

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 12th July 2018 at 7.30 pm
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

7.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from and Ed Parker, Davy Short, Greg Finch

Councillors present: Alastair Stevens, Marge Rastall, Hilary Kristensen, Gill Whatmough, Alison Twedde, Andrew Nixon, Austin Iliffe, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor)

7.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14th June 2018.

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

7.3 Declarations of interest.

G Scandle the new Parish Clerk Declared an interest in a proposed planning application

7.4 Matters Arising

4.14.2 AS had spoken to the Enforcement Department regarding the situation at Lilswood Caravan Park. No response had been received to date. Concern was shown by the group that no planning application had been submitted and that street lights had been erected. Ms Alex Campbell from NCC had spoken to the caravan park owners informing them they do need to seek planning, but to-date no application has been submitted. The councillors are concerned, at present the site is restricted to 6-month occupancy and there are plans to extend this and have a 'caretaker' caravan on site. ACTION CH to contact enforcement officers.

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). ACTION AS to look into this.

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. ACTION GW to pay the invoice.

7.5 Public Participation

There were no issues raised.

7.6 Correspondence

6.6.1 The Draft Northumberland Local Plan: Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation, had been received. The consultation was to commence on 4th July 2018 until 15th August 2018. Consultation documents can be viewed on www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan. AS to review the Plan on behalf of the Parish Council

7.7 Financial Report

Treasurer's Account - £6,759.75

Sportsfield/Savings Account - £12,780.31

Wetlands Account - £138.05

Dukesfield Account - £12,513.65

Clerks final salary to be paid – ACTION GW

7.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

- 7.8.1 Colin Horncastle was present – he asked if anyone had attended any of the local planning drop-in sessions? No one from the group had attended.
- 7.8.2 The updated and distributed local plan was discussed at length. Councillor Horncastle explained the changes throughout the county and those that affected South West Northumberland.
- 7.8.3 Slaley Parish had asked if we wished to join together to be a “Service Village Centre” – the group felt that geographically this wasn’t possible.

7.9 Planning Application

- 7.9.1 Amendment to plans at Leafields, Ordley, to use the roof space for living accommodation. G Scandle had declared an interest and left the room. It was agreed that there were no objections to this application.
- 7.9.2 The Extension at Stotsfold Lodge had been granted.

7.10 Broadband

- 7.10.1 Paul Smith back in the Country
- 7.10.2 9 installs had been completed with 8 pending. – Andrew Nixon is using the broadband system and finds it very reliable and fast
- 7.10.3 It was suggested having an Open Day in the Parish Hall to promote the broadband
- 6.10.3 The survey had been completed for the aerial location at Viewley, confirmation with Derwent Gibson and Angus Crozier is needed and hopefully the work will commence soon.
- 6.10.4 The Air Nexus website was to be publicised in the Hexhamshire Magazine for applications.

7.11 Highways

- 6.11.1 A request had been made to replace the snow poles at Stobby Lea and Kings Law – at Kings Law this has still not be actioned. ACTION AI to speak to Andy Olive – who is still the POC
- 7.11.1 Surfacing dressing of the road from Whitley Chapel to Slaley Road has commenced later than planned due to the extremely hot weather recently when tar cannot be laid in such extreme temperatures.
- 7.11.2 The gullies had also been swept in this area
- 7.11.3 A TTRO from 16th to 17th July for the Whitley Chapel to Dipton Mill road was reported.
- 7.11.4 Suggested that the saplings near the Dalton Bridge be removed, for safety reasons, to allow better viewing when approaching the bridge. ACTION AS to speak to land owner

7.12 BOATs

- 7.12.1 Some motorbike activity had been reported but there seemed to be less activity than normal. Some activity had been noted on weekdays since the recent police surveillance.
- 7.12.2 AI to ask Police if they need any assistance with future BOAT surveillance and when will it take place.

7.13 Reports

6.13.2 Wetlands:

Gill Whatmough has sent another copy of the agreement for grazing to Juliet Rogers. ACTION GS.

7.13.1 Hall

GW has loaded a new Policy document on the website for hiring the Village Hall. You can now book online with a very simple system, bank transfers for payment and invoicing to be immediate for new bookings or quarterly for reoccurring bookings from WI, YFC etc.

7.13.2 School

Summer Fayre was a great success

7.13.3 Sportsfield/Play Area

Some repairs to do but have not arranged a time to meet yet.

7.13.4 Smelting Arches

No comments as Greg Finch not present.

7.14 Any Other Business

7.14.1 MR – asked whether a sign could be erected just after the church stating “on coming vehicles in middle of the road” or a “warning sign”?

7.14.2 St Helens Gate – still have ongoing problems with some families in the hamlet, another family are moving out soon and another house will become available. Diane at Two Castles to be contacted again regarding issues in the area. Action AS

7.14.3 Could we ask the enforcement officer to visit Rushwood? Can the NCC Equine Welfare Officer visit Rushwood as the Ragwort is very dense in the small area the Mare is in and it will spread easily.

7.14.4 Can it be noted in the parish magazine to ask everyone to remove Ragwort from their own land and adjoining road verges. ACTION GW

7.14.5 Andrew Nixon, a long standing and valuable member of the Parish Team for many years tendered his resignation. Andrew was thanked by all of the members present for his help and support over the 20 years he had served the community, he assured the group that he would still be available to assist and advise when required .

7.14.6 Following Andrew’s resignation a new councillor would need to be co-opted in and names were suggested.

As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.25