

Minutes of the February Meeting of **Shincliffe Parish Council** held in **St. Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village, Durham** on **Tuesday 18 February 2014** at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Duell (in the Chair) and Councillors Hudson, A Lee, G Lee, Lightley, Lovell, and Olechnowicz.
County Councillor Stoker was also in attendance.
There were 3 members of the public present.

147. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

148. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of PC Cockburn and Kate Cuthbert.

149. Minutes

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2014 (copies previously circulated and publicised) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendments:

Page 729 delete "was" within Paragraph 3 of current correspondence.
Paragraph two of matters arising delete "will" and replace with "had"
Correct two typos within 140 and 145.

150. Matters Arising

- (a) Access Gates to High Shincliffe Playing Field – As previously reported the gates had been left open for several weeks. The Clerk was asked to contact Environment and Leisure Department at County Hall again, requesting that a lock be fitted.

It was **resolved** that: the matters arising be noted and necessary action be undertaken.

151. Police Report

There were no police matters to report.

It was **resolved** that: the Clerk contact the Police to ascertain whether their policy on attending Parish Council meetings had changed.

152. County Councillor Update

Cllr Stoker updated the Parish Council on the following:

- (a) A177 – A request had been made to reduce the speed limit between Bowburn and High Shincliffe to a 40mph zone. As a result of this, a survey of current traffic speeds had been requested. It was necessary that this be undertaken, prior to the proposal being further considered.
- (b) Precept – The County Tax Precept was expected to increase by 2% for the next financial year.
- (c) Offset Railings (outside the Avenue Inn) – An agreement had been made for the works to be undertaken.
- (d) Shincliffe Bridge – Three new 'slow' speed signs had been installed on the bridge by the Rose Tree Inn.

It was **resolved** that: the above update be noted.

153. Correspondence

(a) Matters arising from last month's correspondence

Proposed Traffic Regulation Order (Shincliffe Village) - As the Parish Council had not received any information regarding this proposal, they had been unable to respond in January. The Council had therefore requested a briefing on the proposal by Mr Battensby of the Highways Department. The earliest this could take place was immediately prior to this meeting. Numerous questions were raised, and further information was requested which may take some time to obtain.

It was **resolved** that: Mr Battensby produce a written note covering the points raised and also suggesting various alternative options, including their advantages and disadvantages for future consideration by the Parish Council.

(b) Correspondence to circulate for discussion/decision at next parish council meeting

1. Campaign to Protect Rural England North East Newsletter (Spring 2014)
2. Spaldings Special Offer (March 2014)
3. Clerks and Councils Direct (January 2014 Issue 91)
4. Final Local Government Finance Settlement
5. E Petition Amend the National Planning Policy Framework
6. Consultation on Durham County Council Customer First Strategy
7. Community News (January Edition)
8. Giving more people power over what happens in their Neighbourhoods
9. E Bulletin for County Associations, National Council and members councils
10. Consultation – County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service IRMP
11. CDALC Durham Committee
12. Local Audit and Accountability Act
13. Beautiful Durham 2014 Competition Sponsorship

Current Correspondence

1. DCC Tree Planting Policy – The Clerk was asked to respond to DCC advising that the Parish Council welcomed this proposal and suggesting that it may be beneficial for the County and Parish to work together via a joint approach.

It was **resolved** that: the Clerk respond to the consultation accordingly.

154. Planning Applications

No planning applications had been received.

155. Horticultural Committee Update

Councillor A Lee outlined the proposed operation plan for the forthcoming year. The plan included improvements to the 'Old Mine Site', involvement with the Primary School and utilising the grant of £700 to be received from Councillor Stoker to introduce more sustainable planting.

It was **resolved** that: the above proposals be approved.

156. AAP Update

The Parish Council was advised that the election of a new member to represent Parish Councils was currently being organised.

It was **resolved** that: the above update be noted.

157. Shincliffe Village

It had been confirmed that Hall Lane was owned by the Dean and Chapter and that this was clearly marked on a road sign. It was acknowledged that an illegal notice had been attached to the GPO post.

It was **resolved** that: Councillor Stoker contact the County Council regarding the pot holes.

158. Revised Standing Orders

A discussion in relation to the Standing Orders ensued in particular SO28(b) – ‘Any proposed contract for the supply of goods, materials, services and the execution of works with an estimated value in excess of £2,000 shall be procured on the basis of a formal tender’.

On advice from CDALC it was **resolved** that: this be amended to read in excess of £3,000.

159. Shincliffe Village Recreation Ground – Appointment of Contractor

At the previous meeting of the Parish Council it was agreed that the contract for re-building the Recreation Park Wall be awarded to Mr Gregory. Unfortunately when the Clerk contacted him the following day he was no longer able to carry out the works.

Consideration was therefore given to the other two quotations which had been received and it was:-

resolved that the contract be offered to Mr Ray Lawson, the next economically advantageous price at a cost of £2,300 (including VAT).

160. Tree Survey

The results of the Tree Survey had been previously circulated within the correspondence for consideration and the Chairman had considered which trees were the responsibility of the Parish Council. Works amounted to a total of £390.00 + VAT.

The Clerk to the Parish Council had contacted Oliver’s Tree Services to proceed with the agreed works and the Company had agreed to check with the Local Authority whether the trees concerned were situated within a Conservation Area or covered by a Tree Preservation Order. This was at no extra charge to the Parish Council.

It was **resolved** that: a further update be given once this information had been received from Oliver’s Tree Services.

161. Accounts

In the absence of the Clerk, no cheques were raised.

162. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The March Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th March 2014 at Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham at 7.00 pm.

163. Any Other Business – Members of the Public

No issues were raised.

164. Any Other Business – Councillors

(a) Litter Pick – Councillor G Lee reported that the proposed date for the Big Spring Clean (7th

April 2014) did not suit volunteers given that it was a Monday. A revised date was therefore to be chosen.

- (b) Speeding – Councillor G Lee had received a verbal complaint from a parent at the school regarding dangerous driving. Similar comments had been made on many occasions and the school regularly reminded parents of the need to take care and walk to school schemes were currently being encouraged.

It was **resolved** that: the complaint be forwarded to the school and PC Cockburn.

- (c) Notice Boards – Key Holders were asked to check that notice boards were kept both tidy and up to date.
- (d) Agenda – Councillor P Hudson reminded that agendas should be distributed 3 days prior to the meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting terminated at 8.10 pm