

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 14th February 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

2.1 Apologies for Absence: Alison Tweddle, Greg Finch, Davy Short, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor)

Councillors present: Alastair Stevens, Edward Parker, Nicola Matthews, Austin Iliffe, Marge Rastall, Hilary Kristensen, Gill Whatmough,

2.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 10th January 2019:

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

2.3 Declarations of interest:

None

2.4 Matters Arising:

11.1. Neighbourhood Plan from Allendale Parish is still to be reviewed.

4.14.2 Lilswood Caravan Park – there have been 18 comments and/or objections lodged for the site with NCC. AONB also replied stating their concerns. Recently one caravan has been removed. At present, there does not seem to be a caretaker on site and the lights have remained off at night. In accordance with the views of the councillor's, the Chairman did submit an objection to the application

8.9.2 Alex Campbell has carried out an enforcement visit at Windy Hill, tipping has commenced again at the site with vehicles travelling from Chester-Le-Street Area. Alex at NCC to be informed. Two formal complaints have been received to the Parish regarding the state of the roads to Windy Hill. AS to ask NCC if Environment Agency should also be informed to establish if the waste is safe to tip there.

10.13.11 Website issues (Google Maps and Updates). Edward Robson has been contacted and is happy to help, GW to contact him.

12.7.2 Parish Magazine has submitted a request for funding. All requests for donations from the Parish Council will be reviewed next month

12.14.2 Rushwood – AS replied to Jo Turner (enforcement officer) to ask for an update. On 7 Feb 2019 probate documents state the property is owned by Mrs O. Cane and Mr Albert Tote, these names will be passed to Enforcement Officers.

1.11.2 Lea Road has had the overhanging tree removed.

1.11.3 GW and AS had a meeting with Duncan Lovatt, NCC footpaths officer, on 23 Jan to discuss footpaths at the Wetland. A new route through part of the willow plantation was agreed.

1.14.2 The white lines are to be painted on the parking spaces up from the Village Hall. It was agreed to use longer lasting paint which will cost £120, everyone in agreement to go ahead.

2.5 Public Participation

No members of the public present.

2.6 Correspondence

- 2.6.1 Request has been received from Shield Green Nursey to create a passing place on the Dipton Mill road. The business has been affected by the lorries at Windy Hill. AS to request the passing place and could it be a capital works request?

2.7 Financial Report

- 2.7.1 The summary accounts had been forwarded to everyone.
Insurance invoice has been paid and amount transferred from Sportsfield a/c
The balances on the accounts remain at: -
- Treasurer's Account - £10477.47
 - Sports field/Savings Account - £10822.82
 - Wetlands Account - £138.09
 - Dukesfield Account - £12,650.61
- 2.7.2 GW to pay GS.

2.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

2.9 Planning Application

Plans were present for The Mill, Blackhall Mill. After consideration the Councillors present felt it was an over-development of the site and adversely affected the historic character of the mill. It was agreed that the PC should object to the application. AS to respond to NCC by 18 Feb 2019.

2.10 Broadband

- 2.10.1 Installation at Viewley is completed and we believe a connection has been made to the Croziers.
- 2.10.2 Flyers promoting the broadband have been distributed via the Parish Magazine, website and FB.
- 2.10.3 35 enquiries received by Airnexus as a result of the flyer. Paul is to follow up all of these enquiries and Austin has stressed to him the urgency

Highways and Footpaths

- 2.11.1 Some patching of pot holes has been completed on the road to Viewley.
- 2.11.2 Snow Poles in the vicinity of Kings Law not yet installed or road pot holes repaired
- 2.11.3 Tree on Houtley Bank needs attention.
- 2.11.4 Austin to complete survey of Shire Roads, Ed will do Spital Shield area and Davy to do High Quarter of Parish.
- 2.11.5 On the footpath through Black Hall Wood, some large branches had fallen over the footpath and were removed by persons unknown with a chainsaw without the approval/notification of the owners of the wood. The owners are concerned about their liability as their insurance is likely to be invalid for unauthorised work.

2.12 BOATs

- 2.12.1 Still activity

2.13 Reports

Wetlands:

- 2.13.1 Land is to be let again from May to October

Hall

- 2.13.1 Floor in both supper room and main hall are being re-sealed
- 2.13.2 Both rooms closed from 18th to 26th February inclusive to allow work to be done and sealant to cure.
- 2.13.3 Programme of fund-raising events planned
 - Spring Fair 18th May
 - Talk to be organised for autumn, date TBC
 - Christmas Fair, date TBC
- 2.13.4 New notice board to replace the existing one on the parish hall wall
- 2.13.5 Parish Hall AGM 26th March 2019

School

Sportsfield/Play Area

- 2.13.6 A 38-page inspection report has been forwarded to all councillors. All items were marked as low risk on the report. Matt Hope is to be given the report for him to adhere to for the play equipment but not the Tennis Courts.
- 2.13.7 Matthew Hope had asked about the grass cutting contract and everyone was in agreement that the contract was for two years and he was doing a great job.
- 2.13.8 Tennis Courts were also addressed in the 38 page report. The report suggests replacing all the damaged plastic coping on top of the walls, which is a rather large percentage. It also points out that the timber boards round the edge of the court are rotting away and that new wires are required to tension and support the mesh fencing on several sides. AS to ask Andrew Nixon for his opinion before we proceed further. It was agreed at the January 19 meeting that we are to get 3 quotes for completing the work on the tennis courts, one from Matthew Hope plus two others.

Smelting Arches

- 2.13.9 As we postponed the tidy up of the Arches from November, the new date has been suggested 23rd March 2019 but at present the site looks very tidy so this is to be confirmed at March meeting.
- 2.14 Any Other Business
- 2.14.1 1 house for rent in St Helens Gate.
 - 2.14.2 Neil Whatmough has ordered his 2 millionth litre of oil for the 'buying group'.

As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.20m