

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 10th April 2025
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

1. Present – Marge Rastall (Chair), John Austin, Nicola Matthews, Gill Whatmough, Hillary Kristensen, Davy Short, Lauren Kristensen, Greg Finch, Susanna Nixon (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence – County Cllr Colin Horncastle , Roger Rutherford, Ed Parker

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13TH March 2025 – Approved
3. Declarations of Interest – None
4. Matters Arising

4.1 - Lilswood Caravan Park complaint

Cllr Colin Horncastle although not present, emailed an update stating that work had supposedly commenced to remedy the enforcement issues which will be followed up by a visit from the Enforcement Officer. If works were not done, legal action will be taken. The Parish Council however feel this is a step backwards and are now concerned that the matter is not being dealt with accordingly and could fall outside the time frame in which the Council can act.

4.2 – Verge Cutting – The Parish Council will request that all verges are cut this year throughout the Parish. The last 2 years whilst trying to support wildflower growing in the verges, has caused issues and not been done correctly despite efforts. The verges not cut pose a danger to road users, be it those walking, horse riding, and driving. As a matter of health and safety the decision was made to cut all verges.

5. Public Participation - None

6. Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor

Cllr Colin Horncastle was not present but reported that a lot of correspondence has happened regarding the Windy Hill road condition, and he will be having a site visit soon.

7. Resilience Hub

Angela Watt from the County Council kindly spoke with Susanna Nixon and discussed the process of opening the Resilience Hub during a power outage. The meeting was informative, and more discussions will follow to support the Parish Council.

8. Correspondence

8.1 – Footpath Access across the Wetlands, FP525/010.

Duncan Lovatt, the Area Countryside Officer has agreed to a site meeting at 11am on Wednesday May 14th to discuss the matter.

9. Finance

9.1 – AGAR notification of the annual Audit report has been received to be completed in May.

9.2 - Zen invoice for Website hosting £151.06 - Approved

10. Planning Applications - None

11. Highways, footpaths and BOATS

11.1 – Potholes at Dalton Bridge have worsened and will be reported on Fix My Street

11.2 – Bridleway 525/039, Whitehall. Impassable bridge. County Council will be contacted to repair the bridge which is impassable and poses danger to both horse and rider.

12. Reports

12.1 School - None

12.2 Wetlands – The works at the Bird hide have been completed. A great job has been done by the team at Northumbrian Water working with United Living.

12.3 Hall – The Northumbria Water team completed the gravel path behind the hall and the works have been done to a very high standard.

12.4 Dukesfield Arches – Although retiring as a councillor next month, Greg Finch has kindly agreed to continue managing the sales and monies from the books on behalf of the Parish Council.

12.5 Sportsfield & Play Area – It was reported that there were nails and other sharp objects left in the area of the bonfire on the Sportsfield. This will be reported to Whitley Chapel Young Farmers who are responsible for cleaning up the area after their annual bonfire.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 – Rosettes were presented to Hilary Kristensen, Greg Finch and Davy Short as it was their last meeting before stepping down. They were thanked for their contributions over their years (which between them is 90 years worth!) and will be a miss at the monthly meetings.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm