

Minutes of the March Meeting of **SHINCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL** held in Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham on **TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010** at **7.00 pm**.

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Hudson (in the Chair) and Councillors P Hudson, Lightley, Milburn, Morgan and Storer.

#### **158. NOTICE OF MEETING**

Public notice of the meeting was taken as read.

#### **159. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **160. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cook.

#### **161. POLICE MATTERS**

PC Cockburn attended the meeting and reported the following:

1. 19.2.10 - theft of a motor vehicle from Telford Close.
2. 3.3.10 – theft from a vehicle on Hall Lane, mobile phone taken from car.
3. 8.3.10 – Lead taken from a roof of a house on Low Road East
4. 3.3.10 – criminal damage caused to a car at the Pump House.
5. Councillors Lightley and Morgan expressed concern at the number of cars parking on double yellow lines in Durham City centre. PC Cockburn reported that control of parking was now the responsibility of traffic wardens, but that he would speak to the NCP Manager in Durham City about this.

#### **162. MINUTES**

It was **AGREED:** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010 (copies previously circulated and publicised) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman following amendments.

#### **163. MATTERS ARISING**

##### **(a) Shincliffe Village Traffic Calming**

The Parish Council had not yet heard anything further from Mr Harvey. However Mrs Woodward had conducted a traffic survey and a copy of this would be sent to Mr Harvey at the County Council.

Councillor Lightley reported that he is trying to get a copy of the response to Councillor J Hudson's question at the AAP meeting about the bus lane on the A177.

##### **(b) Removal of Parish Noticeboard – Meldon/Mitford Close Entrance**

This has now been removed.

##### **(c) Dog Fouling – Recreation Ground**

Councillor J Hudson hadn't yet checked for signs; but will follow up.

**(d) Cyclists on road at Manor Farm**

No response to date, Councillor J Hudson to follow up.

**(e) Path Clearing – High Shincliffe**

Councillor Morgan reported that work was being carried out at the bottom of the path into Langton Lea, Councillor J Hudson to check. Councillor Storer reported that the rose bushes in Telford Close had been pruned.

**(f) Heathways Damaged Sign**

The posts have been removed and the area has been re-soiled.

**(g) Safety of Playground Equipment**

Councillor J Hudson had heard nothing further from Peter Lee, who had promised to inspect the equipment and refer back to the Parish Council if there were any concerns. He has not contacted us.

**(h) Grass Verge at Post Box, High Shincliffe**

No action as yet; will follow up in April.

**(i) Benches – Strawberry Lane**

The vegetation around the benches has been cleared.

**(j) Locked Gate – near Shincliffe Hall**

This is not a public footpath. Durham Cathedral has no objection to people walking over their field, but because of insurance problems they are not prepared to put in steps to link with the public footpath to Butterby. Nick Hall to see if County Council insurance could cover use of steps.

**(k) Pot Holes in Shincliffe Village**

Councillor J Hudson had twice reported these to HAL.

**(l) Vennel – School to Heathways**

Councillor J Hudson had spoken to the resident who had agreed to trim back the hedge.

**(m) Hedges on Low Road**

Councillor J Hudson had mentioned this to the local engineering inspector. If the County Council own they will deal; if not they may pursue it with residents.

**164. WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES**

Councillor Lightley reported that the latest draft from the Boundary Commission recommends Shincliffe becoming a one member County Council Ward; Parish Council agreed that this was acceptable. Councillor J Hudson to respond and say Parish Council is unanimously in favour of this proposal.

## 165. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MONTH'S CORRESPONDENCE

1. Co. Durham Environmental Awards
2. Request from Steve Ragg for photos of community buildings or activities to go on Local Councils' website.

## 166. CORRESPONDENCE TO CIRCULATE

Non urgent items of correspondence to be circulated to Councillors for discussion and decision as necessary at the April meeting.

## 167. CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Skip on property in Foxton Way – the Council has received an anonymous letter complaining about the use of this skip. The letter has been forwarded to the Planning Enforcement Officer to deal.
2. Email about pot holes in Village, Councillor J Hudson has already reported this but will follow up again.
3. Quality Parish– 20<sup>th</sup> April, free learning seminar for Councillors
4. Revised Standing Orders notification
5. Cheque for Mayor's Appeal now out of date and would not be cashed. Could 2 new cheques be issued; one for each charity being supported by the Mayor. It was **AGREED:** to replace the original cheque with 2 new cheques of the same value.
6. Laxey Cottage planning application, alterations approved
7. Anti-Social Behaviour Event – 19.3.10
8. Durham Police Community Consultative Group meeting – 18.3.10
9. Details of DCC proposals to close some of its in-house residential care homes.

## 168. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

4/10/00097/FPA	Dunelm Homes (Bowburn) Ltd Former Cape Site Durham Road Bowburn	Erection of electricity substation
4/10/00105/FPA	Mr And Mrs Kirkup 36 Telford Close High Shincliffe	Erection of single storey pitched roof extension to side and rear of existing dwelling

It was **AGREED:** that the Parish Council raised no objections to the above planning applications.

## 169. HORTICULTURAL MATTERS

1. Northumbria in Bloom, an inaugural meeting had been held, initial judging will take place on 8.4.10 in Village and 22.4.10 (provisionally) in High Shincliffe.
2. An article to be placed in parish newsletter about Spring Garden Competition. Councillors to judge their streets between 1-10 April, and let Councillor Milburn have their suggestions by April Parish Council Meeting.
3. Summer bedding plants have been ordered.
4. Bench survey completed; looking to refurbish 5 benches a year at a cost of £40 per bench.
5. Councillor Milburn had spoken to Jon Williams of Durham Cathedral, who had no objection to the Parish Council planting shrubs on the side of the Black Path, near the steps. However he wanted to inspect the site first.
6. Considering enlarging The Avenue flower bed in the autumn

7. Marc Platts has reported that some of the tubs in the Village have split. Councillor Milburn will inspect the damage.

#### **170. DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP (AAP)**

Councillor Lightley reported the following from the last Durham AAP Meeting:

1. A presentation had been given on the proposals to close some care homes run by the County Council.
2. The Action Plan for young people was progressing and there was a programme of activities in place for the Easter holidays. It was hoped that the DERIC bus would visit Shincliffe Parish area.
3. There is a small grants fund (£50 - £400) possibly useful for Brownies, WI or youth club.
4. Digital Democracy website, possibly consider an article in parish newsletters about this?
5. Report on how the Durham AAP's County Councillors had spent their personal allocation of funding (Note: the two County Councillors representing Shincliffe are members of a separate AAP) had been spent.
6. Next meeting 12.4.10, Vane Tempest.

#### **170. ACCOUNTS**

H Simpson (March salary)	£332.50
Shincliffe School Hire of Hall	£30.36
H Simpson – Parish Councillors Guide	£15.95
M Platts – Horticulture	£250.00
M Platts – Maintenance	£35.00
M Platts – Old Mine Site	£161.00

It was **AGREED**: that the above accounts be paid.

#### **171. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April in Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham at 7.00 pm

#### **172. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*Councillor Storer*

1. Beal Walk/Heathways Junction – Residents are asking for an observation mirror to assist vehicle exit from Beal Walk. A request was made for a mirror was made some years ago but it was turned down.

- 2.

*Councillor Morgan*

2. Black Path – near the Bracken Hotel. A cover is missing from a drain. Councillor J Hudson to deal.

*Councillor J Hudson*

3. Meeting of Durham CDALC Sub-Committee on 29.4.10. All parish councillors from the nine member Parish Councils are invited to attend. This meeting is not open to the public. It will start at 6.30 pm at County Hall, and will focus on improving services.

4. HAL telephone number and email address, to be place in parish magazines.

*Members of the Public*

5. A resident mentioned that a cyclist had been injured on Low Road possibly due to the pot holes. Councillor J Hudson said that the incident had already been reported to the Area Engineer.

**The meeting terminated at 8.35 pm**