

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 10 October 2019 at 7.30 pm
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Room, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

10.1 Apologies for Absence Gaynor Scandle (Clerk), Marge Rastall

Councillors present Alastair Stevens (Chair), Greg Finch, Hilary Kristensen, Nicola Matthews, Davy Short, Gillian Whatmough, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor)

10.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12 September 2019
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

10.3 Declarations of interest
None

10.4 Matters Arising

11.1 A copy of Chollerton's neighbourhood plan had been obtained.

- AS to ask the Chair of Great Whittington PC for details of the planning consultant they used, and will have an informal discussion with them about the procedure
- CH will also provide details of consultants

3.13.6 Tennis Court – still waiting for quotation from Mathew Hope. There had been no response to our enquiry from Dodwells.

14.4.2 Lilswood Caravan site – the lights have been reduced in height, but we do not know whether the intensity of the lighting has also been reduced, as required. Final planning permission has still not been granted.

4.9.1 Rushwood – nothing to report; CH will discuss the whole case with the planning director Rob Murfin.

2.6.1 Passing places on road to Shield Green – NCC advise this is 'on their list'.

7.9.2 Mire House new access: this has now been closed off.

7.11.4 Verges – AS to discuss the identification of appropriate verges with Monica Haigh.

Extra snow poles have been erected between King's Law and Gairshield, but the potholes have not yet been repaired.

10.5 Public Participation
No members of the public were present

10.6 Correspondence
Scoping documents have been received on the provision of affordable housing in the county.

10.7 Finance

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|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Balances as at 10 October 2019 | Treasurer's Account | £13,530.50 |
| | Sportsfield Account | £9,766.49 |
| | Dukesfield Account | £12,687.89 |
| | Wetlands Account | £24.68 |

10.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

- 10.8.1 The local plan is out for consultation; it is hoped that results will be in by Christmas. The process has taken 2 years, compared with 8 years for the previous plan. It allows for small scale development in rural areas but has cut back on the overall number of houses to be provided.
- 10.8.2 CH has donated £8,000 from his community chest to the school for the purchase and construction of a yurt
- 10.8.3 Grass verges – we should select three we wish to preserve; David Hunt from NCC will then assess them from a safety point of view
- 10.8.4 NCC have grand plans for the construction of new schools, including Ponteland, Hexham, Haydon Bridge and Berwick
- 10.8.5 The new development on the old bunker site is on stream

10.9 Planning applications

The planning application for East Long Lea has been approved.

The planning application for the construction of a steel building to house biomass equipment, on the Lee Road, dating from 2017, has finally been refused.

There were no other planning applications to be considered.

10.10 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

- 10.10.1 Fastflow did not get back to GS regarding a meeting to discuss reparations to the C278. To be chased up.
- 10.10.2 It was agreed that we should also discuss reparations to the road adjacent to Stotsfold Hall, following the previous works undertaken there.
- 10.10.3 Another 'day of action' was taking place on Sunday 13 October in collaboration with the police and Forestry to monitor illegal activity on the BOATS in the Shire and Slaley Forest.

10.11 Broadband

The installation of wifi in the hall is now complete.
Greg Finch is to be the new contact for broadband.

10.11 Reports

Wetlands nothing to report

School nothing to report

Sportsfield

- Davy Short will replace the rotten fence posts at the field
- Nothing further has been heard about the early years' children's slide.
- GSW has reminded Mathew Hope about the hedge cutting

Dukesfield Arches

- The last strim of the year has taken place.
- The PC has been asked to support an AONB project to gain funds for the preservation of the area's mining heritage. They would like to develop approx. 10 different sites, using Dukesfield as the model.

Hall

- Waiting of specification and drawings to enable tender enquires for toilet
- External painting of hall is almost complete, and looks good. Internal painting will be done in stages.
- The Christmas Fair takes place on Sunday 1 December. All stalls are sold

10.12 Any Other Business

The vacancy for a new Councillor has been advertised in the Parish Magazine and on the Facebook page, but to date no applications had been received.