

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire and District Parish Council held at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall on Thursday 12th March 2009

1. Apologies for Absence

Anne Porter

Councillors Present: Brian Massey, Hilary Kristensen, Alison Tweddle, Davy Short, Malcolm Caisley, Andrew Nixon, Peter Trevelyan, David Trotter and Mike Linklater.

Unitary Councillor, Colin Horncastle and Mrs Phillipson, a member of the public were also present. A member of the press also attended the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Mike Beattie of ADAPT to the meeting.

2. Presentation by Mr Mike Beattie of Adapt

- 3.2.1 Mr Beattie introduced himself as Transport Manager for Adapt based in Hexham. Adapt is a registered charity established in 1991 with the aim of improving the quality of life for disabled and disadvantaged people.
- 3.2.2 Adapt operate a dial a ride system covering 6/7 routes as well as the normal school routes. The vehicles can also be used on a self drive basis and are regularly used by cub and scout groups. The Dial a Ride service operates by the passenger ringing the day prior to travel. They are informed on the morning of travel of the time they would be picked up. The driver assists with bags etc. There is a nominal charge for the journey of £2. Mr Beattie stated they Adapt did not want to get into competition with the private bus operators and if a route were to become potentially profitable they would inform the bus operators.
- 3.2.3 Adapt also operate a Wheels to Work Scheme which loans cars or scooters to the unemployed who have had an offer of employment but who are not able to get to their place of work by public transport. This operates on a 6 month to 1 year basis and had been funded by Tynedale Council and Castle Morpeth Council. Mr Beattie distributed information regarding this service. There was some doubt as to the source of future funding.
- 3.2.4 Adapt also offer Northumberland Link which is an opportunity for obtaining advice on a cross section of matters.
- 3.2.5 The Chairman thanked Mr Beattie for attending the meeting and for his informative talk. Mike Beattie can be contacted on 01434 606156. It was agreed that Adapt offer an excellent service.
- 3.2.6 Hilary Kristensen suggested that information regarding Adapt should be included in the Newsletter.

3.3 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th February 2009

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

3.4 Matters Arising

- 12.6.1 The Chairman reported that he had not heard from Michael Swanson.
- 13.3.2 It was reported that the wetlands report had appeared on the website.
- 2.7.2 It was reported that the cost for the extraordinary meeting would be included on the next invoice.
- 2.10.7 The Chairman reported that he had spoken with P.C. Ian Robinson regarding Farm Watch. Mr Robinson had agreed to come to give a talk at the next meeting. He also has had involvement with BOATs.
- 2.10.8 The Chairman had submitted a request to the County Council regarding suitable measures for traffic calming outside the school. To date there had been no response.
- 2.12.5 The P.C.C had not yet met to consider the request from the Parish regarding the filling in of the ditch alongside the Churchyard hedge..
- 2.13.1 The Chairman had invited a quotation from another builder.
- 2.13.2 The Chairman reported that there was some doubt as to whether funds would be available from the Developers Fund.
- 11.9.1 The Chairman reported that he had pursued the question of purchase, or renewal of the lease, of the sports field with Land Factor. He reported that the Diocese was not interested in selling or in entering into negotiations regarding the lease at this time. The agent for the Diocese had stated that the play equipment would have to be removed, if requested, at the end of the lease in 2014.

3.4.1 Provision of new mains water supply.

John Price is on a Risk appraisal Panel which will report back in April. The Chairman reported that he had discussed the matter in detail with Colin Horncastle. John Price had commented that the quotation was much higher than expected. It was reported that the County Council have 'preferred contractors. Mr Horncastle informed the Parish Council that the County Council have only one preferred contractor. The Chairman agreed to contact Mr Price again. Mr Horncastle reported that he would be meeting with Alison Johnson in the near future. The quote for work to be done was now £1.4 million. Colin Horncastle had enquired about the coloured water problem but had been advised that it was not a health risk. David Trotter enquired as to whether the County Council had informed their insurers of the risk. Davy Short advised that he had received a letter regarding a possible chlorine treatment plant option.

3.4.2 Parish Website.

The Chairman reported that the invoice for the development of the website had been received from Aaron Gardner for the amount of £500. It was agreed that this should be paid under a covering letter seeking clarification of the extent of work covered by the approved quotation. The Clerk was to find out what the training element of the invoice would entail.

The Parish Council was informed that Rob Gardner would now take over the maintenance of the website

Mike Linklater reported that he still had access concerns with the website.

3.4.3 Review of Electoral Arrangements.

The Chairman reported that an email had been received from Gary Pointer advising him that a review is taking place regarding the areas served by individual Unitary County Councillors. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the Boundary Committee regarding our request for an amalgamation of our two Parish Wards.

3.4.4 Play Area in Parish.

There had been a meeting and an email. Malcolm Caisley reported that all 13 may receive funding but as yet there had been no confirmation as to how much. Mr Caisley was not aware that there was any requirement regarding the length of lease in connection with the funds. There was some discussion as to whether it was appropriate to go ahead with obtaining grants if the lease was to end in 2014.

The general consensus was that it was appropriate. If the grant was secured it was suggested that Brian Massey, Malcolm Caisley and Dave Southern should meet with the Land Agent in connection with the lease. The Chairman reported that Dave Southern had made an excellent presentation.

3.4.5 Business Directory.

It was agreed that email addresses and additional information should be included where provided. The Chairman was to include an invitation for further information in the Newsletter.

3.4.6 There had been a very positive outcome in relation to the request for input from the Parish Council relating to re-lettings at St Helens.

Barry Moore had agreed to take the request to the Directors of Two Castles.

3.5 Public Participation

No matters were raised.

3.6 Matters for Discussion with Unitary and District Councillors

- 3.6.1 The Chairman reported on the demise of Tynedale Council at the end of the month.
- 3.6.2 Mr Horncastle stated that the District Councillors were going to be a big miss and he took the opportunity to thank Mr Massey for all his hard work in his capacity as District Councillor.

3.7 Correspondence

- 3.7.1 Documentation had been received from the NHS – Building a Caring Future – regarding the new hospital arrangements at Ashington. Any view could be made regarding these proposals.
- 3.7.2 ‘Narrowing the Gap’ a review of Education of Learning in Northumberland had been received from Northumberland County Council. Peter Trevelyan was to report back at the next meeting.
- 3.7.3 The following documents were given to Davy Short for perusal and acknowledgement of receipt was to be forwarded to NCC.
 - a) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Definitive Map Modification Order (No. 20) 2008.
 - b) Public Rights of Way. Creation of Extinguishment of Public Bridleway No. 3 Parish of Hexhamshire
 - c) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way Modification Order (No 20) 2008
 - d) Public Rights of Way, Diversion of Public Footpath No. 91, Parish of Hexhamshire.
- 3.7.4 A letter had been received from Tynedale Council enquiring as to whether there is a suitable site for a glass recycling facility in Hexhamshire. The Parish Councillors agreed not to pursue this.
- 3.7.5 A letter requesting a donation had been received from Tynedale Sports Council. It was agreed not to give a donation at this time but that the suggestion be made that they approach the Parish Council again in the future.

3.8 Financial Report

Treasurer’s Account - £1790.25
Savings Account - £10,500.70
Wetlands Account - £570.05

A cheque had been received from Jamie Williams to the amount of £52.50 in connection with use of the sports field. It was agreed that the use of the field by the football club was beneficial.

An invoice had been received for draining work for the wetlands and a cheque was raised to the value of £262.20 to D Short which was paid out of the wetlands account.

The budget for 2009/10 was discussed. It was agreed that the donation to CAN should be incorporated into the budget.

3.9. Planning Applications

Removal of condition no. 3 relating to planning permission 76/E/547 (Construction of a bungalow) dated 18/11/1976 – “The occupation of the Dwelling shall be limited to a person employed or last employed, locally in agriculture as defined in Section 290 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 or in forestry or a dependant of such a person residing with him (but Including a widow or widower of such a person) Oaklea Bungalow Steel Juniper Hexham Northumberland NE47 OLG

The Parish Council objected to the application. ‘Hexhamshire Parish Council strongly and unanimously objects to the removal of this condition. The applicant purchased this property in the knowledge of this covenant and circumstances have not since changed. It is considered that the removal of this condition would undermine the planning system re. agricultural dwellings’.

Construction of two orangeries
Fourways Bungalow Cooks House Hexham Northumberland NE46 2LQ

The Parish Council had no objections to the application.

‘Hexhamshire Parish Council has no objections to this change of use’.

Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations to allow change of use from bed and breakfast accommodation with first floor study to short stay self catering holiday/bed and breakfast accommodation
Dye House Chapel Steel Hexham Northumberland NE47 OLE

The Parish Council had no objections to the application.

‘Hexhamshire Parish Council has no objections to the change of use’.

3.10 Belonging Communities/Community Forums

- 3.10.1 Brian Massey and Malcolm Caisley had attended the meeting at Slaley. It was reported that monies were not available other than administration (including secretarial) for running the meetings. The feeling at the meeting had been that the rural Parish Councils would prefer to form a local rural Forum as there were shared problems and issues which were not always applicable to the more urban council. It was pointed out, however, that the Community Forum was a flexible entity depending on the issue at the time. It was pointed out that one Parish Council would need to take the lead in organising the Forum.

- 3.10.2 Davy Short asked if the members of the Forum were elected. The Chairman replied that there as there would be representatives from the Parish Council they would be elected and therefore responsible to the electorate. Colin Horncastle remarked that the Forums would be driven by the Parish Councils.
- 3.10.3 It had been agreed that meetings would be held at least four times a year.
- 3.10.4 It was agreed that a structure should be in place in case of the need for a meeting.
- 3.10.5 The Parish Council agreed to support the concept and the Chairman suggested that a report be brought back to the Parish Council after another informal meeting of the relevant Parish Councils.

3.11 Parish Plan

- 3.11.1 It was accepted that the people who had expressed an interest in volunteering to help in various ways within the community should be identified but not contacted.
- 3.11.2 It was suggested that there could be a table at the planned Open Day at the Parish Hall for those wishing to volunteer to express their interest. This could also be advertised in the press. .

3.12 Sportsfield

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Andrew Nixon was asked to supply a written quotaton for the cutting of the grass.

3.13 BOATs

- 3.13.1 It was reported that the cobbled ford at Gingleshaugh is in a very poor condition. It was agreed that David Brookes be invited to visit the site with Davy Short. Mr Horncastle and Mr Massey offered to attend the meeting with Mr Brookes.if available.
- 3.13.2 Liz Sobell would provide photographic evidence if necessary.

3.14 Reports

- a) Wetlands – no issues were raised.
- b) Hall – It was reported that the painter was working in the Hall at the present time. The last of the funds had come through and £50,000 had been received in total.
The Chairman thanked Malcolm Caisley for all his hard work in connection with the refurbishment of the Parish Hall.
- c) School – Mike Linklater reiterated his request for another representative to take over the post relating to the school. He confirmed that the post of Head of the school had been advertised.

3.15 Date of next meeting – 9th April 2009

3.16 Any Other Business

- 3.16.1 Colin Horncastle reported that the new Highways budget had now been set and that it had been better than expected.
- 3.16.2 Mr Horncastle reported that there is some emphasis on ditching being done. Andrew Nixon commented that educating those doing the work is paramount.
- 3.16.3 It was reported that the Eshells road is very poor.
- 3.16.4 Mr Massey requested that all highways problems be emailed to him. It was agreed that it was essential to keep reporting the problems to Highways.
- 3.16.5 It was agreed that letters be sent to Paul Pickworth and Janice Milburn to thank them for their work in cutting back branches. It was agreed that the work they had undertaken made a big difference.
- 3.16.6 It was reported that there is a big build up of rubbish at Rushwood. It was agreed that this was to be reported.
- 3.16.7 The Young Farmers had again done very well in the pantomime competition and had got through to the finals. A performance of the pantomime was to take place at Whitley Chapel on 27th March 2009. A letter was to be sent congratulating them on their performance.

As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed.