

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

*One Minutes silence was held for Remembrance Day*

- 11.1 Apologies for Absence - Councillor - Colin Horncastle  
Present – Marge Rastall (Chair), Nicola Matthews (Vice Chair), Hilary Kristensen, Greg Finch, Lee Riley, Gill Whatmough, Roger Rutherford, Davy Short, Alison Tweddle, Edward Parker. Clerk - Gaynor Scandle
- 11.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.
- 11.3 Declarations of interest  
Greg Finch regarding a planning application.
- 11.4 Matters Arising
- 2.8.2 Rushwood – Chair has emailed Glen Sanderson but has not had a reply in response to her letter enclosing details of the extensive correspondence dating back to 2007. She will now send a formal letter of complaint, outlining how our concerns have been completely ignored. Following numerous reports by concerned residents, the RSPCA have finally attended the horses, and will continue to observe them.
- 12.4.2 Lilswood Caravan Site –The drainage on the site has now been completed. Planning application is waiting to go to full planning committee. The Parish Council have been made aware that Children living at the caravan site have now registered at the School, which makes the site their official residence – which has implications for the planning application.
- 12.14 Lighting at the Church Gates – still ongoing.
- 6.13.2 A small plaque is to be placed on the ‘ammunition store’ to commemorate its use during WW2 as a Home Guard Shelter.
- 11.5 Neighbourhood Plan – Alastair Stevens (Chair of Steering Group) has spoken to Jenny Ludman and they believe that most of the issues to be addressed by Hexhamshire Neighbourhood Plan will be covered by the Northumberland County Council NP, which is still in draft and due to be finalized in Spring 2022.
- 11.6 Public Participation
- 11.7 Correspondence
- 11.8 Finance
- 11.8.1 2022 percept – the pros and cons of slightly increasing the precept were discussed and the justifications for doing so. In 2022, there maybe additional repairs to the Sportsfield, and fence for the Wetlands so a slight increase from £8,380 to £8,500 was agreed.
- 11.8.2 Balances as at 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021
- |                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Treasurer’s Account | £16,848.32 |
| Sportsfield Account | £3663.37   |
| Dukesfield Account  | £12,165.15 |
| Wetlands Account    | £672.48    |
- 11.9 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councilor - Colin Horncastle not present.
- 11.10 Planning –  
21/03955/COU | Change of use from a garage/annex to use as short term let accommodation. | Whitebeam Dotland Farm Hexham Northumberland NE46 2JY.  
2 letters of complaint have been received by the Parish Clerk, she contacted those complaints to stress they must inform NCC Planning Dept of the complaints. The Councillors voted for ‘no objection’.
- 11.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS
- 11.11.1 Pot Holes at Dipton Mill and Lambshield, which have previously been reported, need another reminder as they are in a very poor state.

11.11.2 On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 86 people attended a meeting in Whitley Chapel Village Hall to discuss Slaley Forest and the issues with access and off-road vehicles. A very positive meeting with Police, Council, Landowners etc.

The police have agreed to develop the following:

- Classification as a PSPO site (public space protection order)
- Better more accurate reporting mechanisms for intelligence development and enforcement
- Funding to restore habitats, build fences, dry stone walls, fence off areas of danger (not highways/BOAT's etc), additional signage. Police to follow up and a sub-committee to be created to start to tackle some of the issues - and possibly fundraise to purchase signs etc.
- Wildlife cameras
- Consideration for TRO across Slaley
- Only Federation riders welcome?

11.11.3 Councillor John Riddle, Portfolio Holder for Local Services, including roads, has been invited to attend a meeting to discuss the roads but has so far not responded.

## 11.12 Reports

### Wetlands –

The proposals for development of the wetland put forward at the last meeting by Christopher Porter are supported in principle, subject to the cost of the fence, reassurance that the spring which feeds neighbouring properties is not affected, and a guarantee that there will be no liability to the council going forward. A hydrology report has been commissioned, and a plan of the proposed scrape is being drawn up. A conservation grazing plan is to be drawn up.

Dukesfield Arches – the Council committed to underwrite the forecast cost of the required conservation works planned for the spring of 2022. Grant applications will be submitted by Greg to the Sir James Knott Trust and the Henry Bell Trust seeking contributions towards the cost of these works

Hall – 13<sup>th</sup> Nov - Quiz Night to raise fund for Hall

5<sup>th</sup> Dec - Xmas Fair.

Main Hall Closed January for toilet refurbishment

Sportsfield – Equipment still needs to be inspected by Cllrs – GS assessed the equipment but it still needs other PC opinions on the state of the equipment. New Inspection due in January 2022 so wait until that inspection and then decide what equipment needs replacing or remedial work.

## 11.13 Any Other Business

11.13.1 WI are to plant a Crab Apple tree between the Playground and the Village Hall.

11.13.2 No other locations for seats were forthcoming from the Parish after a request was placed in the Parish Magazine. After some thought, another seat maybe situated near the cattle grid up to Kings Law or next to the notice board on the wetland.

11.13.3 Clerk is collecting 90 trees as part of the NCC 'Free Trees' on Tues 17 Nov – They are to be planted at the bottom of the Sportsfield. We are going to try to arrange with the School and YFC and wider community to help plant them, hopefully this month or early Dec. Jenny Stirling still has Oak Samplings to be planted.

11.13.4 We have received a generous donation of £500 to buy trees for the Parish. As we are about to get 90 trees from NCC, we will wait to see where else we can plant and decide what types we want to buy.

11.13.5 Speeding traffic in the whole area is becoming an issue. The Council has received complaints about the general speed of traffic in the Shire, and in particular on the road leading down to Channel Well. The Council have been trying for years to have speed restrictions through Whitley Chapel, so far without success.

*Meeting closed at 9.10*