

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 14th November 2024 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

1. Present – Marge Rastall (Chair), John Austin, Nicola Matthews, Davy Short, Edward Parker, Susanna Nixon (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence – Lauren Kristensen, Hilary Kristensen Greg Finch, Roger Rutherford, Councillor Colin Horncastle

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 11th October 2024. – Approved

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1 Lilswood Caravan Park complaint:

In response to a letter from the Parish Council to Northumberland County Council, it was reported that no unauthorized lighting was found at the site after a visit from the Planning Enforcement Officer. Dissatisfied with the response, the Parish Council will conduct another letter explaining that, if the site was visited in the daytime hours, the lights would not be visible as they are on during the nighttime hours. The Parish Council will also ask for information on the progress of the other Legal notices that are due to be served.

5. Public Participation – None

6. Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor – Councillor Horncastle was not present.

7. Resilience Hub –

The generator will be run in the coming days to make sure it is running ok. 4 Air beds and an air pump were purchased.

8. Correspondence –

8.1 Damage to the roadside at Dye House – A report was received by the council from Martyn Farrer of the verge side potentially collapsing into the garden of Rowley Burn at the Dye House/Juniper corner. The Highways Improvements Team were contacted and responded to the report stating that the Highways Improvements Team is looking into potentially installing some reflective bollards along the section reported, to prevent vehicles from cutting the corner.

8.2 Whitley Chapel Village Hall booking contact – After several years on the Hall Committee, Gill Whatmough has stood down as the Hall booking contact. Colin Scales has taken on the role.

9. Finance

9.1 Invoice of £53.94 for the 4 airbeds purchased for the Parish Hall was approved.

10. Planning- 24/03901/FUL Land East of Shawwood Farm Guards Lane Hexham.

The Parish Council object. Reasons for this are the size of the shed is an excessive size for the acreage and the proposal of construction.

11. Highways, footpaths and BOATS –

11.1 The road from the Dipton Mill Pub junction up to Shield Green Nursery needs the Passing Place constructed and there are concerns with the recurring issues of flooding during periods of heavy rain fall. This will be reported on Fix My Street.

11.2 Grit piles – A reminder will be sent to Northumberland County Council asking that Grit Piles are available around the Parish.

11.3 Embeley Fell gate – A gate has been damaged by what appears to be those using the route illegally. As a result, the gate has been damaged. The matter will be reported on Fix My Street.

11.4 Roadside Obstruction at Whitehall Junction – Some parishioners have raised concern about the parking of tractors and trailers on the verges at Whitehall junction. Sometimes cars approaching the junction cannot be clearly seen, and as the junction becomes icy in the winter, there is a fear of vehicles colliding with the large pieces of equipment. The Parish Clerk will forward a letter on behalf of the Council to those concerned.

Footpaths/BOATS:

12. Reports

Wetlands: Northumbrian Water have offered to do work as compensation for disruption caused by road closures to a project chosen by the Parish Council. It was decided the Bird Hide at the wetlands would be the choice of project. Northumbrian Water anticipate they can complete the works before Christmas.

Dukesfield Arches: None

Hall: Solar Panels have successfully been fitted to the Hall roof.

The annual Christmas Fayre will be held December 08th 2024.

Sportsfield: None

School: None

13. Any Other Business:

Meeting closed at8.45pm

