

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 13th June 2019 at 7.30 pm
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

6.1 Apologies for Absence: Austin Iliffe, Davy Short.

Councillors present: Alastair Stevens (Chair), Marge Rastall, Alison Tweddle, Edward Parker, Nicola Matthews, Hilary Kristensen, Gill Whatmough, Greg Finch.
Colin Horncastle (County Councillor).

6.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9th May 2019:

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

6.3 Declarations of interest:

None

6.4 Matters Arising:

11.1 Allendale Neighbourhood Plan, AS has reviewed the Allendale Plan and he observed that they have similar issues to us but obviously they have a larger village to account for. Their plan covers such issues as extensions to properties, demolition and rebuilding of barns for dwellings, tourism, business development etc. Their plan took 4 years to get approval, but CH informed us that was because it was one of the very first plans to be drawn up in the County.

Slaley and Blanchland Parish's to be contacted to see they would like to join together to do joint plan? Everyone agreed that worth looking at doing a NP for the future of our area but our particular policies relevant to our Parish?

Allendale had professional input which has to be purchased, so we need to look into grant options available.

NOTE – Chris Anderson came to talk to Parish on 8/11/19

ACTIONS POINTS

- CH to look into grants available for Neighbourhood Plans
- AS to speak to Slaley and Blanchland Parish's

3.13.6 Tennis Court – replacement of wooden boards and wire netting. Andrew Nixon is unable to undertake the improvements. We need two quotes – suggested to ask Dodwells and Matt Hope.

ACTIONS POINTS

- GW to contact Matt Hope
- AS to contact Dodwells

14.4.2 Lilswood Caravan site – five pre owned caravans have been delivered but have not been sited – 13 in total now. Other plans have been submitted – the warden caravan has been removed, lights to be removed – they can have a lighting scheme but must be sympathetic to the area. Occupation is an issue for this site, Lowgate and Slaley caravan parks. A recent high court decision has determined this type of site can remain open for the whole year but with strict occupancy conditions to ensure the caravans do not become permanent dwellings. The exact wording of the occupancy conditions issue is the main problem and this is to be discussed at a future NCC full planning meeting. A senior planning officer, Neil Armstrong, is working on the conditions for all 3 sites.

- 12.4.2 Rushwood – CH confirmed that Jo Turner is still handling this case. As we now know who the official owners are then the enforcement should be pushed forward. AS has already emailed Jo Turner to inform him who the owners are.
- 4.9.1 Windy Hill - they did have a tipping licence for 12 lorries. Planning Application is still on going. Environment Agency have responded with no objections. Planning Officer is Marie Howarth
- 6.4.1 There was general concern that a number of planning breaches had been reported to the Planning Department at an early stage, yet no action had been taken by the planners to stop work continuing.

ACTIONS POINTS

- AS to write to Rob Murfin, Director of Planning and copy in John Riddle and inform them of all the enforcement issues on going in the Parish.

- 2.6.1 Passing place to Shield Green has been requested.
- 5.13 Dog poo bin has now arrived, Davy Short has been informed.

ACTIONS POINTS

- Davy Short to install.

6.5 Public Participation

None

6.6 Correspondence

- 6.6.1 Letter received from Chris Woodley-Stewart of the North Pennines AONB, regarding the shooting of 2 Buzzard, a protected species. The date of the finding of the shot buzzard in Blanchland is the 13th May, rather than the widely-reported 14th May and the Steel on 25th April. If anyone knows anything regarding these incidents please contact any Parish Councillor or Chris.
- 6.6.3 Letter and Poster from Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS) with details of the services they provide and contact details.
- 6.6.4 Councillor Declarations have all been returned to Mike Bird.

6.7 Finance

- 6.7.1 Waiting for summary/split from Matt Hope for the grass cutting and strimming
- 6.7.2 Invoice has been received from Edward Robson, for joining together the social media feeds to the website, the cost of this is £50 and it was requested that the Parish pay, as their donation towards the Garden Trail - everyone agreed.
- 6.7.3 Is the Community Bank functioning yet? CH to investigate

Balances as at 11 June 2019

Treasurer's Account - £10653.06
Sportsfield Account - £10149.44
Dukesfield Account - £12558.21
Wetlands Account - £381.04

6.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

On 29 May 2019 Northumberland County Council submitted the Northumberland Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The New Mayor has declared a 'Climate Emergency' and stressed we must be carbon neutral by 2030.

6.9 Planning Application

6.9.1 Application at Blackhall Mill 19/00151/FUL – an appeal has commenced regarding the original decision.

6.9.2 The owner of Newbiggin Home Farm called the Clerk as he did not understand why the councillors needed to know why a new farm access was required. He stated that the access was not for the farm, it was to allow larger farm equipment access to the field, even though the application clearly states 'farm access'. ref 190/01175/FUL –
It was agreed that the application had provided very little information on this point and the Council had every right to discuss the wider issues. Councillors confirmed that in future, all such queries must go straight to the Chairman and not the Clerk.

6.10 Broadband

Installations are continuing. They have agreed to provide a free service for the hall though the date of installation has yet to be confirmed.

Relay station installed at the Folly which will provide service to the south end of the Shire

Discussions are ongoing about a pole location for relay station at Dotland. Two fallback positions identified should a pole in the community garden prove too difficult.

6.11 Highways and Footpaths

AI has submitted the pot hole survey asking the Highways Dept to focus on repair of unclassified roads. AI has received an acknowledgement; an inspector is looking at the survey as a whole

Austin also emailed the local highways manager with the survey and photographs of the unclassified road leading to Windy Hill. When landfill material was delivered to Windy Hill, they operated a clockwise one-way system for the trucks to follow. The survey clearly shows a great deal of damage caused by the loaded wagons. AI suggested NCC pursue compensation for the damage caused, perhaps by way of a 106 agreement if the planners are mindful to grant planning permission. They have acknowledged receipt of my email and undertook to look into the matter

In the Low Quarter. ditch cleaning has been carried out.

6.11 BOATs – can we please arrange for the Police contact number and email address to be listed in the Parish Magazine for anyone to contact the Police when they see an incident.

6.12 Reports:

Wetlands – Fence needs stock netting, gate on going. DS to look at trough.

School – Nothing to report.

Sportsfield – AS to speak to Jenny Morgan re the supply of the young child's slide.

Smelting Arches –

Hall – Disappointing number of people attended the Spring Fair. £326 was raised. Prices still awaited for painting and toilet refurbishment.

6.13 Any Other Business

6.13.1 Ragwort

Can the owners of Rushwood be formally told about the dangers of Ragwort as there is a lot of ragwort on the property and a horse. There are other land owners in the parish ignoring the dangers of ragwort and if you are informing one owner you must inform them all, therefore a leaflet will go in the Parish Magazine, notice on the Facebook page and for a few landowners hand delivering a leaflet and possibly a letter.

ACTIONS POINTS

- GW/HK ragwort leaflets etc
- CH to contact Jo Turner re enforcement

6.13.2 The Parish grass verges seem to have been cut very early this year, everyone in an agreement this is necessary near junctions and corners etc but there are large areas of the Shire roads that did not need to have their verges cut. Many grass verges contain species of wildflower which are becoming rare. HK/GW to look into how we can have selected verges in the Parish protected in a similar way to some of those in Slaley.

6.13.3 Hexhamshire Garden Trail is on Sunday 23 June 2019.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm