

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 8th Nov 2018 at 7.30 pm
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

11.1 Apologies for Absence: Alison Tweddle

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

A presentation was made by Chris Anderson, NCC, Neighbourhood Planning, he gave a talk on what the Neighbour Plan could do for our Parish – and the pros and cons of writing a plan: -

- Empower local communities
- Involved more with future use of land in parish
- Neighbourhood led process (for the next 15 years)
- Enable community development
- Incentives to support growth (not prevent)
- Distinctive planning policy for Hexhamshire i.e. allocate land for purpose i.e. development and protect other land
- Not about stopping development about shaping it and an alternative strategy
- Grant money (£9K) available to complete the plan
- Needs monitoring i.e. for 5 years to check if working
- About looking at what we have already and what we would like in the future.

11.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 11th October 2018:

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

11.3 Declarations of interest:

None

11.4 Matters Arising:

4.14.2 A 'Planning Contravention Notice' has been issued to Lilswood Caravan Park by NCC Planning Dept to their headoffice which is located in Yorkshire – this has not be acknowledged so another PCN is due to be re-issued. If issued by Enforcement Officer then Police would need to be involved. 19 Caravans are now being offered for sale by Pattinson Estate Agents with 'lease hold tenancy' The licencing department will be looking into the issue of the months the site can open, once the planning application is approved, but they believe it is acceptable for a caretaker to be on site for 12 months of the year.

8.9.2 Alex Campbell has carried out an enforcement visit at Windy Hill to inspect the works carried out over previous months and they have to apply for retrospective planning. Still on going.

9.14.1 The seat in the layby near Whitley Chapel has been been erect on a new concrete base.

10.13.11 Google Maps issue on the 2 websites we still need to address. The group also felt that we needed someone to do maintenance, updates and backups on the websites, and that a professional person should be sought. GS has had communication with Chollerton Parish and they use lime Designs, GS to speak to the computer shop in Hexham to look at costs.

11.5 Public Participation

There were no issues raised.

11.6 Correspondence

11.6.1 VCS (Voluntary & Community Sector) Workshop 13 Nov 2018 at Hexham Abbey if anyone interested

11.6.2 Insurance renewal – agreed level of insurance – valuation remains the same. Gill to forward previous invoice for comparison. GS to contact Came and Co.

11.7 Financial Report

11.7.1 The summary accounts forwarded to everyone with the agenda. The balances on the accounts remain at: -

Treasurer's Account - £11335.55

Sportsfield/Savings Account - £12196.84

Wetlands Account - £138.08

Dukesfield Account - £12,520.

11.7.2 Parish Magazine in need of some funds – to be remind to write to ask for funds.

11.7.3 Invoices to be paid

Parish Magazine £5

NALC Subs £156.44

Matt Hope £1495

Marge Rastall for Poppy wreath

G Scandle for storage boxes and NALC fee to attend a course £20+£10

11.7.4 Investing – in Cambridge & Counties – the only account available at present are 1-year bonds or 95-day notice accounts. GS to keep looking as new accounts to come online.

11.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

Happy to report the salt / grit heaps have been replenished – although it was asked could they in future be placed on the grass as most of the grit has been washed away from piles left too near the road.

Borderlands – 5 authorities joining together, Northumberland, Durham, Cumbria, Dumfries and Galloway and Borders to work on project to help the rural areas.

The North of Tyne Devolution Deal the new Combined Authority's Cabinet held its first meeting on Thursday 8 November 2018 at Morpeth Town Hall.

NCC are looking a budgets now and they will set precept in January, the whole budget needs to be more efficient.

Rushwood – Jo Turner is still working on this, this issue has been going on for over 4 years. It is believed that the land is still registered in the name of the deceased previous owner. Now it is the responsibility of the trustees or executors. None of the stipulations set down have been adhered to. Need to check if anyone from NCC is still dealing with this.

11.9 Planning Application

No applications received

11.10 Broadband

- 11.10.1 Agreement with Derwent Gibson, has been finalised and a suitable location agreed.
- 10.10.1 Andrew has supplied a price for the mast and arrangements at Viewley will commence soon.
- 10.10.2 Airnexus are currently busy with other installations but expect to start work on our area at the beginning of December.
- 10.10.3 Proposals for promotion the service has been put forward and accepted by Airnexus. It does depend upon having connection completed at Viewly and the promised service for the Parish Hall.
- 10.10.4 The fault at Kiln Pit Hill seems to have resolved and the situation is being monitored.

11.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 11.11.1 The snow poles are erected on both the Westburnhope road and the Harwood Shield road next Stobby Lea entrance.
- 11.11.2 Some pot hole filling has been done on the Eshells Road, but request made for further work made.
- 11.11.3 Pot holes still need to be repaired on the Westburnhope Road. Request made to expedite this work
- 11.11.4 Request to include patching and tar spraying of surface on the C278 between the top of Houtley Bank and the triangle. Response still awaited.
- 11.11.5 New improved footpath has been completed on the way to the wetlands, a request has been made for more signage in this area. The leader of the 'Shire Walks' to be asked where signage maybe needed, if any?

11.12 BOATS

- 11.12.1 Some bikes but more 4x4 in the area.

11.13 Reports

Wetlands:

- 11.13.1 Nothing to report.

Hall

- 11.13.2 All tables have now been sold for the Christmas Fayre on the 2nd Dec
- 11.13.3 Some progress has been made on the Land Registry issue and those needed are now named as trustees.

School

Sportsfield/Play Area

- 11.13.4 Matt Hope invoice £1495 approved. Matthew to be contacted re Play Equipment

Smelting Arches

- 11.13.5 The clear up for the 3rd Nov was postponed due to shooting in the area and Matthew has made a good job of cutting back the main areas. To be rearranged for Feb / March 2019.

11.14 Any Other Business

- 11.14.1 At a NALC meeting Gaynor was informed that all Parish Clerk's must be employees of the Parish. GS has done some investigation, although on her contract and in discussions at interview she was told she would be self-employed, all Clerks must be paid PAYE via ERN. As GS has not been paid any sums of money yet, there is no issue. The group suggested to look into more options before the next meeting.

As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.40pm