

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 9th January 2020 at 7.00 pm
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Room, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

1.1 Apologies for Absence Greg Finch, Nicola Matthews, Marge Rastall, Gaynor Scandle (Clerk)

Councillors present Alastair Stevens (Chair), Hilary Kristensen, Roger Rutherford, Davy Short, Edward Parker, Alison Tweddle, Gillian Whatmough, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor),

The Chairman welcomed Roger Rutherford who has been coopted as our new parish councillor.

The Chairman welcomed Jenny Ludman, a planning consultant with extensive experience of neighbourhood plans. She explained the process and advantages of drawing up a neighbourhood plan. Neighbourhood plans form part of the statutory development plan and give a local spin on policies already in the Northumberland plan, and mean that the Parish Council will be a statutory consultee. A grant of up to £9,000 is available to cover the costs of the process, including consultants' fees. Neighbourhood plans are valid for the period of the Northumberland Local Plan ie up to 2036.

It was unanimously agreed that we should proceed and the Chairman will set the process in motion by applying to NCC for designation.

1.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14th November 2019

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

1.3 Declarations of interest

None

1.4 Matters Arising

11.7.2 Further research had been carried out into Metro Bank which was not satisfactory so it was agreed not to proceed with making a deposit.

14.4.2 Lilswood Caravan site – no further progress.

1.5 Public Participation

No members of the public were present

1.6 Correspondence

The playground inspection is due.

1.7 Finance

It was agreed to keep the precept at its current level

1.7.2 Metro Bank - see above

1.7.3	Balances as at 6 Jan 20	Treasurer's Account	£12,978.11
		Sportsfield Account	£9,026.52
		Dukesfield Account	£12,762.95
		Wetlands Account	£348.49

1.8 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

- 1.9 Planning
19/04843/FUL Proposed agricultural barn. | Lee Nook Cottage Hexham Northumberland NE46 1SR. The application was supported.
- 1.10 Highways, footpaths and BOATS
Although not within Hexhamshire itself, we reported the poor state of the road north of the Dipton Mill pub and NCC repaired them within two days of our email. Potholes have been repaired outside the school and parish hall, and at Kings Law, but unfortunately they have been overfilled so the holes now stand proud of the road. Potholes and water on the Lee Road have been reported.
- There continues to be illegal activity on the BOATS, especially on the Gingleshaugh section, which was reported to the police
- The council have contacted NCC regarding the steps to the west of Clickem House which are too close to the road.
- 1.12 Reports
- Wetlands*
The Countryside Stewardship payment has been received.
We have received a donation of £150 from the Northumbria Basketry Group which is gratefully received
- Dukesfield Arches*
A date will be set at the next meeting for the annual clean up in March. All help welcome
- Hall*
Work is in progress redecorating the interior. The entrance hall and supper room have been completed, and work on the main hall will start on 27 January. There will inevitably be some disruption but the hall committee will liaise with anyone who has bookings during that time.
- A quiz night will take place on 22 February to raise funds towards the redecoration.
- The new curtains have been ordered, funded by the WI who have raised funds at their monthly soup lunches.
- The Christmas Fair on 1 December was very successful, with increased footfall. It raised £625 for hall funds.
- 1.12 Any Other Business
- The Council acknowledged the passing of Margaret Henderson and expressed their condolences to her family.

The meeting closed at 9.10