

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

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

Apologies for Absence – Lauren Kristensen, Edward Parker, County Cllr Colin Horncastle

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th June 2025 – Approved after amendment to 11.2. Delete from “to propose” etc and change to, “The footpath on the definitive map currently goes through the willow area. Duncan Lovatt from NCC said he would monitor the route from the stile, along the fence separating the wetland from the willow (on the wetland side) and if it did not become overly boggy in winter, he would consider proposing that the footpath be legally diverted. In any event they will replace the stile with a spring loaded gate.”
3. Declarations of Interest – NONE
4. Matters Arising - None
5. Public Participation - Mr Chris Porter attended to discuss the Tyne Rivers Project. A post will be erected at the Wetlands, and a QR code attached for those who wish to scan the QR code and upload photographs they take, or see those that have been taken of the site. The Parish Council agreed to set aside £250 of wetlands funds until 31 March 2026, and if the project goes ahead within the time frame, the £250 will be donated towards the cost of the project. It is recognised that it is a community project that will also benefit those at the local school. Mr Lewis Short attended to ask for a donation towards a new Log Cabin for the Forest school. A sum of £6000 is to be raised to cover the costs. The Parish Council agreed to donate £500 for the project.

6. Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor – Cllr Colin Horncastle was not in attendance.

7. Resilience Hub

7.1 –The fitting of the generator is to be re-assessed as it is not possible to refill it with diesel in it's current position.

8. Correspondence

8.1 – Mrs R Marlee kindly wrote in to say that if anyone were interested in writing an article about the local area for the Hexham Courant that she would gladly support them in doing so.

8.2 – Annual playground report indicated various repairs were needed. An estimate would be sought from Rick Horton. If necessary the most urgent repairs would be targeted. Gill Whatmough would arrange to meet with Mr Horton to go through the report.

8.3 - Lloyds bank are going to compensate the Parish Council due to an error in their security system, enabling payments to be made without double signatory conformation.

9. Finance

9.1 – Invoice for the Sportsfield Annual Inspection report of £113.94. Agreed to be paid.

9.2 - AGAR Annual return & Certificate of Exemption was APPROVED and will be online at www.hexhamshire.org.uk for public viewing from July 13th 2025.

10. Planning Applications

10.1 - 25/02179/FUL Construction of 3 bedroom stone built dormer bungalow style agricultural workers dwelling. Land west of Salmonfield. SUPPORTED

10.2 – 25/001621/LBC Listed building consent for alterations to internal layout, Clickem House. SUPPORTED.

11. Highways, footpaths and BOATS

No outstanding issues.

12. Reports

12.1 Wetlands – A donation of £250 will be given to the Tyne Rivers Trust project. Mr Porter will report by October to confirm whether the project is going ahead.

12.2 Hall – A new bank of additional batteries have been installed to save even more of the power generated by the solar panels.

12.3 School – A £500 donation will be made to the school to go towards costs of the new log cabin. The school will be hosting Forest school sessions on a weekly basis from the beginning of the new school year in September.

12.4 Dukesfield Arches – The sad news of the passing of Ian Forbes, who was project chairman for the Dukesfield Arches project, was received. The Chair will send our condolences to Greg Finch for the loss of his colleague.

12.5 Sportsfield & Play Area – The report was received for the playground inspection. There were no major repairs required, but it was agreed that small tasks should be undertaken each year so as to maintain the equipment and avoid heavy costs all at once.

13. Any Other Business

13.1- Northern Powergrid Foundation Project has requested information relating to expenditure towards setting up the resilience hub.

13.2– Susanna Nixon (Clerk) informed the Parish Council of her resignation, which was accepted. The job role will be advertised with the closing date set for August 08th 2025.

Meeting closed at 9.32pm