

**Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30 pm  
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Room, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall**

9.1 Apologies for Absence Edward Parker, Greg Finch,

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

9.3 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

9.3 Declarations of interest  
None

9.4 Matters Arising

2.8.2 Rushwood – No update due to COVID and no site meetings taking place. CH going to speak to Joe Turner - ongoing.

5.10.1 Lilswood Caravan Site – Applicant has appointed a new agent and is drafting new drainage plans for the site; the whole planning application is still on going and has not been submitted to NCC. There is no time limit set for the application so we must keep a careful watch on the situation. Neil Armstrong is aware of the situation.  
One caravan on the site is advertised and occupied via Airbnb bookings and other vans have been sold.  
NM to liaise with Neil Armstrong on a monthly basis.

5.11.5 Hearse House resurfacing has been completed by Highways Dept – they also filled pot holes in on the Gair Shield / Kings Law road.

8.12 8 people came to help remove the Himalayan Balsam in Dye House Wood, they removed about half of the area, this needs to be done earlier in the year in 2021.

9.5 Neighbourhood Plan

Roger Rutherford informed us the first steering group meeting has been held. They plan to have a survey – possibly held during an open day with a presentation at the Village Hall for all local residents and / or send out a questionnaire to everyone in the Parish – this is entirely at the discretion of the Steering Group and will depend upon the issue with COVID in the coming months.

9.6 Public Participation  
No members of the public were present

9.6 Correspondence  
Chair of Tynedale Sports asking for funding for 20/21 – request referred to Feb 21.

9.7 Finance

9.7.1 Balances as at 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 20 – precept has been received.

Treasurer's Account £14,084.16  
Sportsfield Account £858.05

Dukesfield Account £12,993.09  
Wetlands Account £348.59

9.7.2 Invoice for approval – Parish Online £36.00

9.8 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

To date all Northumberland County Council meeting have been held virtually since March. The COVID situation has been very disruptive for everyone – making planning and highways issues harder to deal with. NCC are starting to have local planning meeting on a virtual basis with a maximum of 3 items on the agenda.

Northumberland County Council have distributed the local business grants and most people have been happy with the situation.

9.9 Planning

20/02479/FULL – 1 Linnels Cottage, Hexham, NE46 1SD

Retrospective change of use for agricultural and construction of wooden shed

No Objections

20/02473/FULL – Close House Nursing Home – single storey extension to existing nursing home

No Objections

We received an email from John Rooke regarding the proposal to build houses at Intake Farm and the implications this will have on traffic congestion to residents from the Shire. Some Councillors had already objected to the application, suggested other members also object.

9.10 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

9.10.1 Letter received regarding the Local Transport Plan Programme 2021-22 for our Parish, with the following proposals:-

Reference	Location	Details
50X1NBNO	Blind corner on dangerous road - both verges side are extended	Houtley Farm Juniper junction to Hexham NE46 1TA
RVA6KKM2	Request for a passing place to be situated along the road where resident lives.(Doctors Lane) Dipton Mill, Hexham	Doctors Lane, Dipton Mill
XB10BVC0	request for a passing place	near Sheild Green Pub Dipton Mill Hexhma NE46 2JU

The Councillors will also be requesting:

- 20mph zone through Whitley Chapel
- Better access/visibility at the Lea Road crossroads – (which we think may also be part of reference 50X1NBNO)

9.10.2 Meeting to take place on 8 Oct regarding BOATS with Alistair Stevens and Duncan Lovett

9.10.3 Letter received from Karl Beckett via Slaley Parish regarding the destruction caused by off road vehicles, everyone understands and is annoyed by the situation and willing to help in anyway possible but not sure what could be done.

9.10.4. The proposal from David Brookes, Infrastructure Manager at Northumberland County Council, for a permanent traffic regulation order excluding all vehicles on the stretch of the byway from Rawgreen to the wood. This is still causing issues and must be followed up as to why we do not have the barrier yet?

9.10.5 Resident concerned over the hedges in the Parish that need cutting, especially near Dalton Bridge and some junctions. How do we find out who has the contract to cut the hedges? Can they be done sooner?

9.10.6 Protected verges signs have fallen over – this could be a hazard in the verge. The verges can now be cut. AS to collect the signs until needed next spring.

#### 9.11 Reports

Wetlands - Davy Short has repaired the drainage issue. The area is very wet and the suggestion of planting trees may help with this.

##### Dukesfield Arches

Hall - The AGM has been held. COVID rules are being adhered to.

School - Most children now back at school and the new extension is working well.

Sportsfield – The storage containers at the top of the field – Who's are they? What is in them? who has the keys? Davy Short and Gill Whatmough to both look into this. We believe one container has YFC equipment in and one has old hall equipment.

#### 9.12 Any Other Business

- GS applied to Northumberland County Council to receive some free trees for the Parish, we were successful in securing a selection of trees. At present, we do not know when they will arrive.
- There was a feeling that the Ragwort seems to be more under control this year.
- Alistair Stevens was thanked for his hard work, being the Chair for the past 2½ years and thanked Marge Rastall for stepping up to be the Chairperson.
- Joy Trotter died on the 27 August 2020, she served as a Governor for Whitley Chapel school for many years.

The meeting closed at 8.35