

Shincliffe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Horticulture Committee held at 7.00pm on Thursday 14th February, 2019.

Present: Councillor Wright (Chairman), Councillors Fradgley and Olechnowicz, and also Angela Lee (Community Representative), Marc Platts (Parish Gardener) and Kate Kirton (Parish Clerk).

Item		Action By
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting on behalf of Pat Matthews (Community Representative).</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes</p> <p>RESOLVED that: the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th November, 2018 be approved as a correct record.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Beautiful Durham Awards</u> – The Chairman had presented the Avenue Inn, St. Mary’s Church Hall and Sherburn Hospital with the relevant trophy for display. The Maintenance Manager of Sherburn Hospital would be invited to any future award ceremonies; • <u>Community Gardening Day</u> – the last event took place in Autumn of 2018 which focused on clearing the path between Betty Bees Coffee Shop and the A177; • <u>Grass Cutting Contract</u> – Councillor Wright had forwarded maps to DCC and requested confirmation of areas maintained by themselves and also details of any changes to the proposed work programme; • <u>Himalayan Balsam</u> – As previously reported, the spread of Himalayan Balsam caused significant problems. As a result, a Community Gardening day would be arranged for the summer to remove it as soon as it starts to flower. Information in relation to the event and a request for volunteers, would be published in the next edition of SCAN. <p>The Parish Gardener explained that the use of weed killer was not necessary and that it was very easy to remove.</p>	JW

	<p>With regards to the 2019/2020 budget, this had been frozen at £6,000 to reap the benefits of the sustainable planting initiative. The Chairman asked that the Committee be consulted in future years to ensure that all planned projects could be accommodated. The Clerk agreed to action this.</p> <p>The Committee commented that a breakdown of all beds and maintenance costs would be useful in planning projected spend for the year.</p>	<p>KK</p> <p>JW/MP</p>
6.	<p>Christmas Tree Project</p> <p>When setting the budget for 2019/2020 the Parish Council had approved a budget of £1,000 for Christmas Trees (possibly two) and a Remembrance Event.</p> <p>The Horticulture Committee had been asked to give initial consideration to the Christmas Tree project and the following points were raised which required further discussion:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature of Trees - living or cut. Living trees were a one off cost however they would grow, and require pruning. Cut trees could test how well residents receive the initiative, and also be shredded. In addition, they were not a permanent addition to the landscape. • Location – possibly one tree at SV and one at HS (on the green space opposite Whitwell Acres). • Consultation – Residents living directly near the location of tree, would need to be consulted. <p>Given the detailed discussions which needed to take place and the impetus which the project required, it was suggested a working party be established to manage this project. This would be taken to the Parish Council for consideration.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that he was meeting with a Councillor from Belmont Parish Council who had agreed to provide some practical input. An update would be given in due course.</p>	<p>JW/KK</p>
7.	<p>Resident Request for Fruit Trees (Meldon Way)</p> <p>The Clerk had received a request from a resident in Meldon Way to have fruit trees planting on the grassed area adjacent to the footpath.</p> <p>The Committee acknowledged that not only was the budget very tight for the forthcoming financial year, given that there were already mini orchards around this area with a considerable number of trees being recently planted, any future planting of</p>	

	fruit trees should be considered at other areas around the village. The Clerk agreed to respond accordingly.	KK
8.	<p>Gardening Event Proposals</p> <p>As earlier discussed, a Community Gardening event would take place in the summer to tackle the spread of Himalayan Balsam. As this was unlikely to take an inordinate amount of time, if the number of volunteers was healthy, then other tasks would be undertaken for example, clearing of leaves.</p> <p>The Parish Gardener explained that whilst Himalayan Balsam was prominent in the OMS, other areas could also be considered.</p>	
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>Spring Front Garden Competition</u> – In previous years this had taken place in early April. The Chairman agreed to advise residents that this would be taking place in the next edition of SCAN.</p>	JW

Meeting Terminated at 8.20pm