

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 12th January 2023
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

12.1 Present –Nicola Matthews (Chair), Roger Rutherford, Greg Finch, Davy Short, Gill Whatmough, Hilary Kristensen.
Clerk - Jonny White.

Apologies for Absence – Marge Rastall, Alison Tweddle, Ed Parker, Colin Horncastle (Councillor).

12.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 8th December 2022

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

A request was made to alter the wording in the previous minutes, and all those following, regarding the 'warm space' initiative, to avoid any confusion. Hence, the parish hall will instead be referred to as the 'resilience hub' when discussing the Northern Powergrid environmental emergency grant.

12.3 Declarations of interest – No Declarations of Interest.

12.4 Matters Arising

- Following the resignation of Lee Riley last month, enquiries have been made to find a new member. Said enquiries are on-going, and the public are advised to contact a member of the council, or the Clerk, should they wish to put their name forward.
- Brian Massey has asked to relinquish responsibility over maintaining a bench between Ordley and Newbiggin. The council would like to thank Brian for all of his care and attention over the years and will be sure to maintain the area going forward.

12.5 Northern PowerGrid Grant

A second, updated application has been submitted to the County Council. Following the quote, kindly received from Tom Kristensen, more detailed figures were given, detailing exactly what electrical work needs to be undertaken in the Hall. Particulars of the required generator were also given.

12.6 Public Participation

Anne Porter came to say that they have planted the woodland trust trees at the wetlands. However, because of the extreme weather (frost etc), some have suffered badly. These included 15 Silver Birch, 14 Rowan and 5 Wild Cherry trees.

John Dent has varnished the inside of the bird hide. The council will reimburse him.

Anne also informed the council that the verge project that the Hexhamshire, Slaley and Healey environmental group are hoping to move forward in the summer has received about 75% of its funding via the community chest. This project will involve a workshop in May to help people learn about wildflowers and how to protect them. Members of the North Pennines AONB will assist with the workshops. The verges will be selected based on their diversity and they will have signs put on them to protect them.

12.7 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

Colin could not attend this month's meeting.

12.8 Correspondence

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12.9 Finance

- RPA PAID: £449.94
- Bill from Tim Caulder for Arboreal work on the Wetlands: £900.
- It was agreed that £9000 will be claimed for the 2023 precept.
- A quote for the council's insurance renewal was received: £777.66. Approved, though invoice has not been sent yet.
- Invoice for hall rent, £67.50; approved.
- The cheque of £100 from the Henry Bell Trust was deposited.

12.9.2 Balances as of 9th January 2023

Treasurer's Account	£13,855.16
Sportsfield Account	£2,145.37
Dukesfield Account	£3,243.59
Wetlands Account	£996.83

12.10 Planning

- Stable cottage, Dotland: GRANTED.
- Newbiggin Farm: GRANTED.
- East Greenridge: GRANTED.
- Tom Speight from NCC working on Rowley Head enquiry.

12.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

Footpaths: Duncan Lovatt has been contacted, regarding the repairs to footpaths located around Moss House. He is looking into the site, and will determine whether the boardwalk by Moss House is still necessary, or whether it should be replaced. He will also look into the broken gate post at Lord's Lot.

BOATS: Large amount of rubbish seen in forests. Bikers still using the BOATS, despite the gates being in place. Davy Short will once again represent the Parish Council at a meeting about BOATS and the trashing of Slaley forest on Monday 16th January.

Roads: The council has invited John Riddle, the county councillor with cabinet responsibility for local services, which includes roads, to come and discuss the condition of the roads in our area. The stretch around the Dipton Mill is of particular concern. He has accepted said invitation and a meeting will be scheduled in due course.

12.12 Reports

Wetlands: Woodland Trust trees planted.

Dukesfield Arches: - The domain name for the Dukesfield website was looked after by the Friends of the North Pennines. FOTNP has shut down and given the parish council the responsibility of the domain name. Jonny, as Clerk, is now the contact for the website. The domain will come up for renewal next year.

School: -

Hall: Meeting rooms being redecorated.

Sportsfield: -

12.13 Any Other Business:

Meeting closed at 8:30pm.