

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 11th October 2024 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

1. Present – Marge Rastall (Chair), John Austin, Roger Rutherford, Nicola Matthews, Hilary Kristensen, Lauren Kristensen, Davy Short, Greg Finch, Colin Horncastle (County Cllr) Susanna Nixon (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence – Edward Parker, Gill Whatmough

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th September 2024. – Approved

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1 Lilswood Caravan Park complaint:

Colin Horncastle advised Alex Campbell of NCC planning department has asked the legal department to prepare a Notice of Breach of Planning Conditions, which should be served on the owner of the Park in the next few weeks. He referred to conditions 3 (number of units) & 4 (colour of vans). He had no information about breach of condition 5 (planting of trees). There is no breach of condition 3. Marge Rastall will write to Alex Campbell to get clarification.

5. Public Participation – None

6. Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor – Councillor Horncastle explained that an error had been made in allowing a road closure from Hexham to the Racecourse Road for a cycle event on 27th October, when a TTRO was already in place for road repairs. The cycle event will still go ahead, so there will be no direct access to Hexham from the Dipton Mill on 27th October, and the road closure for road repairs will now take place between 11th – 15th November.

7. Resilience Hub –

The generator ran at the Parish Hall meeting for an hour, then cut out Tom Kristensen is due to look at it and Lauren Kristensen is to prepare instructions to run the machine. The idea to run the generator quarterly was approved by the hall committee. 4 single air beds and pump were approved for purchase at a price of £54.

8. Correspondence –

8.1. B4RN – The council emailed B4RN advising they could book the hall to hold a meeting for local people interested in a different internet service. No further correspondence has been received by the council on the matter.

8.2 Display Cabinet – A parishioner has mentioned that the display cabinet is not watertight. The council are already aware and advise that any documents displayed needed to be laminated to avoid water damage.

8.3 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, possibly caused by heavy traffic flow due to other road closures. Repairs have started on building the wall up on the roadside to make it clear for road users where the roadside is. The matter has been reported to the Highways Department and will also be reported on Fix My Street.

8.4 Website Domain – The website domain for the Dukesfield website expired after 10 years. It has now been resolved and renewed.

9. Finance

9.1 AGAR – This is now complete and the Completion Document along with the report from AGAR are available on the council website to view.

9.2 A payment of £143.88 for the 123 Domain website registration was approved.

9.3 Invoice of £67.50 for the Parish Hall room was approved.

10. Planning- None

11. Highways, footpaths and BOATS –

11.1 The missing signs for Dalton Bridge were reported on Fix My Street. Fix My Street stated the report was a duplicate and they were aware of the matter as it was reported in 2020 but no action has been taken.

11.2 The road between Stotsfold Lodge heading west to Kings Law cattle grid has been described as in a weakened state and potentially being further damaged with heavy rain fall causing it to slip into the ditch side. The matter will be reported on Fix My Street.

Footpaths/BOATS:

12. Reports

Wetlands: A meeting is to take place shortly with Northumbrian Water about repairs to the bird hide, which they have offered to do as compensation for disruption caused by road closures.

Dukesfield Arches: None

Hall: Solar panels are to be installed on the roof in the coming weeks. The precise date depends on the date of completion of legal paperwork.

A fundraising ceilidh is being held on Saturday 16th November. Tickets are £10 and available by emailing halltickets@outlook.com

Sportsfield: Hexhamshire Football team have returned to the football pitch. A price of £30 per match has been initially agreed but will need to be discussed and agreed by the whole team.

School: A Macmillan Coffee morning was held in aid of raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Research. A great morning was had by all involved and £135 was raised.

13. Any Other Business: None

Meeting closed at 9.12pm