

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 12th September 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

- 9.1 Apologies for Absence: Colin Horncastle (County Councillor), Nicola Matthews, Austin Iliffe.
- Councillors present: Alastair Stevens (Chair), Marge Rastall, Alison Twedde, Edward Parker, Hilary Kristensen, Gill Whatmough, Greg Finch, Davy Short.
- 9.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th July 2019:
- It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.
- 9.3 Declarations of interest:
- None
- 9.4 Matters Arising:
- 11.1 Neighbourhood Plan – still on going
- There is a grant of up to £9K available for Neighbourhood Plans
 - AS was going to speak to Slaley and Blanchland Parish - but we now believe our requirements are so different that a joint project would not be relevant.
 - Most Councillors agree we have more enforcement issues than planning issues.
 - Most of those present believe we only need a very simple plan
 - GS to write to Chollerton or similar size Parish to see if they have completed a Plan, but not Humshaugh etc as they have more houses etc.
- 3.13.6 Tennis Court – GW has detailed list of requirements for work. It was decided we do not need to replace the panels / boards as they were put up when the courts were used for 5 a side football. As it is no longer used for this the council felt it would be more economical to replace the decaying boards with cement rendering. Waiting for quote from Matt Hope - AS to contact Dodwells
- 14.4.2 Lilswood Caravan site – no further developments from the Planning Dept.
- 4.9.1 Rushwood – nothing to report
- 4.9.1 Windy Hill – Planning has now been approved.
- Janice Milburn contacted a Councillor regarding the state of the road a Windy Hill – what can the Parish Council do to assist?
- 2.6.1 Passing place to Shield Green has been requested – still waiting
- 7.9.2 Mire House have created a new access on to the main shire road, this should have been via a planning application as onto a highway. Still unclear as to the procedure for this.
- 7.11.4 Verges – A letter has been received from a concerned parishioner regarding not cutting the verges, they were very strongly against this on safety grounds. AS has responded. CH has spoken to NCC and they stated that we could identify two possible verges and the Council would then choose the most appropriate one. Those present thought this was a sensible solution and Monica Haigh to be asked which verges would be suitable.

9.5 Public Participation

None

9.6 Correspondence

9.6.1 The following emails/letters have been received and have been placed on the Parish Facebook page or displayed on the notice board where applicable: _

- NCC Waste and recycling leaflets
- Matt Price Brain Tumour Research
- Climate Action
- Health Watch Northumberland Conference

Supporting Sport in Tynedale wrote asking for a donation for their event but we only accept requests for donations in February.

Annual Parish Council Conference will be at County Hall on 6 October

9.7 Finance

9.7.1 Invoices approved for payment from:
Whitley Chapel Parish Hall for the rent of £45.00
Parish Online GeoXsphere £36.00

9.7.2 The precept of £4190 has been received after the statements were reconciled.

9.7.3 Balances as at 11 Sept 2019

Treasurer's Account - £9421.50
Sportsfield Account - £9765.68
Dukesfield Account - £12669.07
Wetlands Account - £24.68

9.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

9.9 Planning Application

9.9.1 Chairman wrote to Rob Murfin, Director of Planning to inform him of all the enforcement issues on going in the Parish – AS to circulate the response from Rob Murfin. Also in future include john.riddle@northumberland.gov.uk in any correspondence.

9.9.2 Construction of ground floor single storey extension to rear and alterations to existing ground floor doors - East Long Lea Steel Hexham Northumberland NE47 0JD Ref. No: 19/03109/FUL – no objections from the Parish Council.

9.9.3 Proposal to remove phone boxes
Whitley Chapel PCO1 Steel Hexham NE47 0HB Ref. No: 19/03561/BT
Dipton Mill Road Hexham NE46 1YA Ref. No: 19/03558/BT
The Councillors felt strongly that the phone boxes should remain in situ, the Dipton Mill has no mobile signal and Whitley Chapel is such a remote area that on the grounds of safety they should remain. GS to respond

- 9.9.4 Mr & Mrs Wilson, new access at Agricultural Cottage, Juniper has been approved by the planners.
- 9.9.5 Local Transport Plan - the following were prioritised and will be submitted to the County Council
- passing place at Shield Green/Dipton Mill road.
 - 20 mile per hour in Whitley Chapel Village
 - Roads to be gritted where the school bus route runs – especially Lilswood Road.
- 9.10 Broadband
- Recent electric storms caused some problems with the backhaul connection. Now resolved
 - Most requested connections have been made
 - Parish Hall connection will now be scheduled as promised – GS to contact to request this be completed before Christmas Fayre.
- 9.11 Highways and Footpaths
- Glen Harrison from NCC met with Austin and Alastair and inspected a selection of road problems. Glen has responded with the following undertakings:
 - C278 east of Whitley Chapel - road edge damage caused by water main replacement work
 - C278 Juniper to Dye House- Road to be made good as a temporary measure. Resurfacing on their LTP programme and road edge slippage passed to County hall for resolution.
 - U8077 Lambshield- To be swept and repaired
 - C278/U8074 Junction (Black Tree). Safety concerns passed to County hall for improved signage.
 - U8074 Lee road ditching (Michael Pickworth) - Ditch to be cleared and piped to nearby inspection chamber.
 - C282 Dipton Mill Road-programme cleaning of Gulleys
 - C282 Barker House- sweep and clear bay gulley
 - C282 Rowley Burn Bridge signage- Consultation with colleagues to determine what improvements can be made
 - Gair Shield/Westburnhope road- urgent pot hole repair to be carried out
 - C278 Hesleywell/Eads Bush loop- Road to be swept, patched, and possibly resurfaced. Ditches to be cleaned
 - Digital road map provided marked with road numbers
- 9.11.2 The junction from the Lea Road onto the Juniper road was discussed as this has particularly poor visibility. Apart from improved signage, it was felt removal of a section of hedge would help the situation.
- 9.11.3 The Parish Council need to keep lobbying NCC regarding the state of the roads and keep requesting updates on the situation.

- 9.11.4 GS to write to Northumbria Water and Fastflow regarding the current works in the Whitley Chapel vicinity.

Issues to be addressed:

The state of the opposite side of the road to the works and the deep ruts left in the side of the verges.

Properties on the route missed from new installation.

Workmen have been seen throwing rubbish from their vehicles.

Poor positioning of the traffic lights.

- 9.11 BOATs – We have been contacted by Sgt Lee Davidson to inform us the Police will be running another Rural Crime Week in the near future.

- 9.12 Reports:

Wetlands – grazing management to be reviewed for next year as more sustained grazing .

School – Nothing to report.

Sportsfield –

- AS still waiting to hear from the nursery group about the early years child's slide.
- Fence around Mollersteads and the Sportsfield needs some attention. Need to check who the fence belongs to?
- Hedge needs cutting – GW to speak to Matt Hope.

Smelting Arches –

- Will need strimming soon
- Next year the site will need a 5 yearly inspection/service.
- Books are still selling but have been withdrawn from Allenheads Café

Hall

- Specification and drawings being produced to enable tender enquires for toilet refurbishment. This has to be done in advance of grant applications
- Painting of hall to commence mid-September, outside first.
- New chairs to replace 25 very old ones delivered. Old chairs donated to Slaley Show
- Parish Council will need to appoint a new representative for the Parish Hall committee as Austin has resigned and Marge Rastall offered as she already represents the WI on the Parish Hall Committee.

- 9.13 Any Other Business

After many years of dedicated service to the Parish Council and the whole community, Austin Iliffe is moving from the Parish and will no longer be eligible to sit on the Council. Everyone was very disappointed to lose such a dedicated member, and it was agreed a formal recognition would be appropriate.

A vacancy for a new Councillor will be advertised in the Parish Magazine and the Facebook Page.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm