

HEDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.30pm in the Feather's Inn.

1. **Present:** Councillors R J Penny, D Rodgerson, F Speak, J Douglas, D M Watkins
Mrs M Senior, Clerk
2. **Apologies for Absence.** County Councillor Colin Horncastle
3. **Declarations of Interest.** None
4. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 12th May 2014 were approved and signed.
5. **Resolutions.** There were no resolutions to consider.
6. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman gave a comprehensive report dealing with parish activities in 2014/2015. A copy is attached to the minutes.
7. **Finance Report.** The clerk presented her report on the statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015. A copy was circulated to those present and is attached to this minute.
8. **Any other business.** None

Chairman_____

Date_____

HEDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report 2014/15

Another fairly uneventful year with only a small number of planning issues to deal with, and still the same issue year on year of dangerous state of the roads in our Parish. I wonder if the change in political climate following the recent General Election will have a positive influence on rural budgets. We continue to look at the apparently disastrous move of County services and administration away from Morpeth and especially Hexham with deep suspicion and continue to be irritated with the increasing levels of administrative burden which seem inappropriate for small councils of volunteers.

We look forward to continued support from our County Councillor, Colin Horncastle on fixing our issues, and ensuring that promises on timescales to repair our dangerous roads are upheld. Both Hedley and Stocksfield Parish Councils have been complaining about deep ruts alongside the West Hill route to Hedley for 3 years, and were assured that fixing this had priority status nearly 2 years ago. Still nothing has been done.

Thankfully the threat of coal extraction at Whittonstall has significantly reduced with the last minute withdrawal by UK Coal of their application to opencast the area, although it would have been better if it had been rejected as was expected.

Our Parish precept has remained fixed yet again at £4000, unchanged now for four years. Despite this zero change policy we still have a reasonable cash buffer which will allow for potential expenditure on items such as village green upkeep and drainage, and to keep the village in good repair. Our major expenditure is grass cutting at £2800, and we recently spent £450 on pruning and removal of some dangerous tree boughs. The grass cutting has been very successful in keeping the village looking tidy despite the relatively high cost.

The community fund set up by EDF to compensate for the Boundary Lane Wind Farm and from which Hedley can benefit has made a small grant to the Hedley WI and we expect other fundable projects to be submitted in the following year.

We now have a regular slot in NE43 News published by Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council and this newsletter is delivered quarterly to each household in the village.

Although we have an upgraded phone line installed to the village from the local cabinet in Stocksfield we are still too far away to receive the full benefit of the high speed internet connection which is now available from there. Accordingly, we have been supportive of initiatives which seek to deliver alternative wireless broadband services to the village.

Finally, in previous years, and despite the ridiculously mean allocation of gloves and sacks from Highways and Neighbourhood Services, we conducted a successful litter pick from the roadside verges in the Parish in April. Our thanks to the 20+ people from the village who attended.

Dr R J Penny
Chairman
11th May 2015

HEDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 1.4.2014-31.3.2015

EXPENDITURE	£	INCOME	£
Aviva Insurance General	279.85	Precept	4,000.00
		VAT	27.51
Northumberland Assoc of Local Councils	55.70	Grant	0.00
		Donation	0.00
Campaign to Protect Rural England	36.00		
Audit Fees	20.00		£4,027.51
Grass cutting	2,850.00		
Village Green	27.50		
Memorial	365.04		
Clerk salary - 2.5 hours per week	1,500.00	Accounts Book	£
Clerk's expenses	239.08	Brought forward 1.4.14	6,282.28
Newsletter	60.00	Income	4,027.51
Website	35.79	Sub Total	10,309.79
		Expenditure	5,934.65
		Carried forward 31.3.15	£4,375.14
Donations:		Bank reconciliation	£
Community Action Northumberland	50.00	Current Account	4,375.14
Great North Air Ambulance	100.00		0.00
Whittonstall Action Group	40.00		4,375.14
Hedley WI	200.00	Less outstanding chqs	0.00
Tynedale Hospice at Home	50.00	Total	£4,375.14
VAT	25.69		
TOTAL	5,934.65		