

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 13th October 2022
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

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

10.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 8th September 2022

It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

- 10.3 Declarations of interest – No Declarations of Interest.

10.4 Matters Arising

- The Plaque for the ammunition shelter has now been placed.
- Lee and Nicola volunteered to work together on creating the information board that Christopher Porter suggested at the September meeting. They will contact Christopher to acquire the grant information that he has already worked on.

10.5 Northern PowerGrid Grant

Nigel Fisher, from Northumberland County Council's Civil Contingency Team, attended to provide more information regarding the grant being offered by Northern Powergrid, to support community winter resilience. He suggested using a hub and spoke model, with one central hub and several others around the parish. The grant is currently capped at £20,000 per council, though that may change. Nigel emphasised the need for haste, as the scheme is currently in a 'soft-opening' phase, and applications will take a lot longer to process once the scheme fully opens in November. Thus, the council will endeavour to research and price resources and assess what risks may affect the area, to complete the application by the end of the month. The hall trustees will also need to be involved, as the hall is intended to be used as a 'warm space', in the event of a storm. This will require the hall to be generator-ready and have a safe storage space for fuel.

Austin Iliffe is organising getting the hall equipped with solar panels and batteries through CAN.

Whitley Chapel parish hall is one of three already chosen to receive funding for panels.

In terms of private water supplies that depend on electric supply, Nigel explained that NpG is not responsible, but the county council is trying to get Northumbrian Water to help.

10.6 Public Participation

The council agreed that the 'Friends of the Wetland' group can have more input in the management of the site, acting according to the plan they proposed.

Anne Porter advised that planting the 30 trees that the council is due to receive in November may prove difficult as the current state of the edge of the wetland is full of bramble and large trees, which would need to be removed by a professional. Marge will contact Tim Caulder about clearing the site and planting is to be organised after he is consulted. The 'Friends' group is happy to be involved with the planting.

The alders will be dug up next spring and given to the council. The deadline to plant the trees is the end of March. With the clearing area being on the roadside, there may need to be some form of protection on the road. The Willow group is happy to take some of the alder, possibly 30.

10.7 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

Colin sent his apologies for not attending; however, he relayed news that the grant for the parish hall toilets is still underway.

10.8 Correspondence

An email was received from Northumberland County Council, informing the parish council of a 'Call for sites' under the 'Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan'. It was decided that no action would be taken in this regard.

Another email was received from Professor Harry Bradbury, asking the council not to support the proposed project by Thompsons at Anick to collect sand and gravel from the River Tyne. As this issue did not affect our area, the council chose to take no action.

An advert for the purchase of a remembrance statue was sent to the council. However, due to the cost, and limited exposure that such a statue would receive, the council declined the offer at this time.

10.9 Finance

10.9.1 2x £750: invoices from Galbraith for annual rental of the Sportsfield. £3000 will need to be moved from the general account to accommodate this payment, and the ongoing maintenance costs. One payment is for this year, the other for 2020, which had not been paid at the time.

£67.50: Hall Invoice, for hire of the meeting room for parish council meetings.

£40: Edward Robson Online Servicing, maintenance and updating of Hexhamshire website.

10.9.2 Balances as of 7th October 2022

Treasurer's Account	£18,644.43
Sportsfield Account	£1,793.70
Dukesfield Account	£3,290.48
Wetlands Account	£996.45

10.10 Planning

Ref: 22/01040/LBC Turf House: GRANTED

Ref. No: 22/03464/FUL: Stable Cottage – Council Supports.

10.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

Some, but not all, potholes along Leazes Lane have been filled in.

Footpaths: Duncan Lovatt has been contacted, regarding the repairs to footpaths located around Moss House, noted last month, but he is yet to reply.

BOATS: Large amount of rubbish seen in forests. Bikers still using the BOATS, despite the gates being in place.

10.12 Reports

Wetlands:

All activity regarding the wetlands is noted above.

Dukesfield Arches: -

School: -

Hall:

Plans to equip the hall with a generator are in motion, and the council is to liaise closely with the hall trustees.

Sportsfield: -

10.13 Any Other Business:

A complaint was received regarding increasing amounts of dog poo in and around Whitley Chapel. The council kindly reminds dog owners to use the bins provided. A message will be relayed through the monthly notes in the Courant, and Castles and Coasts Housing Association will also be asked to circulate the message to their residents.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm.