

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 08th May 2025
in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

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

Apologies for Absence – County Cllr Colin Horncastle , Lauren Kristensen

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 10TH April 2025 – Approved

3. Declarations of Interest – Gill Whatmough declared interest on the wetlands ditch issue.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 - Lilswood Caravan Park complaint

Cllr Colin Horncastle although not present, emailed an update stating that the planting scheme had been implemented and would be removed from the enforcement issues. Concerns were raised that the works done had not been done properly and an email will be sent and sent to the relevant parties in relation to this. The issue of the caravans not being painted remains, and the enforcement officer will do site visit soon to see what the situation is.

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

7.1 – Generator service – This will be discussed at the next Hall meeting, and will probably be done in Autumn before the winter.

8. Correspondence

8.1 – Resignation of Mrs R Marlee from doing the Hexham Parish notes published in Hexham Courant – we are saddened to hear that Ruth has decided to step down. Therefore, there is now a vacancy for someone to write notes about the Parish to be published in the Hexham Courant. This vacancy will be published in the parish magazine and on the website/Facebook page. Please contact either Susanna Nixon at hexhamshire.parish@yahoo.com or Marge Rastall at rastallmarge@gmail.com if you are interested.

8.2 – Wetland Grazing – Summer grazing let was agreed. It was discussed and decided that next year, the grazing will be advertised in March, with a deadline of March 31st and a decision will be made by the Parish Council in the April meeting ready for the grazing to commence on May 01st.

9. Finance

9.1 – Software Accounts package proposal £16 pcm - Approved

9.2 – Invoice from Edward Robson to be paid - £50 approved

10. Planning Applications - None

11. Highways, footpaths and BOATS

11.1 Faulty Flashing Sign East of Whitley Chapel – It has been advised that a site visit will happen soon.

11.2 – Dalton Bridge potholes will be reported again on Fix My Street.

12. Reports

12.1 Wetlands – A problem with the Ditch and drainage has been reported. The ditch on the wetland side has filled with silt and bushes which need to be cleared so water can flow down it. It has been proposed that Matthew Hope will undertake the work, and the Wetlands will pay for the works to be done.

12.2 Hall – Cut padlock on Fuel Tank – A suspected fuel theft attempt occurred with the padlock to the oil tank was cut. CCTV will be discussed at the next Hall meeting.

12.3 School – None

12.4 Dukesfield Arches – None

12.5 Sportsfield & Play Area – There was a complaint made about the net on the tennis court. This was looked at, and it was concluded that it is in working order. It has been found that rocks are being thrown onto the tennis court causing damage to the wall. A sign has been proposed to go up at the court, reminding those who use it, it is a Sports Area, and vandalism will not be tolerated.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 – Gill Whatmough asked David Flatman if he would be able to offer support and maintenance on the Wordpress website for the Parish Council. He has agreed to look into it.

13.2 – Gill Whatmough proposed that Mary Macklon was awarded for her dedication to the local walk group after hanging up her boots.

Meeting closed at 8.41pm