

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

- 2.1 Apologies for Absence - Gill Whatmough, Lee Riley,  
Present – Marge Rastall (Chair), Nicola Matthews (Vice Chair), Davy Short, Hilary Kristensen, Alison Tweddle, Edward Parker, Roger Rutherford, Greg Finch, Councillor - Colin Horncastle, Clerk - Gaynor Scandle
- 2.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.
- 2.3 Declarations of interest
- 2.4 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 HK contacting the ‘Records Office’ to get the appropriate wording to be used.
- 12.11.3 Cllr John Riddle has been invited to attend a meeting to discuss the roads but has so far not responded.
- 1.11.1 Anti-speeding measures – Clerk wrote to Highways Dept for suggestions or recommendations for speeding in Whitley Chapel, especially near the school, but we have not had a response. Advised to email Robin McCartney and Neil Snowden. Also lighting near the school and crossroads should be addressed.
- 2.5 Public Participation – none
- 2.6 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Colin Horncastle urged the PC to continue with the Hexhamshire Neighbourhood Plan and to review the participants on the steering group. He advised that the group should be made up of 70% PC Councillor’s and a small representation from the wider community. Chair to speak to Alistair Stevens and to Jenny Ludman.
- 2.7 Correspondence
- 2.8 Finance
- 2.8.1 Greg did a cashflow forecast of the funds available for charitable donations, this was less than previous years due to a reserve for remedial works to some of the play equipment.
- 2.8.2 The PC had previously decided to buy two new seats for the parish but have made a decision to only buy one seat at present, allowing more money for donations.

**Donations given for 2022 – £1000**

<b>Name of Organization</b>	<b>Donation</b>
St Helens Church Yard	£250
Tynedale Hospice at Home	£250
NE Air Ambulance	£250
Parish Magazine	£250

### 2.8.3 Balances as at 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022

Treasurer's Account	£16,105.60
Sportsfield Account	£1,793.46
Dukesfield Account	£12,074.60
Wetlands Account	£996.32

- 2.9 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Council - Cllr Horncastle informed the PC about the reductions required in budgetary spending at County Hall and where budgets would be cut and fees increased. The Local Plan has now passed the Government Inspectors and comes into force on 22 April. It will be used throughout Northumberland as the planning policy which should speed up planning applications, which is why Cllr Horncastle stressed the importance of Hexhamshire PC having their own NP.

### 2.10 Planning

- 22/00200/FUL | Construction of sun room extension to detached garage. | Blackhall Mill, The Mill C278 Steel to Low Juniper Steel NE47 0LF - Supported
- 22/00232/FUL | Extension to existing bungalow and new garage. | Newbiggin Farm Cottage Hexham Northumberland NE46 1SZ  
Concerns over the size of the extension and is it in keeping with the area? The property is in a green belt and was originally a 'farm workers cottage' does this have any bearing on the application?

### 2.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

- 2.11.2 The meeting for Slaley Forest access is to be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at Whitley Chapel Village Hall.
- 2.11.3 Motorcycles had been using the Peth Bridge and Mark Harrison at NCC was informed and new measures immediately put in place - which seem to be working.
- 2.11.4 Repairs to potholes have been taking place but there are still many potholes in the White Hall to Gair Shield area.
- 2.11.5 Maps reviewed for the amended/diverted footpath across from Mire House & Moss House and through the Willow. The Parish Council all in favour of this diversion but concerned that it should not be at a cost to the Parish Council.

### 2.12 Reports

Wetlands – Approx. 200 Alder trees are to be purchased with the donated money and it was agreed that these trees would be planted in the Wetlands. The tree guards have been kindly donated which leaves us extra money to buy replacement trees each year for a few years.

Dukesfield Arches – It is anticipated the remedial works required will be completed in May/June. Unsuccessful grant application to Sir James Knott Trust, still waiting to hear from the Henry Bell Trust. A day of strimming and cutting out the steps is planned for the spring.

#### School -

Hall - Work on the toilets still ongoing due to supply issues in the building trade, but the hall is in use.

Sportsfield – Play Equipment Inspection is not due until April 2022 - we will wait until that inspection and then decide which apparatus needs replacing or remedial work.

### 2.13 Any Other Business

- 2.13.1 Clerk attended Meeting at Hexham Mart on Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 22 to discuss Storm Arwen. If anyone in the area has not received their compensation then they must contact Npower, Guy Opperman or Parish Clerk.
- 2.13.2 Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations - A beacon at King's Law may not be a good idea as the beacons is to be lit on Thurs 2 June 22 – the beacon would be very close to the heather and the fire risk maybe too great to consider - we would need permission from Lord Allendale.

The PC are very in favour of a celebration on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at Whitley Chapel. With various games (children, teenage and adult). Funding is available from NCC to put towards this and the PC decided to apply for funding for prizes and commemorative items for children. A marquee could be requested but the costs would be too great and there is only £70K between many groups in Northumberland. Other costs to be considered – hall hire, insurance, decorations etc

- 2.13.3 Query as to what is happening to the electricity supply to the Church, to provide outside lights for the path, as some councillors believe this has been on-going for over 20 years?
- 2.13.4 It was agreed to purchase one 'Dale Bench' at a cost of £385 with further costs to be incurred for securing to the ground, to be positioned on Leazes Lane.

*Meeting closed at 9.10*