

Minutes of the Meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 12th December 2024 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

1. Present – Marge Rastall (Chair), John Austin, Nicola Matthews, Ed Parker, Roger Rutherford, John Austin, Edward Parker, Davy Short, Hilary Kristensen, Gill Whatmough, County Cllr Colin Horncastle, Susanna Nixon (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence – Lauren Kristensen, Greg Finch

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

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Lilswood Caravan Park complaint-

No further information has been provided by the enforcement team as promised. Trees have been planted in line with the original landscaping planning permission as requested. There is dis-satisfaction from the parish council with the treatment from the enforcement team. Lighting, painting of the caravans and drainage still remains an issue. County Cllr Colin Horncastle will speak to the relevant parties involved with the case and update the Parish Council with information.

4.2 Roadside obstruction at Whitehall Junction – A letter was written on behalf of the Parish Council and posted to Mr Makepeace asking for the vehicles parked on the roadside at Whitehall junction to be moved, for fears of vehicles colliding with the large pieces of equipment in icy conditions. There has been no response from Mr Makepeace, and a vehicle remains on the roadside. A further letter will be sent to Mr Makepeace to make sure the letter was received and also inviting him to speak to the Parish Council.

5. Public Participation – None

6. Matters for discussion with the Unitary Councillor – Cllr Horncastle explained the Government would reveal the annual Budget for councils on December 19th 2024 and the county council doesn't know if they need to make further budget savings until then. Cllr Horncastle also said he would talk to the enforcement department on behalf of the parish council to help with the current issues of the Lilswood Caravan Park complaint.

7. Resilience Hub – Generator is now working. There was an issue with keys not the actual machine.

8. Correspondence – None

9. Finance

9.1 Matthew Hope's invoice of £2760 was approved for payment for the maintenance at the Sportsfield and Dukesfield Arches.

11. Highways, footpaths and BOATS –

11.1 The road from the Dipton Mill Pub junction up to Shield Green Nursery is in a shocking state and the Passing Place needs to be re-constructed. This was named as a Priority matter many months ago but no works have begun yet. Cllr Horncastle said he would chase the matter at the County Council on behalf of the Parish Council.

11.2 Flooding on corner at St Helens Gate has been reported on fix my street. Awaiting repairs for the blocked drain.

11.3 Road from Whitley Chapel to the Click'em Inn corner – the road surface is breaking up again. The road is often wet because there is a spring below it. The

spring needs to be attended to, then the road surface repaired. It will be reported on Fix My Street.

11.4 Sign needed at Moss House – To encourage walkers to please use the gate to find the public footpath. Walkers are mistaking the stile as the footpath, which wrongly leads them into a flooded field. Arrow signs will be installed on the stile to guide walkers to the footpath.

11.5 Grit piles – Some grit piles were replenished; however, another email will go to the Highways Department asking for more Grit delivered to the Shire, particularly the High Quarter.

Footpaths/BOATS:

Fewer 4x4's have been reported in the area.

12. Reports

Wetlands:

12.1 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 were hoping the works would be completed before Christmas but this is no longer possible.

12.2 Exmoor Ponies have come off the land now. A complaint was received that as the ponies stay was extended, they broke out into another field seemingly with more grass. Next year an electric fence will need to be installed to keep the ponies in securely.

Dukesfield Arches: None

Hall:

A successful Christmas fayre was held with 21 stalls attending.

Sportsfield & Play Area: Gill Whatmough will chase the football team for confirmation that they agree to pay £30 per match.

School: Ofsted inspection was held and now awaiting the official report. A Nursery opening day was held encouraging local families and families further afield to come and see what the school has to offer.

13. Any Other Business:

13.1 School Speed limit sign in Whitley Chapel – The flashing sign if travelling East into the village is still not working. It has been reported on numerous occasions. Cllr Horncastle has agreed to ask on behalf of the Parish Council what is being done to fix it.

Meeting closed at8.35pm