

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 11th May 2023
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

5.1 Present –Marge Rastall (Chair), Hilary Kristensen, Lauren Porteus, John Austin, Ed Parker, Nicola Matthews, Roger Rutherford, Gill Whatmough,
Clerk - Jonny White.

Apologies for Absence – Davy Short, Greg Finch, Colin Horncastle (Councillor).

5.2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13th April 2023

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

5.3 Declarations of Interest – No Declarations of Interest.

5.4 Matters Arising

- The council received a ‘Stage One’ response to its complaint against Northumberland County Council’s enforcement office for their lack of action concerning Rushwood. The ‘Stage One’ response simply detailed the reasons why action was not taken, reiterating earlier emails with the department. Judging said reasons to be unsatisfactory, the council will press forward with a ‘Stage Two’ complaint, in the hope that the enforcement office will look again into the matter.
- John Dent took the fallen cherry tree at Whitley Chapel down. The WI have provided a new tree, which was planted a few metres away from the old tree. They intend to put a plaque next to it to commemorate the king’s coronation.

5.5 Northern PowerGrid Grant

Payment for the generator has been approved. Tom Kristensen will collect the generator in the coming month. Supplies will only be bought after all electrical work has been completed in the hall, to ensure we have the funds to buy what is needed. Representatives from Northern Powergrid also came to the Shire to present the parish council with the cheque, and for a photo opportunity. They were given a tour of the hall and shown what the money will be spent on. Full details of their visit can be found in the Hexhamshire magazine (May edition) or on the Northern Powergrid website.

5.6 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

5.7 Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

No communications had been received by Colin Horncastle.

5.8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence

5.9.1 Finance

- NALC subscription: £172.81, Approved.
- Play Inspection invoice: £87.54, Approved.
- Clerk expenses: £40.95, Approved.
- Generator: £10,554, Approved.

5.9.2 Balances as of 5th May 2023

Treasurer's Account	£16,244.41
Sportsfield Account	£2,164.41
Dukesfield Account	£4,988.55
Wetlands Account	£667.03
Resilience Account	£17,490.30

5.10 Planning

- The Caravan Club at Guards Lane have pulled out and will not be using the field. This may be, in large part, due to the high number of complaints received against the endeavour.
- 23/01504/FUL: The Birks: Conversion of barns into private dwelling with extension to the south. No objections
- 23/00277/FUL: Lee Nook Farm: Construction of an agricultural workers cottage: GRANTED
- 23/00885/VARYCO: Variation to planning at Newbiggin: GRANTED

5.11 Highways, footpaths and BOATS

Footpaths: - The broken boardwalk at Moss House is still there, but is due to be removed shortly.

BOATS:

Roads:

The ditch next to the graveyard in Whitley Chapel was cleaned out by the county council. They did a thorough job, which should help alleviate the water damage to that section of road. However, nothing can be done about the spring water emanating at the corner. Pot holes have also been filled towards the top of the Shire, though the cattle grid which was mentioned last month is still in need of repair. Two large holes outside of the parish hall and school will be reported to the council, as they pose a danger to school traffic.

5.12 Reports

Wetlands: Gill put an advert on Facebook for the grazing. Juliet Rogers acquired the occupancy until September.

Dukesfield Arches: No reports.

School: School children came to the WI pop-up café in the parish hall and sang to customers to mark the coronation.

Hall: The WI's pop-up cafés have been a huge success, including one for the Kings' coronation.

Sportsfield: The new net has been installed in the tennis court. The nets on the basketball hoops will be removed. A charge is to be put in place for using the Sportsfield for events, to help cover the costs of maintaining the space.

Use of the field will incur a charge of £50 per event. Discounts may be available for Shire residents or repeated usage. No cars are to be allowed on the grass.

5.13 Any Other Business:

A plaque will be made, dedicated to Alison Tweddle, to be placed on a bench near Newbiggin.

Meeting closed at 8:50pm.