent has been advertised and there are a number of interested parties. A new tenant may have already been found though this is subject to confirmation.

7.14.3 Concerns were shown that nothing has changed with the situation with the ragwort at Rushwood. DEFRA require the owners to be informed before action can be taken and so far no one has managed to contact anyone from Rushwood. Can we find the contact for the equine enforcement Officer to visit the site?
A notice about ragwort has been put in the parish magazine and Facebook page. The council resolved to take action earlier next year.

7.14.5 The replacement for Andrew Nixon will be advertised in the next Parish Magazine and possibly on the Facebook page

4.14.2 Cllr Colin Horncastle was present and he informed us a planning application had been submitted for Lilswood Caravan Park, for lighting, new pads, drainage etc but it was not valid at present as they are still waiting for relevant important information, therefore this is still on going and until it is valid, no one can comment on the application.
A concerned neighbour attended the meeting and informed the group of all of the issues that have arisen over the past few months. Everyone present was very disturbed by this information and CH assured the meeting that Enforcement Officer, Ms Alex Campbell has attended Lilswood Caravan Park and will be visiting the site regularly.
Great concern was shown that the new owners of the caravan site wish to have a licence for 12 months and have asked for an extension from 10 to 12 months. Everyone present was sure that the site previously only had a 6 month licence.

8.5 Public Participation

There were no issues raised.

8.6 Correspondence

8.6.1 Funding raising requests were received but postponed to the February 2019 meeting.

8.6.2 NALC are seeking information on the rural economy to feed into a House of Lords Select Committee which may influence future government policy. There was a general discussion based on 5 different questions:-

1. *How do you see the future of the rural economy? Where is the greatest potential for growth, and what might be the impact of technological and other changes?*

Main issue broadband, tourism.

2. *How can access to transport be improved in rural areas?*

Post bus or mini would be great and not to charge children over 16 to travel to school.

3. *How can deprivation and inequality in rural areas be tackled?*

More employment in the local area

4. *What might be done to ensure that Government and other public bodies hear and act on rural voices?*

We are a small minority so hard to be heard, possibly more local representatives in area, eg relocation of some council services back to Hexham

5. *How effective do other public bodies such as LEP operate in rural areas, and how might coordination between bodies be improved?*

There is no LEP in our area and we are not aware of any assistance to the area.

8.6.3 Training – GW has received information regarding training for BOATS from Steven Ricketts for a meeting on the 4 Sept at Wylam, GW will forward email to group.

8.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £6,503.00

Sportsfield/Savings Account - £12,481.60

Wetlands Account - £138.05

Dukesfield Account - £12,195.31

8.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

None

8.9 Planning Application

8.9.1 Applications received from Eads Bush for change of use of stables and Hamburn Hall for 36 ground mounted pv panels - no objections from the meeting.

8.9.2 Alex Campbell will be carrying out an enforcement visit within the next 20 days at Windy Hill to inspect the works carried out over previous months and decide if negotiations or retrospective planning is required.

8.10 Broadband

8.10.1 Between 15 and 20 connections have now been made in NW part of the Shire

8.10.2 Meeting 9th August: Paul Smith/Andrew Nixon/Austin Iliffe at Viewley to agree detail requirements for the next stage of the project. Clarifying of these points will enable up-dating of draft agreement and submission to Derwent Gibson/Angus Crozier for their signature. At this point work can proceed in transferring signal from Wally Thorn to Viewley providing service to the southern part of the Shire

8.10.3 Fault identified with one of the radios at Kiln Pit Hill. Not currently affecting the service but will impact as demand increases. New radio is on order. It will be installed during a period of low usage but only after informing users of pending short shut down

8.10.4 Request for service has been made by Keith Morris who lives at Dotland. This is to be looked into.

8.11 Highways

8.11.1 Closure notices received for the section of C282 between Channel Well and Dalton Cross roads for re-surfacing work.

8.11.2 Work expected to be carried out between 10th and 14th September. Road will be closed 07.30 until 17.00 each day

8.11.3 Verge cutting to Hill lane carried out

8.11.4 A response is being prepared to a House of Commons Select Committee consultation on rural roads.

8.12 BOATS

8.12.1 E mail sent to Lee Dawson of Northumbria Police offering our help in regulating off roader and trail bike use of BOATS and other tracks. It was noted that off roading was now taking place during weekdays following recent police surveillance on Sundays.

8.13 Reports

Wetlands:

8.13.1 Signed agreement for grazing from Juliet Rogers has been received. Juliet has asked if the timings for the agreement could be changed to April to Oct as she needs the extra grazing in those times, especially when the flies are not so bad. This was dismissed by the group and the dates of May to Sept to be maintained.

Hall

8.13.2 Further policy documents on Equal Opportunities and Child Protection have been prepared and also awaiting Trustees approval.

8.13.3 Christmas Fayre to be 2nd Dec 2018

School

8.13.4 Nothing to report as summer holidays

Sportsfield/Play Area

8.13.5 Grass has been cut .

8.13.6 New terms and conditions to be drafted for people using the sportsfields (i.e in their own marquee for parties), to make sure they have their own insurance etc.

8.13.7 Can parts of the Hall be locked off when events using the sportsfield are also using the toilets in the Hall?

Smelting Arches

8.13.8 The area has been strimmed and has been busy with summer visitors and walking groups.

8.14 Any Other Business

8.14.1 Planning for Gair Shield will arrive and need to be actioned before the next meeting, so maybe sent by email.

As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.22