

**Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7.30 pm**  
**Meeting held via Zoom**

- 5.1 Apologies for Absence Alison Tweddle, Davy Short, Edward Parker, Hilary Kristensen, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor)
- Councillors present via a Zoom Conference Call: Alastair Stevens (Chair), Roger Rutherford, Gillian Whatmough, Greg Finch, Marge Rastall, Nicola Matthews, Gaynor Scandle (Clerk)
- 5.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting. (NB no April meeting was held due to COVID-19 pandemic and the global lockdown)
- 5.3 Declarations of interest  
Nicola Matthews regarding the tennis courts refurbishment
- 5.4 Matters Arising
- 2.8.2 Rushwood – CH was going to speak to Joe Turner - still ongoing.
- 5.5 Neighbourhood Plan  
Planning Consultant Jenny Ludman has not submitted her proposal and costs, this may be due to the UK Lockdown. We will need a separate steering group including some members of the wider community, with a minimum of 5 people on the group. Although we cannot hold meetings at this time we can try to get the message out to the community to see if anyone would like to be on the Steering Group, so notices are to be put in the Parish Magazine, Church and Facebook. Chairman to contact Jenny Ludman and to draft words for the Parish Magazine and social media.
- 5.6 Public Participation  
No members of the public were present
- 5.7 Correspondence  
Playground Inspection report can now be sanctioned annually and this was approved.
- 5.8 Finance
- 5.8.1 The AGAR has been completed and passed to Marion Henderson for auditing. We have been allowed extra time to complete the accounts due to the Pandemic but we should be able to complete everything by June.
- 5.8.2 Invoices approved:  
Galbraith's for Sportsfield rental £750. Parish Hall for 2 meetings.
- 5.9 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor  
Colin Horncastle was not present at the meeting.
- 5.10 Planning
- 5.10.1 Lilswood site – there is nothing on the NCC website regarding the site as the planning application was withdrawn. When would the enforcement team become involved as most of the works were carried out without any planning? During the lockdown period there has been 1 family and 1 other person staying occasionally at the site. Chairman to contact Neil Armstrong for an update.
- 5.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS
- 5.11.1 TTRO has been issued and the road around Lilswood Loop will be resurfaced from the 15 June 20.

- 5.11.2 Footpath Closure near Black Hall has been taken up with David Brookes the Infrastructure Manager at Northumberland County Council and at present he is still dealing with this.
- 5.11.3 The consultation period regarding a permanent traffic regulation order excluding all vehicles on the Gingleshaugh BOAT has now finished and we are awaiting final outcomes.
- 5.11.4 During the Lockdown period there has still been activity with 4x4 vehicles and off-road bikes in the area, the Police have been informed and have been out monitoring the situation.
- 5.11.5 It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund the resurfacing/ repair of the parking area near the hearse house next to the Church. It was suggested that Davy Short may have the equipment or know someone who maybe able to repair the hole?

## 5.12 Reports

Wetlands a signed tenancy agreement has been received from Juliet Rogers. Others did look at the site but were concerned about the fencing near to the willow – we need to look at this. There is a problem with the trough which has temporality been fixed. **Davy Short has agreed to check the fencing and report back.**

Chairman felt that this whole area is a slightly wasted resource and could we not make it more of a community area? We are tied into the Stewardship scheme for at least another 2 years so changes can probably only be made once this has expired. Could we flood the area and make bird hides or plant trees? In 2005 an Environmental Report recommended providing a pond. **Chairman agreed to discuss with Anne Porter who was instrumental in the 2005 report**

### Dukesfield Arches

Nothing to report – Inspection is due this summer but due to the Lockdown we should just wait.

### Hall

The Hall remains closed due COVID-19 – the Hall did receive the Small Business Grant from the Government.

### School

The school is open for Children of Key Workers.

### Sportsfield

Most of the issues found from the Play Inspection report have been caused by strimmer damage is there something we can put on the areas to protect them from further impairment?

A physical inspection of the equipment is needed therefore some Councillors agreed to meet prior to the next physical meeting after Lockdown. Urgent issues are the spring on the main gates and the slide.

The picnic tables still need to be replaced with recycled plastic tables.

Two quote have been received for the tennis court refurbishment from Nigel Robson and Dodwell Brothers (Nicola Matthews left the zoom meeting at this point)

A discussion took place as to whether we should have had a third estimate but it has taken a lot of effort to get 2 quotes. Nigel Robson's quote was the least expensive and therefore Nigel Robson will be awarded the contract.

## 5.12 Any Other Business

Due to COVID-19 we cannot hold physical meetings, and until then we can we cannot hold the Parish AGM. Alastair Stevens will be standing down at the AGM and a new Chairman will be required.

The meeting closed at 8.40