

**Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.30 pm**  
**Meeting held via Zoom** (due to COVID-19 pandemic and the UK lockdown)

- 6.1 Apologies for Absence Alison Tweddle, Davy Short, 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, Edward Parker, Gaynor Scandle (Clerk)

- 6.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

- 6.3 Declarations of interest - none

- 6.4 Matters Arising

2.8.2 Rushwood – CH going to speak to Joe Turner - still ongoing.

5.10.1 Lilswood site – Chairman to contact Neil Armstrong for an update.

5.11.5 Parish Council has agreed to fund the resurfacing of the parking area near the Hearse House.  
Davy Short has agreed to repair this in due course.

- 6.5 Neighbourhood Plan

Planning Consultant Jenny Ludman has submitted her proposal and costs. This includes a 14 stage project plan and an estimate of £3000 for her services to assist with the first three stages of the plan. There were concerns from the members about the level of government funding and whether it would be available for all stages of the plan as it may take over two years to complete. Whilst up to £10,000 is available for a straightforward Plan it was felt we need more information about whether this would cover the full costs of the whole process including the consultancy fees. The chairman agreed to clarify the situation before there is any agreement to go ahead.

Meanwhile four members of the wider community have come forward to be part of the separate steering group.

- 6.6 Public Participation

No members of the public were present

- 6.7 Correspondence – none

- 6.8 Finance

6.8.1 The AGAR has been completed and approved by Marion Henderson. It cannot be approved by the Councillors until we can have a formal (physical) meeting.

6.8.2 The Summary accounts were sent out and the following balances as at 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Treasurer's Account	£14,099.70
Sportsfield Account	£7,797.39
Dukesfield Account	£12,944.45
Wetlands Account	£348.56

- 6.9 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

Colin Horncastle was not present at the meeting.

## 6.10 Planning

6.10.1 Revised application for The Mill at BlackHall Mill – Ref 20/01569 – a much reduced 2 storey extension, which is more in keeping with the surrounding area. No grounds for objection.

## 6.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

6.11.1 The road to Hackford has many pot holes, it was suggested when NCC start on the resurfacing to the Lilswood Loop on the 15 June 20, someone visits the workers to make sure they are repairing that part of the road.

6.11.2 Footpath Closure near Black Hall has been removed.

6.11.3 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. Some of the vehicles have enjoyed intimidating local residents.

6.11.4 AS has spoken to David Hunt at NCC and Monica Haigh regarding the grass verges that are not to be cut but to be left for wild flowers this summer. David has stated that we can have up to 10 verges, but as this the first year, it was felt 2 or 3 verges be left this year. Timing is an issue as the verges will be cut shortly.

6.11.5 There had been some 'no access' signs erected on the permissive Footpath/track from Dukesfield Arches to Dukesfield Farm. GF has dealt with this and the track is now open.

## 6.12 Reports

Wetlands Davy Short has agreed to repair the fencing near to the willow for £200 - everyone was in agreement that it was a good price.

The Stewardship scheme at the Wetlands runs for at least another 2 years so changes can probably only be made once this has expired. One suggestion was to turn the area into a Wild Flower Meadow, with the Exmoor Ponies remaining on the site as their grazing would help with the development of this. It was also suggested the school might like to be involved. This proposal is unlikely to affect the stewardship scheme.

There are other options for the site and it was proposed the wetlands sub committee be reinstated to discuss this with other knowledgeable people from the community.

### Dukesfield Arches

Nothing to report – Inspection is due this summer GF to ask for quotes.

### Hall

The Hall committee are looking at having Solar PV panels – which would need to be a joint venture with the school.

If the 2m social distancing rules remain in place, when the hall re-opens its total capacity would be 53 people.

### School

The school is open for Children of Key Workers.

### Sportsfield

Nigel Robson has made a great job on the rendering of the tennis courts, he has nearly finished even though he has struggled to get materials due to the lockdown.

Some tree roots need to be removed as they are damaging the court surface – **AS to look into this.**

The picnic tables that we discussed replacing – it was suggested that Nigel Robson could replace some of the rotting/damaged panels on the tables as they are not in such disrepair that they need to be destroyed – **AS to speak to Nigel regarding this.**

As we know, most of the issues on the Play Inspection report were caused by strimmer damage Nigel Robson has suggested ways that we can protect them from further impairment - **AS to speak to Nigel regarding this.**

It was noted that someone is coming to the tennis courts to practice cricket (with a ball dispenser) and the broken shelving has been caused mainly by this. More signage is needed for the use of the courts and the Councillors to look at options for booking the courts etc.

6.13 Any Other Business

Due to COVID-19 we cannot hold physical meetings, and until then we cannot hold the Parish AGM.

The meeting closed at 8.40