

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 11th September 2025 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

1. Present – Marge Rastall (Chair), John Austin, Nicola Matthews, David Flatman, Roger Rutherford, Edward Parker, County Cllr Colin Horncastle.
2. Apologies for Absence – Gill Whatmough, Lauren Kristensen.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 10th July 2025 – Approved
4. Declarations of Interest – None
5. Matters Arising –
 - 5.1 Lilswood Caravan site – Fencing has now been erected, which will protect the trees planted as a planning condition. NM to chase Alex Campbell for an update about the remaining breach of conditions, including the colour of certain units.
 - 5.2 Land East of Shawwood Farm, Guards Lane – proposed agricultural shed. Amended plans have been uploaded onto NCC planning portal which suggests the planners may have advised the Applicant about alterations, to enable permission to be granted, despite numerous objections.
6. Public Participation - None
7. Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor
 - 7.1 Windy Hill farm lorries and road damage Cllr Colin Horncastle said several site visits had been made by NCC officers. To date the material being deposited has been within the planning permission, but

extra appears to be in the process of being deposited, which will require further planning permission. CH will speak to Alex Campbell, NCC Planning Enforcement Officer, in this regard. CH will also speak to Andy Olive, NCC Highways, about requesting some money for the necessary highway repairs from the landowners. Nothing can be done about the convoy of wagons delivering the materials. It was suggested that in the future, planning conditions should be added to similar planning permissions to limit the frequency of wagons and to require adjacent road repairs to be paid funded by the Applicant.

7.2 Bridge between Whittonstall and Ebchester – will be closed from 21 Sept for 8 weeks for essential repairs.

7.3 Solar farms – Application for an 270 acre farm in Whittonstall has been rejected. Further applications at Fourstones are pending.

7.4 NCC Budget - £20m of savings have to be found. Staff are invited to apply for voluntary redundancies.

7.5 Immigration – Any asylum seekers in our area are dealt with by central government, not NCC, but NCC do have responsibility for approximately 600 refugees from Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan. Their housing needs are assessed on the same basis as local residents. They also have an impact on education and social services. Illegal immigrants live undercover, and their number is unknown.

8. Resilience Hub

Tom Kristensen is to relocate the generator next week as it is not possible to refill it with diesel in it's current position. Ross Henderson is to service the generator imminently.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Class Q Guidance for planning consent – Cllr Horncastle sent an email dated 12 August, providing this useful information.

9.2 Tree felling will take place on Eastgate, Hexham from 30/10/25 to 3/11/25 and traffic will be managed by traffic lights.

9.3 Letter from NCC about a Parish & Town Councils Meetings – John Austin is to attend.

9.4 Letter from NCC about Local Transport Plan - we can nominate 3 roads in the parish to be considered for repairs over the next three years. Deadline is 17th October.

10. Finance

10.1 – Lloyds Bank Complaint – The written response from Lloyds is unacceptable and GW is to raise the complaint with the Financial Ombudsman.

10.2 Internal Thermal Camera – This is to be purchased at a cost of £355 plus VAT, as a requirement of the grant funding provided by Northern Powergrid. When received, the ability to borrow will be advertised to parishioners via Facebook, website and the parish magazine.

11. Planning Applications

11.1 - 25/02179/FUL Land west of Salmonfield. Application for bungalow has been withdrawn.

11.2 – 25/001621/LBC Clickem House Listed building consent for alterations to internal layout has been approved.

12. Highways, footpaths and BOATS

No outstanding issues. Parishioners seem happy that Dalton Bridge has been repainted blue.

13. Reports

13.1 Wetlands – Nothing to report.

12.2 Hall – A new boiler is to be purchased as the existing boiler is irreparable.

12.3 School – The school is now part of a Federation with Slaley school, partly as a result of falling numbers at both schools. This means there will now be one combined governing body.

12.4 Dukesfield Arches – Nothing to report.

12.5 Sportsfield & Play Area – Rick Horton has been requested to carry out repairs as per his quotation. Work will begin shortly.

14. Any Other Business

14.1- Nomination – National World Events – people in the community can be nominated for awards.

14.2– Parish Clerk vacancy – no applicants so far, so advertising will continue.

14.3- Hexham Courant Correspondent – no one has come forward so far, so a volunteer is still being sought.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm