

Shincliffe Parish Council

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held online on Thursday 10th December, 2020 at 6.00pm

Present: County Councillor Stoker (Chair) Councillors Armstrong, Ferries, Fradgley, and Wright (Vice-Chairman).

In Attendance: Linda Fairlamb and Christine Warburton.

Everyone introduced themselves to the meeting.

Item		Action By
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p> <p>The Chair announced that there would be a Parish Councillor vacancy coming up in January, 2021 given that Councillor Ferries would no longer be a resident of the Parish.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Councillor Wright declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to Item 7 – Planning Application (Whitwell Grange) and agreed to leave the meeting during consideration of this item of business.</p>	
3.	<p>Issues Raised by Members of the Public</p> <p>All correspondence (emails and letters) received from Members of the public had been previously circulated to all Councillors, for consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="379 1576 979 1615">• Ownership of Land – High Shincliffe <p>The Vice Chairman advised that an issue had been raised by a resident in Langton Lea who was concerned about some bushes growing between her property and the perimeter road (High Shincliffe). The resident had been advised to contact DCC regarding ownership however they had stated that it was not their responsibility. Councillor Wright had therefore suggested that since DCC mowed the verge (i.e. maintained it) the best approach was that at this stage was to request that they</p>	

removed bushes irrespective of ownership, as it related to their management of the verges.

- **Field at the Bottom of Shincliffe Village**

A resident queried what was happening with the field at the bottom of Shincliffe Village, commenting that it was becoming an extension of the park and an overspill when the park was busy. The resident additionally commented that the field was being used for picnics and also being used as a toileting area.

The resident explained that visitors were also accessing the park via Chapter cottages resulting in numerous parents and children passing by her property, increasing the amount of litter and also causing anti-social behaviour.

The Chair commented that the field was leased out by the Dean and Chapter to the Farmer, and that they would be the appropriate point of contact.

The resident acknowledged this, and commented that as the Park was leased by the Dean and Chapter to the Parish Council, any issues within the Park were the responsibility of the Parish Council and not DCC and asked for clarification as to how the lease was ran as she believed it was a gift from the Dean and Chapter and that it was leased to the Parish Council for the village. The resident explained that she did not believe that the refurbishment of the play park was beneficial to the village, and felt it had destroyed the village by exposing nearby residents to an intolerable situation. Whilst the resident felt it should be used for the Parish, she did not believe it should be for the benefit of Durham South, or the rest of Durham and therefore that any issues relation to overspill should be addressed by the Parish Council.

- **Picnic Benches – Shincliffe Play Park**

Councillor Wright reported that unfortunately it was unlikely that the Picnic benches could be moved by the Parish Gardener prior to the end of the year due to existing work commitments, however this work would be carried out very early in the new year weather permitting. Similarly the hedging would be planted in the New Year.

A resident expressed her disappointment that this was not being undertaken in time for the school holidays.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handrail – High Street North Shincliffe Village <p>Councillor Ferries advised that a Member of the Public in High Street North had raised an issue in relation to the small flight of steps from the footpath in front of the houses onto the road, which was used to access street and also bin collections. It had become quite hazardous, especially in the winter months, therefore as this was on Parish Council land, prices had been obtained from local companies for a simple handrail to be installed, and a local contractor had been appointed to undertake these works prior to Christmas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate Agent Boards – Shincliffe Village Green <p>The Chair advised that there had been a plethora of estate agent boards erected on the Village Green. Some had been removed and contact had been made with the relevant companies to remove the remaining three.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 19th November 2020</p> <p>RESOLVED that: the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December, 2020 be approved as a true record subject to the following amendments:</p> <p>Item 5 – (Shincliffe Play Park) – ‘A resident referred to an unpleasant incident which had taken place on 7th November’ to be amended to state that her husband was verbally attacked by a visitor to the playpark.</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising (Including Actions from Last Meeting)</p> <p>A resident referred to a copy of a risk assessment which had been undertaken by DCC for some of their parks and commented that in addition to COVID related signage, some pieces of equipment had been removed to reduce numbers and encourage social distancing.</p>	
6.	<p>Electronic and Written Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schoolchildren learn more about Diwali through new films • Cemetery wins national award second successive year • Enjoy the magic of panto at home with theatre’s festive films • Hundreds share their views on how to make County Durham better for everyone 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Council Services (20th November 2020) • Covid Community Champions needed to help keep County Durham safe and informed • Business-savvy school pupils set to take part in Spanish Apprentice challenge • Life In Durham (AAP) • Council announces plans to reinstate services affected by national lockdown • Update on Council Services (27th November 2020) • National award for use of pioneering technology in care homes • Durham Area Action Partnership – Board Meeting • Opportunity for people to plant trees in their area • Free flu vaccine more important than ever for people with breathing conditions • Information regarding Centralised Custody Suite • More celebrity chefs added to virtual food festival line-up • Grade II-listed bridge to close until further notice • Update on Council Services (4th December 2020) <p>RESOLVED that: the correspondence had been received and noted.</p>													
7.	<p>Planning Applications</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">DM/20/03031/FP A</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Mill House Shincliffe Durham DH1 2SU</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Erection of large L-shaped extension to dwelling, comprising of two-storey and single-storey elements, to replace existing extensions/outbuildings and form new entrance/courtyard arrangement with parking</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DM/20/03438/LB</td> <td>Whitwell Grange Sherburn House Durham DH1 2SJ</td> <td>Replace existing slate roof covering the south wing of Whitwell Grange</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DM/20/03432/FP A</td> <td>21 Meldon Way High Shincliffe Durham DH1 2PZ</td> <td>Erection of single-storey extension at side of dwelling including fenestration changes and application of render.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>	DM/20/03031/FP A	Mill House Shincliffe Durham DH1 2SU	Erection of large L-shaped extension to dwelling, comprising of two-storey and single-storey elements, to replace existing extensions/outbuildings and form new entrance/courtyard arrangement with parking	DM/20/03438/LB	Whitwell Grange Sherburn House Durham DH1 2SJ	Replace existing slate roof covering the south wing of Whitwell Grange	DM/20/03432/FP A	21 Meldon Way High Shincliffe Durham DH1 2PZ	Erection of single-storey extension at side of dwelling including fenestration changes and application of render.				
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	RESOLVED that: There were no objections in relation to the above planning applications.	
8.	<p>Budget Update</p> <p>The Clerk report that the following bank balances:</p> <p>NS&I - £7,881.76</p> <p>Business Money Manager Account - £5,979.01</p> <p>Community Account - £8,701.27</p> <p>The Parish Council was advised that over the forthcoming weeks financial expenditure to the end of the financial year would be calculated, and consideration would be given to the budget for the next financial year in order to set the precept in January.</p>	
9.	<p>Requests for Financial Assistance</p> <p>Two requests for financial assistance had been received. One from the Great North Air Ambulance and one for the Mayor's Appeal.</p> <p>These would be considered at the January meeting of the Parish Council.</p>	
10.	<p>Parking – Shincliffe Village</p> <p>The Chair reported that the relevant officers from DCC would be giving consideration to this early January, therefore an update would be given at the next meeting of the Parish Council.</p>	
11.	<p>Horticulture Update (Standing Item)</p> <p>Councillor Wright provided the following update:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas trees – Trees had once again been erected in each village, using the equipment purchased the previous year with thanks being extended to East Grange Farm for the quality of the trees which had been received. The tree at Jubilee place had been decorated with plastic baubles and it was hoped that the local Knit and Natter group would be adding some knitted decorations to the tree at High Shincliffe. Thanks and praise were also given to children from High Shincliffe Primary School who had agreed to decorate the tree at High Shincliffe. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playpark – Following previous discussions in relation to a sensory garden at Shincliffe Village Play Park, with collaboration, ideas for design had been welcomed from students at Houghall College and a competition would take place. Whilst costings were unknown at the present time, funding of up to £7,500 had been agreed from Councillor Stoker’s Neighbourhood Budget with the objective of ensuring that the park was also a provision for the elderly. 																			
12.	<p>Sherburn House Planting Initiative (Standing Item)</p> <p>Councillor Fradley reported that further engagements and discussions would take place in the new year.</p>																			
13.	<p>Current Accounts for Approval</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payable to</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>K Kirton (December Salary)</td> <td>£373.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC Income Tax (December)</td> <td>£93.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K Kirton Reimbursement Zoom (31st December)</td> <td>£14.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DCC (Summer Bedding)</td> <td>£483.31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Darren Vart (Handrail)</td> <td>£445.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K Kirton ½ Yearly Electricity Allowance</td> <td>£50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christmas Trees</td> <td>£144.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Bell (Installation of Christmas Trees)</td> <td>£55.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>RESOLVED that: the above accounts be paid.</p>	Payable to	Amount	K Kirton (December Salary)	£373.40	HMRC Income Tax (December)	£93.20	K Kirton Reimbursement Zoom (31 st December)	£14.39	DCC (Summer Bedding)	£483.31	Darren Vart (Handrail)	£445.00	K Kirton ½ Yearly Electricity Allowance	£50.00	Christmas Trees	£144.00	Ian Bell (Installation of Christmas Trees)	£55.00	
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14.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 21st January, 2021 at 6.00pm.</p>																			
15.	<p>Any Other Business – Councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Armstrong advised a survey with the school in relation to Shincliffe Village Play Park was unable to be undertaken at the present time due to the handling of paper materials during the COVID-19 pandemic; 																			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Armstrong reported that the camp in the woods had reappeared and that the police had been informed; and • Councillor Ferries advised that the footpaths at High Street North especially between the Church Hall and Julibee Place had become very dangerous and as a result, the possibility of resurfacing the path with a fine granite dust which would be both sympathetic to the environment and also more easy to walk on was being investigated. Tenders were therefore being obtained and the planning department had accepted the proposal. Councillor Stoker had requested funding from his Neighbourhood Budget and a decision was currently awaited. <p>Prior to closing the meeting, the Chairman, and all Parish Councillors, thanked Councillor Ferries for the invaluable contribution he had made to the Parish Council over the years, both on small and very large projects and commented that he would be hugely missed.</p>	
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Meeting Terminated at 7.10 pm