

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

- 1.1 Apologies for Absence - Roger Rutherford, Greg Finch, Councillor - Colin Horncastle  
Present – Marge Rastall (Chair), Nicola Matthews (Vice Chair), Gill Whatmough, Davy Short, Lee Riley, Hilary Kristensen, Alison Tweddle, Edward Parker, Clerk - Gaynor Scandle
- 1.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.
- 1.3 Declarations of interest
- 1.4 Matters Arising
  - 12.4.2 Lilswood Caravan Site - waiting to go to full planning committee.
  - 12.14 Lighting at the Church Gates – still ongoing.
  - 6.13.2 Plaque to commemorate the WW2 Home Guard Shelter – ongoing. WI have recently planted a CRAB apple tree for the Queens Jubilee and using a similar plaque was discussed.
  - 12.11.3 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.
- 1.5 Public Participation –  
Ruth Marlee – Hexham Courant Correspondent attended the meeting, she has been the correspondent for 6 months and is struggling to find suitable material to submit in her article, so attended to ask for more help and to see if anything relevant she can report on.  
  
**Wetlands / Quaker Hole project**  
Mr Christopher Porter attended the meeting to try to establish the Parish Councils opinion for his development of the wetland / Quaker Hole project.
  - The main concerns were the ongoing long term maintenance and liability of the site
  - Cashflow / finance and how it was going to be handled
  - If something went wrong during the project and grants / funding had to be returned to the funder, this would be a major problem and may have financial implications for the PC.
  - A detailed legal agreement between those doing the project and the PC would be required for which no details were available.
  - Some local residents did not want the site changed and were happy for it be left as it is.
  - It was further agreed that spending almost the equivalent of the annual precept on one project was not feasible.
  - After much discuss a vote was held, in the presences of Mr Porter - 8 Councilor's voted against the project – 1 in favour.
  - The steps down to the bird hide, and the hide itself, require maintenance, and the Council are happy to pay for any work required.
- 1.6 Neighbourhood Plan – An updated is required from Cllr Colin Horncastle, who was to speak to Jenny Ludman regarding Hexhamshire Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.7 Correspondence
- 1.8 Finance
  - 1.8.1 Invoices approved for payment:  
Zen (web hosting) £11.99  
Matthew Hope -grass cutting for all 2021 - £2,090.0

1.8.2 Balances as at 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

Treasurer's Account	£16,287.38
Sportsfield Account	£3,663.46
Dukesfield Account	£12,266.60
Wetlands Account	£996.32

1.9 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Council - Cllr Horncastle not present.

1.10 Planning – none

1.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

1.11.1 **Speeding Signs** – Clerk to ask Highways Dept if they have any suggestion or recommendations for anti-speeding measures through Whitley Chapel.

1.11.2 The meeting to discuss Slaley Forest access issues on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December had to be cancelled due to covid restrictions - Police to be contacted to re arrange a meeting as soon as possible. G Scandle does not wish to remain as Chair but is happy to continue as admin support.

1.11.3 The salt heaps have been replenished, but not above Broadwell, which is where they'll be most needed.

1.11.4 Repairs to potholes has been taking place and it was reported that the work in the west quarter of the Shire was very satisfactory, and the team doing the work extremely efficient.

1.11.5 The footpath across from Mire House & Moss House and through the Willow is to be amended/diverted by NCC. The Parish Council have only heard about this from Mr Porter but have not had any formal communications and the map is up for consultation. Mr Porter to forward the maps and details.

12.12 **Reports**

Wetlands – see above

Dukesfield Arches – Awaiting for news on Grant applications submitted to the Sir James Knott Trust and the Henry Bell Trust.

School - The present Headmistresses is leaving at the end of the academic year.

Hall – The toilets are currently being refurbished: the actual cubicles will not arrive until mid February due to supply issues in the building trade, but the hall will be open for business from 30 January; users will be able to use the toilets down the corridor. Cllr Horncastle has secured some funding towards the refurbishment.

Sportsfield – Play Equipment Inspection due in January 2022 so we will wait until that inspection and then decide which apparatus needs replacing or remedial work.

1.13 **Any Other Business**

1.13.1 An Open Meeting is to take place at Hexham Mart on Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 22 to discuss Storm Arwen.

1.13.2 **Platinum Jubilee celebrations** - Funding is available from NCC to put towards the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Various ideas were put forward, including a beacon at King's Law, and a picnic lunch on Sunday 5 June. More details to follow.

1.13.3 10 Red Oaks have been purchased to be planted at the north side of the Sportsfield. It is planned to purchase 150 - 30-60cms trees from Cheviot Trees, costs to be confirmed. It was suggested to purchase the tree guards and stakes from Trees Please to save on carriage charges. Consideration needs to be made about where the trees are to be planted, as they cannot go too near the Red Oaks and who is going to plant them.

*Meeting closed at 8.50*