

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 13th February 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Room, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

2.1 Apologies for Absence Hilary Kristensen

Councillors present Alastair Stevens (Chair), Roger Rutherford, Davy Short, Edward Parker, Alison Tweddle, Gillian Whatmough, Greg Finch, Marge Rastall, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor), Nicola Matthews, Gaynor Scandle (Clerk)

2.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9th January 2019
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

2.3 Declarations of interest
None

2.4 Matters Arising

- 1.1 The application for a Neighbourhood plan, the Chairman to apply to NCC for designation.
- 14.4.2 Lilswood Caravan site – notification received from NCC to say that the application has been withdrawn, meeting concerned about how the situation will move forward. Activity is still going on and recently a damaged caravan was removed and another installed. AS has contacted Neil Armstrong at NCC and CH will follow this up.

2.5 Public Participation
No members of the public were present

2.6 Correspondence

The playground inspection was authorised on the 9 Dec 2019 but we are not aware it has been carried out.

2.6.1 NCC seeking views on Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) – GS to respond

2.6.2 Crime Survey – do the Councillors feel that there has been an increase in crime in the area. Yes, everyone agrees that theft in area had risen greatly. Only small portion of crimes were reported – why – no point as Police do not act on information given.

2.6.3 Funding event at Alnwick Castle on 5 March 20 for Community Organisation.

2.6.4 Rural Community Energy Fund – there to enable Parish Councils etc to use renewal energy, suggestion of putting solar panels on Parish Hall roof, should be put in Neighbourhood Plan.

AS to make PC committee aware of this

2.6.5 WW2 veterans are being invited to Buckingham Palace on 8 May 20 – do we know if there are any WW2 Vets in the Parish?

2.7 Finance

There is an anomaly with the excel spreadsheet but the summary sheets distributed are correct.

The precept has been kept at its current level for several years. It was noted that 5 years ago there were 310 households in the shire; this year there are 330, i.e. the precept per household is reduced.

2.7.2 Invoices authorised – Matt Hope, Came & CO Insurance £613, Village Hall Rent £45

2.7.3 Balances as at 5 Feb 20

Treasurer's Account	£12,978.11
Sportsfield Account	£9,026.52
Dukesfield Account	£12,781.49
Wetlands Account	£348.49

2.7.4 **Donation Requests 2020**

The following were agreed as donations for 2020 total £2250

Whitley Chapel Parish Hall	£1000
Tynedale Hospice	£300
NE Air Ambulance	£300
N'Land Domestic Abuse	£300
LifeSpan	£300
Tynedale Sports	£50

2.8 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

2.8.1 Budget meeting next week

2.8.2 Rushwood still not resolved, the appearance of the site was not mentioned, the buildings that were put up were not in the correct place or correct size and were never removed. NCC do not have an address to issue notice to the other owner, meeting passed this onto CH.

2.9 Planning

19/04886/FUL Cabin Type extension with glazed link to east of main school building at Whitley Chapel C of E First School – application supported..

19/05014/LBC Listed building consent: replacement entrance door – Mr Common, Low Ardley – application supported.

2.10 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

2.10.1 A 4X4 vehicle came into difficulty during the recent floods whilst illegally crossing the river at Gingleshaugh. The occupants were not injured, vehicles from all emergency services were called the vehicle is now upside down in the river with no one willing to take responsibility and remove it. GW has asked Environment Agency and Police but neither will help take responsibility.

NCC and the Police are actively investigating what measures can be taken to prevent such activity on this particular restricted byway. This incident could have been very serious and the Councillors all felt that we should try again to have this particular track closed to vehicles TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) on safety grounds, we would need to liaise with Derwent Gibson as it is his land and some access will be needed to the field.

2.10.2 DS has reported 3 incidents recently to the Police via 101 number as 4 - 4x4 vehicles have been seen coming down the sand track near Viewley during the night at 11.30pm and 03.40am. Police have stated they will log the call.

2.10.3 NCC Footpath dept in agreement that the steps to the west of Clickem House are too close to the road.

2.12 Reports

Wetlands to be advertised externally for tenant from May 2020. The area has been under grazed and would benefit from native cattle.

Dukesfield Arches

Saturday 7th March date the annual clean up in March. All help welcome
This year, we will need to have the site inspected.

Hall

Work on the main hall is nearly complete. The new curtains have arrived

School

Work has started on their extension

Sportsfield

AS to chase up estimates. N Robson looked at Tennis Courts but needs an on site meeting with AS to understand the full extent of the work required.

2.12 Any Other Business

Lighting in the Church Yard, the church committee are getting estimates. The Parish Council will make a large contribution to the cost of the installation.

The meeting closed at 9.00