

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

11.1 Apologies for Absence none

Councillors present Alastair Stevens (Chair), Marge Rastall, Greg Finch, Hilary Kristensen, Nicola Matthews, Davy Short, Edward Parker, Gillian Whatmough, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor), Gaynor Scandle (Clerk).

11.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 10th October 2019

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

11.3 Declarations of interest

None

11.4 Matters Arising

11.1 A copy of Chollerton's neighbourhood plan had been obtained but it was not what was required.

- AS spoke to the Chair of Great Whittington PC for details of the planning consultant they used, and had an informal discussion with them about the procedure.

3.13.6 Tennis Court – still waiting for quotation from Mathew Hope. Dodwell's have agreed to come and give a quote. Both advised the work should not take place until next spring.

14.4.2 Lilswood Caravan site – Chairman has spoken to Neil Armstrong, from NCC. They are in discussion with the agent and they will consult us as soon as a revised planning application is submitted.

2.6.1 Passing places on road to Shield Green – NCC advise this is 'on their list'.

11.5 Public Participation

No members of the public were present

11.6 Correspondence

The play inspection is due on the 11 Jan 2020 - everyone in agreement this is a necessary expense.

Came and Co – insurance company have been taken over, policy due Jan 2020 quote for 2020 is £613.95 in 2019 it was £597.52.

11.7 Finance

11.7.1 Following invoices were approved for payment:-

Mathew Hope	£795.00
Davy Short	£65.76
Parish Hall	£30.00 (no August meeting so reduced price)

11.7.2 Metro Bank - Nicola Matthews brought forward a recommendation to try a new bank for surplus parish funds.

Metro Bank – The Community Fixed Term Deposit account offers 1.64% interest per year on balances over £5K. We would also need a Community Fixed Term Instant Access Account to pay any interest into. All Councillors felt it was the best option available and we should open an account with a deposit of £10K, this amount to be reviewed prior to the

account being used.

It was agreed that Nicola Matthews and Alastair Stevens be signatories on the account. NM to check that they are covered by the FSA.

11.7.3	Balances as at 12 Nov 2019	Treasurer's Account	£13,016.50
		Sportsfield Account	£9,766.49
		Dukesfield Account	£12,703.89
		Wetlands Account	£24.68

11.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

11.8.1 Rushwood – CH has discussed the whole case with a senior planner and is more hopeful of some response.

11.8.2 The Local Plan is out for consultation; it is hoped that results will be in by Christmas. The process has taken 2 years, compared with 8 years for the previous plan. It allows for small scale development in rural areas but has cut back on the overall number of houses to be provided.

11.8.3 Pot Holes at Gair Shield have become impossible, wet weather causing more erosion, HK has sent photos so CH will investigate.

11.8.4 CH has suggested that if we do want to go ahead with our Neighbourhood Plan then we use a planning consultant based at the National Parks Hub, who has successfully helped many other Councils in the region. AS to speak to Jenny Ludman.

11.8.5 Grass verges – David Hunt from NCC has advised that several verges could be left uncut during the wildflower season, though they would need cutting in September. There is potential for more verges to be protected if the parish were willing to carry out the September cut. Any protected verges would need to be assessed from a road safety point of view and liaison with Monica Haigh will be needed in the spring to identify species rich verges.

11.8.6 There will be major traffic disruption in Hexham during 2020 with the development on the old bunker site, the new access to the A69 slip road, construction of new QEH school and the ongoing development of the old swimming pool.

11.9 Planning

The planning application for the erection of 3 polytunnels on land South West of The Lee Hexham Northumberland was fully supported by the meeting.

11.10 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

11.10.1 The Chairman thanked Marge Rastall for meeting with Fastflow – no time scales for the work to be completed was given. Red Lead Mill was missed from the connection. The traffic lights for the works have been very frustrating for the whole community.

11.10.2 Fastflow must also be made aware of the reparations to the road adjacent to Stotsfold Hall, following the previous works undertaken there.

11.10.3 The 'day of action' on Sunday 13 October in collaboration with the police and Forestry to monitor illegal activity on the BOATS in the Shire and Slaley Forest was a great success with 30 vehicles being stopped 4 motorcycles uplifted under section 165 – no insurance. 2 Motorcycles issued with Sec59 car seize warning notice.

11.10.4 The road has sunk around the man-hole cover outside hall/school, it needs addressing as someone has already fallen. GW to send photos to NCC and CH.

11.10.5 Incident took place on the road down to the Peth, where 6 4x4 vehicles intimidated a driver and blocked them in, the incident was very disturbing for those involved.

11.10.6 Reminder that the sign on the Dalton Bridge still needs to be replaced.

- 11.10.7 The steps next to the 'Click'em Inn have been replaced, and some Councillors were concerned that they are very close to the road on a blind bend.
- 11.10.8 New Footpath signs have been erected around the parish.
- 11.10.9 Due to 4x4 vehicles crossing Embley Fell and getting stuck, the gate has been replaced to a small wicket gate to stop any illegal access.

11.11 Broadband

Greg has been in touch with Paul who is disappointed in the number of people from the area taking up the broadband.

11.11 Reports

Wetlands nothing to report

School At present the school has 33 pupils and 2 starting

Sportsfield Davy Short has replaced the rotten fence posts at the field

Dukesfield Arches nothing to report

Hall

- Waiting of specification and drawings to enable tender enquires for toilet
- External painting of hall is complete. Internal painting will be done in stages.
- The Christmas Fair takes place on Sunday 1 December.
- A new light has been put outside hall
- Marge Rastall intended to be the representative for both the WI and Parish but the Hall Committee felt to be inappropriate and Nicola Matthews agreed to represent the Parish on the Hall Committee.

11.12 Any Other Business

The vacancy for a new Councillor has been advertised in the Parish Magazine and on the Facebook page, but to date no formal applications have been received. There were 3 or 4 members of the community who had spoken to others about being involved but no one has officially come forward. The Group felt it would be very beneficial if the person came from the High or Middle Quarter of the shire as the lower quarter is well represented, it would also be helpful if they were a younger person. Chairman to speak to some of the people who 'may have' shown an interest.

Two members of the community have passed away this month.

Roy Ward from Mollersteads

Moffit Reed from Rennys Barn

The Parish Council offered their condolences to both families.

Meeting closed at 9.10