

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 10th November 2022
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

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

- 11.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13th October 2022

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

- 11.3 Declarations of interest – No Declarations of Interest.

- 11.4 Matters Arising

- Sources of funding are to be investigated for the proposed information board. It was believed that parish councils cannot apply to the community chest scheme, so other avenues may need to be found. Cllr Colin Horncastle may have a fund that we could apply for, as it is classed as a capital item. Chair to investigate with Colin. Other sources could include the Henry Bell Trust.
- The 30 saplings have been delivered, and are currently being stored by Gill. The other trees around the edge of the wetland need to be removed first. Tim Caulder is to meet with Marge mid-November to survey the area.

- 11.5 Northern PowerGrid Grant

The grant has been submitted and we need to wait and see the results of this. Clerk contacted Austin Illife to get the involvement of the Hall Trustees and will meet with them to discuss the matter further.

- 11.6 Public Participation

- Christopher Porter attended the meeting and asked the council to disseminate information to the parish regarding the Community Environmental Group's online advent calendar. This environmentally friendly alternative to the traditional advent calendar includes photos and videos from local photographers, quizzes, craft ideas, and tips on saving money this Christmas.
- Christopher also raised the issue of the alders that were originally planted in the wetlands, but are now being stored over winter, and now require new homes. There was some disagreement as to who was responsible for the trees, but it was agreed that, ideally, the trees should remain in the Shire. Hence, Shire residents are to be given the first opportunity to claim the trees, and to be notified via the Shire notes. They should ideally be planted by the end of the year, or at the very latest, by March. Any remaining trees, that are not claimed by Shire residents, are to be donated to the Durham Wildlife Trust, as they are in need of replacement alders. The council has enough tree guards for the alders, though claimants will require their own stakes.

- 11.7 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

Colin relayed his apologies for not attending but delivered news that the grant for the Parish Hall toilets has been sorted. The details are being finalised with Dan Nixon. He also informed the council that the speed restrictions and road markings will begin very soon as the traffic regulation orders have been sorted.

11.8 Correspondence

The yearly precept form was received; this needs to be returned before Jan 27th.

11.9 Finance

11.9.1 Paint for the wetland bird hide. £16.03

11.9.2 Balances as of 2nd November 2022

Treasurer's Account	£13,831.65
Sportsfield Account	£4,793.78
Dukesfield Account	£3,308.72
Wetlands Account	£996.49

11.10 Planning

22/03883/FUL; Newbiggin Farm Cottage: Alterations to existing bungalow to add attic first floor with dormer windows together and construction of double garage. Council has no objections.

22/00880/FUL; Smelting Syke: Single Storey Extension: GRANTED

22/03620/FUL; East Greenridge, Lowgate: Retrospective construction of a wooden framed stable block. No objection.

22/04062/FUL; Stable Cottage Dotland Town Foot: Single storey extension. Council supports the application.

22/04043/MISC; Proposed caravan site at East Shawwood Farm.

Hexhamshire Parish Council strongly objects to this planning application. Firstly, the access to the site is unsuitable for caravans and other large vehicles, being a narrow single-track road. However, the main point of contention is the potential for noise, light and environmental pollution to a greenbelt site. The potential for fouling, rubbish, and damage to the land itself are wholly unwarranted, while the noise of generators and the residents themselves, combined with potentially permanent lighting, would prove to be an unnecessary nuisance for neighbours. Moreover, there are similar sites nearby that already fulfil the local need for caravanning. Additionally, it is the council's understanding that the owner of the land does not permanently reside on the land, going against the terms of such a venture. There are also concerns regarding drainage on the site.

Clerk is also to inquire with the county council as to the planning situation regarding the 'arena' at Rowley Head.

11.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

Footpaths: Still no reply from Duncan Lovatt, regarding repairs to footpaths in the area. Clerk will contact him again.

Two road closures announced for December:

- TTRO 131015226: between Dalton and Dipton Mill, from 7th to 9th December for carriageway overlay.
- TTRO 131024130: the majority of the racecourse road will be closed between 5th and 9th December for resurfacing.

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

11.12 Reports

Wetlands:

John Dent has done an excellent job of painting the outside of the bird hide and will varnish the inside very soon. There is a rotten board on the side, though it might be best to leave for now. Varnish on the

inside is a lot more expensive. The council agrees to pay for varnish and to reimburse Christopher Porter for paint. John Dent has said that he is happy to do the foundations. It is suggested that he is paid for his time, perhaps £100 plus costs of materials.

The question of the usual payment from the RPA was also raised. Clerk is to ask Alastair Stevens about this.

Dukesfield Arches: -

School: -

Hall:

Toilet grant will be coming soon. Margaret Massey is donating a painting of pack ponies travelling over the moors to the hall. Christmas Fair will take place on 4th December.

Sportsfield: - The bonfire night was a success for the young farmers, though complaints were made regarding the volume of traffic and state of the road/field. Future guidance on managing the traffic flow was recommended for the young farmers.

11.13 Any Other Business:

Meeting closed at 9:10pm.