

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thurs 11th March 2021 at 7.30 pm
Held via TEAMS call

3.1 Apologies for Absence Hilary Kristensen, Alison Tweddle, Edward Parker.

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

3.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14th January 2021
(no meeting was held in Feb 2021 due to technical issues)

It was agreed the January 2021 minutes were a true record of the meeting.

3.3 Declarations of interest
None

3.4 Matters Arising

2.8.2 Rushwood – Still ongoing – Parish Clerk had been notified that one of the ponies on the land was very lame – the RSPCA and NCC Welfare Officer have been informed.

12.4.2 Lilswood Caravan Site – A drainage consultant has contacted the neighbouring resident regarding drainage, to discuss the options. The LLFA (*Lead Local Flood Authority*) have issues on the flood risk, grounds, unsuitable pipes, root damage and SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) and flood risk to neighbouring lands.

The AONB have not yet responded regarding the application.

12.14 Lighting at the Church Gates. This is on hold at present as the electricity supply to the Church needs attention, when this is resolved the lighting can be addressed.

3.5 Neighbourhood Plan

The steering group have a meeting next week, AS will send a synopsis of the survey to the Councillors. Next stage, the group will issue the mission statement and objectives.

3.6 Public Participation

No members of the public were present

3.7 Correspondence

Letter regarding a modification order to amend a definitive map – alleged public bridleway / restricted byway west of Riddlehamhope going east for 1415 metres over existing Blanchland Public Footpath (#15) for 4140 metres to Baybridge.

The councillors present, had no evidence to support or not support the proposal.

The councillors could not fully understand why the landowners would be concerned about 4x4 and MV's using the track.

3.8 Finance

3.8.1 Balances as at 9th March 2021

Treasurer's Account	£16996.41
Sportsfield Account	£2683.10
Dukesfield Account	£13152.61
Wetlands Account	£672.41

3.8.2 Donations approved for 2021 – total £2,700

Name of Organisation	Amount
Age UK	£300
Tynedale Hospice at Home	£300
NE Air Ambulance	£300
N'Land Domestic Abuse	£300
Chrysalis Dementia support	£300
Parish Magazine	£250
Sports Tynedale	£50
Tynedale Food Bank	£300
Whitley Chapel YFC	£100
Whitley Chapel Parish Hall	£500

One other request from the Citizens Advice Bureau was requested but deferred to next year.

- 3.8.3 Invoice for Matt Hope for cutting hedges £400 approved.
Payment for Parish Clerk approved.

3.9 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

Cllr Horncastle attending on the call

Funding is available for any hedges and ditches in this financial year:

- Hedges at Lilswood Bridge
- Ditch / drain outside Oaksfield House/Close House Nursing Home
- Ditch at High Dalton (at Mel Stobbs farm)
- Culvert the watercourse in the ditch on left hand side of the Lee Road when heading north west at OS grid ref NY926600 between a field drain downwards to the stream crossing under the road (c.100-150 metres length). The gully has now eroded deeply, and could cause serious vehicle damage. The narrow road is a main route for traffic to Close House Nursing Home.
- The ditch between the crossroads and the graveyard gate at Whitley Chapel was full to overflowing, possibly overflow from St Helen's Gate septic tank. Was reported it on 19 January (ref 101006977108).
- The ditch on the other side of the road to the graveyard in Whitley Chapel, is full and needs cleaning out.
- The bushes at the Dalton bridge, on the Whitley Chapel side, obscure the view over the bridge in the summer so need to be cut back.
- Not our parish, but Dipton Bank was also mentioned too.

- 3.9.2 We discussed the forthcoming Elections and were advised to advertise if anyone would like to join the Parish Council. We will advertise on Facebook, the Website and Courant notes.

3.10 Planning

- 3.10.1 21/00371/FULL / Proposed shepherds hut for use as a self catering holiday accommodation/ High Rawgreen Cottage, Steel, Hexham, NE47 OHL

The Parish Council has concerns about access to the hut being shared with five other properties, and the limited parking and turning on the shared drive. They would like confirmation that the drainage will be adequate.

There may be scope for one shepherd's hut, served by one vehicle, but there would not be capacity for more.

- 3.10.2 21/00403/FULL / construction of Post Harvesting Barn / Hexhamshire Organics, The Lee, Hexham NE46 1SR

The Councillors had no objection to this application.

3.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

- 3.11.1 Slaley Forest: Police Liaison Mtg 10.03.21 took place with 20 participants incl 5 police, NCC RoW x 2; North Pennines AONB Access and Recreation manager; Forestry England x 2; TRF (Trail Riders Fellowship) x 2; Glass (Green Lanes Association); Jon Storey representing Slaley PC; Natural England.

Summary

Much support for action by all. Trail damage is a national problem and we must draw on best practice to address it. Momentum for action is gathering. Good session which bodes well for future progress.

- 3.11.2 Jingleshaugh gates and signage is only stopping 4x4 and not motorcycles who are still speeding through. Motorcycles also observed using the Jingling Gate bridle path which is not a BOAT.

3.12 Reports

Wetlands – trees still to be collected – now after the current Lockdown.

Request for additional ‘duck boards’ on footpath near Moss House, GS to contact to Duncan Lovett, PC cannot complete the work as there is litigation and safety issues.

Dukesfield Arches - 5 year inspection has taken place, most of the structure is sound, minor problem with some mortar and some turf capping required. When report received it will give the specifications which we will use for the tender for repair.

Contractor to be asked to clear / cut in steps (possible slip hazard) and general tidy up in early May.

Hall – The ceiling has been badly damaged in the Supper Room following a water leak, The insurance company are dealing with this. Hall will be open for elections on 6 May 21.

School - Is now fully open.

Sportsfield – play inspection should have been completed – GS to enquire where it is?

3.13 Any Other Business

Elections will take place on 6th May 2021.

All present Councillors have been issued with the Nomination Pack by email and those wanting a paper copy will receive one soon.

The packs need to be returned to GS asap and she will make sure they receive a second signature, they then need to be checked by NCC on 29th March.

Thanks to Mary Macklon for her tireless efforts in clearing rubbish in the area.

The meeting closed at 8.45