

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

- 4.1 Apologies for Absence Edward Parker, Alison Tweddle, Roger Rutherford.  
Present – Marge Rastall (Chair), Nicola Matthews (Vice Chair), Lee Riley, Davy Short, Greg Finch, Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen, Councillor - Colin Horncastle, Clerk - Gaynor Scandle
- 4.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.
- 4.3 Declarations of interest –
- 4.4 Matters Arising
- 6.13.2 Plaque to commemorate the WW2 Home Guard Shelter – ongoing HK - waiting for appropriate wording.
- 1.11.1 Anti-speeding measures - Cllr Horncastle informed us that NCC will be putting down 'monitoring tubes' to monitor the traffic flow.
- 4.5 Public Participation – none
- 4.6 Neighbourhood Plan – The expenses for this year have been reconciled and the remaining grant reimbursed. Waiting for Jenny Ludman to get back to us with fee proposal for next part of the project, then we must apply for grant funding. Those present were suggested to look at what Slaley Parish have achieved with their leaflet regarding their Plan.
- 4.7 Correspondence
- 4.8 Finance
- 4.8.1 Invoice Hall Hire - approved
- 4.8.2 Increase by 0.20pph to clerk salary in line with NALC guidelines
- 4.8.3 Balances as at 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- |                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Treasurer's Account | £13,811.04 |
| Sportsfield Account | £1,793.49  |
| Dukesfield Account  | £12,127.49 |
| Wetlands Account    | £996.34    |
- 4.9 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councilor -
- Cllr Horncastle informed the PC about the budgetary reductions of £9.5m at County Hall which have been made with no redundancies and no major cuts to services.
  - The Local Plan has now passed the Government Inspectors and comes into force on 22 April - New officers are starting which will also result in speeding up the process. The number of planning applications submitted tripled during Covid. At present, 1500 outstanding planning applications, in the next 6-8 weeks there should be a big improvement in planning.
  - Ukraine Refugee situation is ongoing – NCC have 146 houses ready.
  - No longstay car parks in Wentworth car park – 250 new spaces at the new Hexham Gate (Bunker site).
  - NCC have a fund of £2.3 million earmarked for repairs to C roads. If anyone knows of areas in need of repair, please advise the Clerk or a councilor.

#### 4.10 Planning

- 22/01212/FUL | Raise the height of the flat roof to the kitchen | The Thruff Hexham Northumberland NE46 2JU – no objection
- 22/00880/FUL | Construction of single storey extensions to dwelling, replacement outbuilding annexe and car port | Smelting Syke Hexham Northumberland NE46 1SU – Some Councilors were concerned that the development is excessive compared with others in the area as it would double the footprint of the original property.
- 22/00863/FUL | Proposed detached annexe | Embley Hexham Northumberland NE47 0HW – supported
- Alex Campbell to be made aware of the building at Low Rawgreen.

#### 4.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

##### 4.11.1 Repairs to potholes have been taking place but there are still many potholes in the area –

Broken or non existent road edging at :-

- Between Dotland and Channel Well and Opposite Litharge
- Between Whitley Chapel and the Clickem corner

Potholes to be reported include:-

- Bank leading to Lamb Shield
- Between Close House and Peacock House
- The stretch outside the Dipton Mill
- Outside Barker House down to the stream the road is slipping away.
- Between King's Law and Gairshield.
- The verge approaching Mire House which is collapsing onto the highway.

##### 4.11.2 Great response from the Police activity in Slaley Woods, new posters have been secured to every gate. But sadly, more and more illegal activity is going on.

#### 4.12 Reports

Wetlands – The Alder trees that were planted in the Wetlands have been removed, as it became apparent that Alder would not grow in such wet conditions. An unfortunate set of circumstances arose with the removal of the saplings, mainly due to a lack of communication, the saplings have now been heeled in elsewhere and will be planted next autumn, some will be planted in the Wetlands, some in the willow area. Councillor Whatmough and Councillor Rastall were not involved in giving permission to have the saplings removed.

Grazing for wetlands to be advertised for 2022/23

Dukesfield Arches – 10 years since the project began. No strimming etc needed as Matt keeping everything clear. Contractors hopefully start late May. Greg has informed Allendale Estates.

School – school closed early for Easter due to COVID

Hall -

Sportsfield – At next meeting Cllrs to inspection Play Equipment prior to meeting

##### 4.13.1 Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations –

- Received funding of £500 from the NCC fund
- WI will do teas
- GS contacted school – they will promote and do the competition – they cannot help put posters or models displayed out in hall.
- Agreed to purchase Jubilee Rosettes to give as prizes – 1,2,3,4 and specials so that every child gets a rosette.

- Someone from Parish needs to be in charge of games and tug-of-war. YFC to be asked if they will help with games
- Chairman to contact Ice Cream van
- Alcohol License covered under Hall
- Courant to be contacted to see if we can get old photos, suggested buying them to display in Hall.
- Suggested having a 'royal' theme for fancy dress for kids.

#### 4.14 **Any Other Business**

- 4.14.1 Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire Community Environment Group are holding an Earth Day on Friday 22 April – some leaflets were distributed
- 4.14.2 New seat has arrived, (presently at Clerks house), Trevor Golightly to be contacted re fitting.
- 4.14.3 NPOWER concerned regarding trees at Rushwood which maybe removed as near buildings.
- 4.14.4 AGM will take place at the May meeting and AGAR to be completed.

*Meeting closed at 9.30*