

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

1. Present – Marge Rastall (Chair), John Austin, Gill Whatmough, Roger Rutherford, Nicola Matthews; Hilary Kristensen, Ed Parker, Susanna Nixon (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence – Lauren Porteous, Colin Horncastle (County Councillor) & Davy Short.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 09<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

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

3. Declarations of Interest – None.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Verges:

- The verges are overgrown and desperately need cutting (save for the few identified which are to be protected) It is of high concern that it has become a health & safety issue, and this will be raised with the County as a high priority matter.

4.2 Rushwood complaint:

- No further action has been taken on formal complaint. Colin Horncastle was to follow up, but this has not been reported back. Parish Clerk will reach out to Colin for information.

5. Resilience Hub

5.1 The work on the fuse board and the Electrical Compliance Report have now been completed. Invoice to be submitted.

5.2– The hall subcommittee will regroup in the coming weeks to put together the Users handbook / instructions.

6. Public Participation - None

7. Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

7.1 - Planning application at Guards Lane – Application withdrawn.

7.2. Cattlegrid at Westburnhope – The repairs have been completed.

7.3 Whitehall Chapel Junction – It was raised that Cllr Colin Horncastle did not mention the missing road markings at Whitehall Chapel junction. Hilary Kristensen reported the matter on fix my street and works will be done in the next 14 days.

- 7.4 Lilswood Caravan Park – The council intend to write to the Head of planning at NCC to complain about the lack of enforcement of planning conditions at Lilswood Caravan site.

8. Correspondence - The playground inspection report and invoice were circulated and are to be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Finance

£99 for playground inspection.

9.1 Balances as of 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024:

Treasurer's Account	£16468.30
Sportsfield Account	£2,099.88
Dukesfield Account	£5,366.21
Wetlands Account	£1,192.55
Resilience Account	£7,027.55

9.2 Agar Forms – The Parish Council accounts are open to public inspection as of June 17<sup>th</sup> 2024.

10. Planning–

24/01685/FUL - Erection of a new agricultural building for the housing of livestock, building up the existing ground levels and provision of hardcore surrounding the building to allow for machinery movements Land West Of Windy Hill Farm Hexham Northumberland. – No objection

Concern was expressed over the severe damage to the road through flooding and the heavy lorry traffic. A communication would be sent to the planning department and copied to the Highways Department about these concerns along checking whether a valid tipping licence had been issued from the Environmental Agency.

23/04491/LBC – Mollersteads.- Passed.

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1. Highways, footpaths and BOATS

**Footpaths/BOATS:** - No reports.

**Roads:**

Highways

11.1 Rennys Barn – Hilary Kristensen offered to go and take photographs of previously discussed concerns raised about the stability of the road. This will be reported via Fix my street.

12. **Reports**

Wetlands: The fencing repairs have been completed. Juliet Rogers has taken on the tenancy for grazing May – September.

Dukesfield Arches: Greg Finch reported that the arches are in good condition but will need to have the grass strimmed shortly.

Sportsfield: No reports.

School:

The Septic tank issue was raised with regards to a high quote for repairs. Whitley Chapel School would need to raise 10% of £260,000.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion was required to confirm the septic tank can continue as it is.

A for a report from the school will be taken it to Cllr Colin Horncastle needed to be discussed further. This inspection has now taken place and can confirm that the tank and pipes have been cleaned and are in good order.

90% of £260k will be covered by the diocese for the new tank that can meet the needs of both the school and hall. Fundraising by the school is ongoing.

Mrs North announced she will be stepping down as Head Teacher, and Mr Boucetla has finished his time as acting Head. Mrs A Haywood the Head Teacher at Slaley First School has taken on the role on a shared basis between Slaley First School and Whitley Chapel.

13. Any Other Business:

Hexhamshire garden trail takes place on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – raffle tickets are now available

The concern of high speed vehicles on the country lanes was raised by Hilary Kristensen. Hilary Kristensen and Gill Whatmough are going investigate signage warning drivers of cyclists, horse riders and any other vulnerable road users.

*Meeting closed at 9pm.*