

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

3.1 Apologies for Absence: Alison Tweddle, Edward Parker, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor)

Councillors present: Alastair Stevens, Nicola Matthews, Austin Iliffe, Marge Rastall, Hilary Kristensen, Gill Whatmough, Greg Finch, Davy Short.

3.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14th February 2019:

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

3.3 Declarations of interest:

None

3.4 Matters Arising:

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

4.14.2 Lilswood Caravan Park – there does not seem to be a Caretaker on site. No progress.

8.9.2 Windy Hill have appointed an agent to draw up plans but to date the application is still not valid so is not accessible.

10.13.11 Edward Robson has updated the websites. Some issue with security on the site and waiting for Mandy Charlton as she is the contact.

12.14.2 Rushwood – Jo Turner has been emailed, but no response. On going.

1.14.2 The white lines are to be painted on the parking spaces up from the Village Hall.

2.6.1 The request from Shield Green Nursey to create a passing place on the Dipton Mill road is still ongoing.

3.13.6 Chairman to contact Andrew Nixon regarding the Tennis Courts.

3.5 Public Participation

No members of the public present.

3.6 Correspondence

3.6.1 Highway Services Winter Programme leaflet which was received after the last meeting - arrived 19/2/19 and now too late for winter.

3.6.2 HealthWatch Northumberland – we received a survey to be completed.

3.7 Financial Report

3.7.1 The summary accounts had been forwarded to everyone.

- Treasurer's Account - £9,963.97
- Sports field/Savings Account - £10,148.23
- Wetlands Account - £138.09
- Dukesfield Account - £12,650.61

3.7.2 Three invoices have been received from Edward and were approved for payment.

3.7.3 DONATIONS - The decision as to who to donate funds to for 2019 was carried out and the following were award:

Donations awarded 2019 = total £2,250.00

Name of Organisation	Amount Awarded
Parish Magazine	£400
Whitley Chapel Parish Hall	£1000
Tynedale Hospice	£300
NE Air Ambulance	£300
Northumberland Domestic Abuse	£250

- Significant funds were held back as the Parish has some large expenses over the coming months.
- Dukesfield Arches has its 5-year inspection and works may need to be carried out.
- The Tennis Courts and some of the Sportsfield require substantial works to be carried out and the Councillors felt it would be prudent to keep back funds until they know how much is needed especially for the tennis courts.
- When all of the work is completed the funds remaining will be reviewed and if any surplus the donations will be assessed again.

3.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

3.9 Planning Application

3.9.1 The Blackhall Mill application has been refused by NCC

3.9.2 The tracked applications on NCC website showed there was some movement on the bio mass unit on the Lea Road. GW to call NCC to see if this is relevant.

3.9.3 Councillors still very concerned that they do not get any notification of ADO. It was been requested that we are notified of all ADO's but this does not seem to be happening.

3.9.4 Local Plan – The chairman did put some comments forward to the local plan but was unable to attend the meeting. Only issue arising was domestic wind turbines in the High quarter of the shire.

3.10 Broadband

3.10.1 The Folly is now connected but the relay station at the Folly is outstanding

3.10.2 Access survey for Embley completed, relay station required

3.10.3 Delivery of more equipment to enable individual connections expected next week, therefore expect a significant progress with installation by end of the March.

3.10.4 Airnexus office is now established at Ministeracres.

Highways and Footpaths

3.11.1 NCC asked to remove tree on bank north of Lambshield junction C278

3.11.2 Snow Poles in the vicinity of Kings Law (U8063) still not installed nor road pot holes repaired. AI emailed NCC again to request this.

3.11.3 Large puddle forming on C278 north of Ordley, NCC asked to unblock drain.

3.11.4 Annual pothole survey plans being prepared. Survey delayed until after worst of the weather. Expect to be completed early April.

- 3.11.5 The residents at Red Lead Mill are having issues with people parking in front of their gates, so they have erected larger signs stating access required.
- 3.11.6 Also at Red Lead Mill - many people are using their recycling bin (located at the end of their drive) for dog waste bags which leads to NCC not emptying their bin. Requested that a Poo Bag Bin be located at the entrance to Red Lead Mill / Dukesfield Arches. GW to look into this.
- 3.12 BOATs
- 3.12.1 Pictures sent in to show the state of the track above Steel Hall.
- 3.12.2 Police activity day was held on Sunday 10th March 2019 - a joint venture with Forestry Commission, Police assisted by Parish Councillors and volunteers. The Chairman thanked those councillors who took part. Most of the activity took place nearer to Blanchland. Can all complaints be logged directly with Lee Davison of Northumbria Police as the number of recorded incidents will help to get future monitoring / police activity in the area.

3.13 Reports

Wetlands:

- 3.13.1 Agreed to extend the tenancy for Juliet Rogers from April to Sept but only for 2019 as the winter has been exceptionally dry. GS to sort out signed agreement.
- 3.13.2 There is no gate on the track, discussion took place as to where a good place to locate a gate would be. DS to fit a 10ft gate and the Stewardship money received for the site will pay for the new access.

Hall

- 3.13.1 Floor in both supper room and main hall have been sealed
- 3.13.2 Old notice board cabinet outside has been removed and replaced with a new cabinet.
- 3.13.3 Andrew Nixon helping with scoping, specification and budget price for toilet refurbishment.
- 3.13.4 Parish Hall AGM 26th March 2019, received 1 response for 2 Community Trustees

School

Sportsfield/Play Area

- 3.13.5 Tennis Courts still ongoing, AS to meet with Andrew Nixon.
- 3.13.6 Permission was granted to Lewis Short to cull some of the rabbits on the field as the damage they are causing to the ground could cause injury to a footballer or anyone playing.
- 3.13.7 DS suggested that the playing field also requires spraying, agreed that the Parish pay for the spray and Lewis Short will spray the field.
- 3.13.8 Toddler group have requested that a smaller slide be installed in the play area, as the only slide is for larger children on the other side of the football pitch. All in agreement that is a sensible idea.
- 3.13.9 A marquee is being erected for a wedding in June 2020 and the Hall has been booked, the people have been informed they must have their own public liability insurance. We may need a system for booking both the Hall and Sportfield together and policy to make sure everyone aware that they must leave the field and Hall as found and have their own insurance.

Dukesfield Smelting Arches

- 3.13.9 Tidy up 23rd March 2019 10.30 at Arches

3.14 Any Other Business

- 3.14.1 Litter Picking day will be Saturday 13th April. Meeting at Whitley Chapel at 10.30am. NCC will provide gloves, bags etc.
- 3.14.2 Ragwort – lets start early to get on top of the Ragwort this season.

- 3.14.3 Two applications were received for the position as Parish Clerk. The present Clerk has had a big change in circumstances since she tendered her resignation and if needed, she can remain in position, everyone was happy to do so.
- 3.14.4 PAYE and VAT issues need to be addressed by the Clerk

As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm