

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 14th July 2022
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

- 7.1 Apologies for Absence - Marge Rastall, Nicola Matthews, Edward Parker, Greg Finch, Roger Rutherford.
Councillor - Colin Horncastle,
Present – Gill Whatmough (Chair), Lee Riley, Davy Short, Hilary Kristensen, Alison Tweddle, Jonny White, Clerk - Gaynor Scandle

Chair welcomed Jonny White to the meeting, Jonny will be the new Parish Clerk from 1st Aug 2022.

- 7.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th May 2022
It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

- 7.3 Declarations of interest

- 7.4 Matters Arising

The Jubilee weekend with a bonfire on the Thursday and Tea and games on the Sunday were both a great success. Sadly the Thursday was barred by thunderstorms, but Sunday was a lovely day. Thanks must be given to Marge Rastall for all of her hard work bringing everything together and to Gill Whatmough. The display of photos and memorabilia from the past 70 years around the area was fantastic.

Some great images were taken of the day by Barbara and John Austin which can be purchased.

A large photo was taken of everyone present on the day and a decision was made to pay £50 for the image to be framed and put up in the Village hall.

6.13.2 Plaque to commemorate the WW2 Home Guard Shelter – ongoing HK - waiting for appropriate wording.

1.11.1 Anti-speeding measures – NCC have been sent another email requesting this urgently, all Cllrs were copied into the email.

4.14.2 New seat has arrived, (presently at Leafields), Trevor Golightly will be siting it soon.

- 7.5 Public Participation –

Ann Porter came to speak to the Parish Council regarding Quakers Hole and the Wetlands.

It was agreed that Ann, and some volunteers, would draw up a survey of the wetlands to compare the original survey from 2006 to assess the variants and the best way forward with some clear evidence.

At this stage, this would not be a management plan (MP), although that was what was requested by Ann. The MP would help to create a long term structure for the area, if many people retired from the PC then there would still be a plan of action for the care of this important site.

Quakers Hole has recently received £100 from the Henry Bell Trust, which is to be banked in the Wetlands Bank Account. If a MP is to be drawn up in the future, it was suggested this money could be used for that.

Discussions took place regarding the trees along the road, which will require some maintenance.

- 7.6 Neighbourhood Plan – Varied strong opinions within the group present, it was agreed to do nothing until Roger Rutherford and more members of the PC are present.

- 7.7 Correspondence – Northumberland Town and Parish Council Climate Change Toolkit booklet

- 7.8 Finance

- 7.8.1 Invoice Whitley Chapel Village Hall Hire - approved - £45

Austin Iliffe - Licenses for Jubilee – 2x£21 = £42

Marge Rastall jubilee costs:

Marquee hire £250 + Display boards £180 = £430

Rosettes 75 large and 75 smaller - £221.20 from Richardsons Rosettes.

Gill Whatmough jubilee costs - £47.60

Play Inspection - £83.40

Building / maintenance work at Dukesfield Arches –

Doonans £360

Heritage Consolidation £9369

7.8.3 Balances as at 8th July 2022

Treasurer's Account	£16,559.13
Sportsfield Account	£1,793.54
Dukesfield Account	£12,601.48
Wetlands Account	£996.37

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

7.10 Planning

- Construction of an arena at Rowley Head farm has ceased until full planning and retrospective planning has been received.
- Alex Campbell, planning enforcement Officer for NCC, has been made aware of the building at Low Rawgreen but no comments have been received from NCC
- Hardcore that has been delivered to Rushwood has been reported to the Planning Enforcement Officer for NCC

7.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

7.11.1 North Water have been informed about the water next to the Clickem' Inn corner

7.11.2 Repairs to potholes have been notified to NCC

7.12 Reports

Wetlands –

Councillor Rastall has secured 30 Silver Birch, Cherry trees from the Woodland Trust.

The Alder saplings have been heeled and will need to be planted in appropriate places next autumn, Some maybe planted in the Wetlands, some in the willow area, we will need to purchase proper full stakes and guards for all trees being planted.

Bird Hyde steps need some fairly urgent repairs, Jonny White to speak to John Dent from St Helens Gate who has offered to help.

Grazing for wetlands has been given to Juliet Rogers for her Exmoor Ponies.

Dukesfield Arches – The remedial work at the Arches is now complete and has been signed off by Tristan Spicer. The invoices have now been received from Heritage Construction Ltd and Doonan Architects. Greg has discussed with both companies, and been down to see the finished work. Greg is happy to recommend the approval of payment. We budgeted £10,440 (ex VAT) for the full work including the original condition report and tendering process, but it has come in at £9,307.50 (ex VAT). We have received a £400 grant towards this from the Henry Bell Trust.

School – new headmistress has been appointed and starts in September.

Hall - new windows in meeting room.

Sportsfield – Matt has been given the Inspection of Play Equipment Report to look at and decide if anything needs addressing.

7.14 **Any Other Business**

- 7.14.1 Suggested that a letter of thanks – or similar be sent to Andrew Wylie who has served the community as a very well loved postman for many years.
- 7.14.2 Lights on the Church Path, this seems to have ‘dropped off’ the minutes and is still very much on-going. Alison to speak to Church Council.
- 7.14.3 Jonny White requested that the PC purchase Microsoft Office software – but it was suggested that he look at the options to purchase a Laptop for Parish Work.
- 7.14.4 Tyne Rivers Trust are having another day of pulling up the Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) at Dyehouse Wood at 10am on 16 July 2022.

Meeting closed at 9pm