

Shincliffe Parish Council

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held online on Thursday 25th February, 2021 at 6.00pm

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

In Attendance: Michael Banks, Jenny Conroy, Bill Clatworthy, Frank Curry, Ben and Alice Coombs, Christine Everatt, Linda Fairlamb, Gillian Forsyth, Stephen Goodhart, Janice Gorchach, Nigel Jackson, Mark Kinsey, Lee Mowbray, Joanne Murray, Elizabeth Pexton, Caroline Walker, Christine Warburton and James Wilson.

Item		Action By
	<p>The Chair advised that a letter had been received (that day, 25th February) from Mary K Foy MP, which was read out at the start of the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Olechnowicz commented that a critical motion would be put, as a Member of the Labour Party, given the lack of consultation from Mary Foy before making the original intervention which had now been withdrawn, believing that all sides should have been consulted in advance.</p>	
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3.	<p>Issues Raised by Members of the Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow (Near Poplar Tree Garden Centre) – A resident commented that she was concerned about the ancient hedgerow not being maintained and also had a large gap within it. Discussions were ongoing with the enforcement officer at DCC to ensure that this hedgerow was maintained as an ancient hedgerow for environmental purposes as it was a wildlife corridor and needed to be maintained for biodiversity. • Brown Garden Centre Sign/Signage Shincliffe Village – A resident queried why a brown tourism sign to Poplar Tree 	

Garden Centre had been erected and was advised that this had been ordered in error, as it should be a white sign, and that a replacement had been ordered and would be erected as soon as possible.

- Shincliffe FP17 – Vehicle Issues – A resident had raised an issue in relation to pavements in Shincliffe Village. The Chair advised that he had used part of his Neighbourhood Budget for Footpath repairs.
- Shincliffe Village Playground: Access & Safety – A resident discussed some issues in relation to access and safety in and around the playground in particular commenting that:-

Steps – Were uneven and a handrail would be useful;

Shrub – There was a very large overgrown shrub which could be pruned to improve visibility;

Entrance to Playground – Was very narrow and also the bench at the entrance may need repairing;

New Hedge – A gap or stile may be useful to help preserve the hedge in the event that children were trying to retrieve balls from the football pitch;

Road Junction at Playground Entrance – traffic calming measures would be welcomed with signs and possibly a change in road surface being suggested.

The Chair thanked the resident for the presentation and invited comments. Lee Mowbray (DCC) advised that he also had concerns in relation to the road junction at the Playground entrance and Poplar Tree Garden Centre and how close visitors were parking. Lee advised that whilst restrictions around the dropped curbs could be considered, this would require a full consultation exercise.

- Proposals for Some Signage - Designed by the Children and a Little Park Rangers Scheme – A resident outlined a proposal for a ‘Little Park Rangers’ Scheme whereby each family who joined the initiative would be allocated a week on a rota basis and would commit to litter picking in the Park and the surrounding vicinity at some point during that week.

Indicative prices suggested that personalised Hi Viz Vests were approximately £4.00 each and litter pick sticks c£18.00.

With regards to the new signage, the initiative involved developing a new sign (from the children) detailing a code of

	<p>practice for the park, to instill a sense of ownership and respect. The 6 codes of practice would be: If you make a mess tidy it up, be mindful of our neighbours, share nicely with others, not to use it as a toilet, be careful of going too close to the road and respect the wildlife around you.</p> <p>An estimate for signage which would include a picture in relation to each of the 6 codes had been obtained for £400-£600. It was also suggested that in addition to this, individual smaller signs could be displayed at strategic points around the Park.</p> <p>The Parish Council was asked if funding could be made available, or whether fundraising would be required, and advised that this is something that they would be keen to help fund.</p> <p>Lee Mowbray referred to the high viz vests and litter pick sticks and suggested that the resident contact 'Litter Free Durham' as they may be able to assist with the supply of equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter, Noise and Toileting (Shincliffe Play Park) – A resident referred to an attack that had been made on social media suggesting that two residents were requesting that the playpark be closed and commented that this was untrue. <p>The resident explained that they believed that the amount of visitors travelling from further afield were causing parking problems and also litter and rat infestation issues (due to picnicking). In addition to this, children were toileting against their fence.</p> <p>The resident went on to say that it was not intended that children within the village should not use the park, it was the numbers of visitors from elsewhere, which was making the noise unbearable.</p> <p>Another resident commented the infestation of rats were burrowing down to the entrance of the Park and that the Dean and Chapter had visited and commented that both routes into the Park should be closed. The resident advised that the Dean and Chapter had accepted responsibility for the rats and that she was hopeful of a refund for money spent making her garden 'rat proof', however had been advised by DCC that this was impossible.</p> <p>The Chair advised that Popular Tree Garden Centre had agreed to assist with the collection of litter, and conveyed a thank you, on behalf of the Parish Council in relation to this.</p>	
--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objections – Holiday Units Shincliffe Village (including Red and Amber List Species on the Wildlife Corridor) – <p>Two residents referred to the discussion on the hedgerow and commented that a site inspection had been carried out and that no issues had been raised and that the case had therefore been closed, commenting that there had been no disturbance to the hedgerow.</p> <p>A resident commented that a request had been made for this to be re-opened and that clarification of the date of the site visit (to ensure there was no snow on the ground) was awaited by DCC.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 21st January 2021</p> <p>RESOLVED that: the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January, 2021 be approved as a true record.</p> <p>A resident asked that it be noted that the emergency access to recover a horse was playpark related in that the mother was asked to move her car which was blocking the road and reiterated that photographic evidence had been forwarded to both the Parish Council and the Police.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December, 2020 were to be amended as follows:</p> <p>Attendance – include James Wilson, Caroline Walker, Frank Curry and Christine Everatt.</p> <p>Field at the Bottom of Shincliffe Village - The resident explained that visitors were also accessing the park via Chapter cottages resulting in numerous parents and children (including prams) were passing by her property.</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising (Including Actions from Last Meeting)</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
6.	<p>Electronic and Written Correspondence (DCC)</p> <p>The following correspondence had been previously circulated to all Councillors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese New Year to be marked with online events for school children; • Consultations and Improving Health and Wellbeing and Making Co. Durham a Safer Place; • Council Set to Invest £25m in Countrywide Regeneration; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans for First Phase of £70m Council House Building Programmes to go before Councillors; • Employment Team Secures more than ££1m funding; • Date Set for work to begin on new £10m Durham City Bus Station; • Rogue Trader gets suspended Prison Sentence; • Still Time to Apply – 17 Garden Waste Collections; • Views of Residents Sought ahead of Funding Submission; • Council Cabinet to be updated on multi-million pound funding for town improvements; • Council set to invest £5m to aid Business Recovery; • Partnership Supporting People Through the Pandemic; • Maximising the Value of Every Co. Durham Pound; • Update on Council Services (29th Jan, 5th, 12th and 19th February 2021); • Trace Ancestors – Through New Family History Course; • Light at the End of the Tunnel ‘Social Workers Express Relief at COVID Vaccine’; • New Durham City Bus Station Plans: £6.3m Funding Boost; • CDALC – Possible Communication after 7th May; • Children to get food and activity packs during half-term break; and • Council on the ‘lookout’ for Independent Role Applicants. <p>RESOLVED that: the correspondence had been received and noted.</p>				
7.	<p>Planning Application</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">DM/21/00273/CEU</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Halls of Durham The Studio Park Farm House Willow Tree Avenue Shincliffe Durham DH1 2PA</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Certificate of Lawful Development to seek to establish the a lawful B1 (office) use of the property known as Park Farm Studio.</td> </tr> </table> <p>RESOLVED that: No objections be made.</p>	DM/21/00273/CEU	Halls of Durham The Studio Park Farm House Willow Tree Avenue Shincliffe Durham DH1 2PA	Certificate of Lawful Development to seek to establish the a lawful B1 (office) use of the property known as Park Farm Studio.	
DM/21/00273/CEU	Halls of Durham The Studio Park Farm House Willow Tree Avenue Shincliffe Durham DH1 2PA	Certificate of Lawful Development to seek to establish the a lawful B1 (office) use of the property known as Park Farm Studio.			
8.	<p>Parking (Shincliffe Village)</p> <p>Lee Mowbray (DCC) advised that he was aware of traffic and parking issues within the village particularly in relation to the junction near to the garden centre and Low Road given that off street parking was limited.</p>				

	<p>Lee explained that space for parking was difficult to create, and that parking space could be further compromised, should restrictions be put in place.</p> <p>With regards to permit parking, a survey would need to be undertaken which would consider how busy the area was overall, and how busy it was with non-residential parking. In order to qualify for permit parking, the area would need to be full for over 85% of 6 hours a day and during the same period, more than 40% full with non-residential parking.</p> <p>Lee commented that whilst he did not think that the area would qualify, he was happy for a survey to be undertaken to see what data was produced for the area.</p> <p>A resident commented that the area of concern was particularly around the playground and the entrance to the Garden Centre and suggested that Zig Zag or 'Keep Clear' lines should be considered, similar to those around schools.</p> <p>A resident commented (a resident of Low Road), that parking had always been an issue and that and that he believed that any increase in parking problems were due to the current impact of COVID-19 and that this was therefore a wider problem seen in rural communities. A resident agreed, commenting that the number of walkers parking and walking into Durham after COVID was likely to reduce.</p> <p>Another resident commented that the issues were multifaceted in that some vehicles parked at the end of Low Road and then visitors walked into town and some vehicles were parked up for several weeks, therefore there was no simple solution, however did express concerns regarding the traffic flow along the village explaining it was often very difficult to navigate in-between parked cars and oncoming traffic.</p> <p>Some residents disagreed commenting that the playpark has exasperated the issue and that turning out of Low Green was becoming increasingly difficult, with mini buses of children often arriving.</p> <p>A resident asked Lee whether a concern had been raised in relation to increased traffic flow as part of the consultation for the planning application and was advised that this was a matter for Developmental Control. A resident also reminded attendees that</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>a distinction needed to be made between the planning application and the already ongoing traffic/parking issues.</p> <p>Councillor Fradgley questioned whether the survey would be undertaken in certain areas, or the village as a whole and was advised that the two main roads could be covered by two surveyors from 7am, doing hourly checks, ascertaining how long vehicles had been parked up.</p> <p>A suggestion was made earlier for a different colour paving at the junction, which Lee agreed could be considered, however land ownership would need to be ascertained first. A resident commented that the road ownership with DCC ended at the junction with Hall Lane, and that this was therefore Dean and Chapter land.</p> <p>A resident expressed his concerns that the playpark was receiving the blame and that this was not the primary cause of the issues which had been raised, commenting that when the playpark was temporarily closed, parking problems were not alleviated. Due to this, a suggestion was made when undertaking the survey, the ask people who had parked up, where they were going.</p> <p>Popular Tree Garden Centre commented that they would provide support wherever possible, commenting that they wished to work with residents and encouraged contact to be made with the garden centre, regarding any issues that residents may have.</p>	
9.	<p>Horticultural Committee Update (Standing Item)</p> <p>Councillor Wright advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Gardener was self-employed, working part time only for the Parish Council and was consequently often unavailable, hence the slow start on work on Play Park. <p>At the beginning of February delivery was taken for 500 whips, however these were slightly delayed in being planted due to weather conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some mechanical issues regarding the removal of the picnic benches had been unfortunate, however the equipment needed required a generator, which could not be used in the rain. 	

	<p>As a result, the Parish Gardener was primarily installing the whips at the present time (through no fault of his own), as if they were not planted by the end of March, would be unlikely to survive;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Summer planting had been ordered for delivery in May, and once again, Morrison Busty (DCC) was being used; and • Twice within the last month Northern Landscapes had been contracted to refill the salt bins. The Parish Council acknowledged that they were low, however one individual believed it was a source of private material, which was deemed to be unacceptable given that this was for public provision in public areas for example footpaths and steps. As a result, a letter had been forwarded from DCC and a fine would be incurred should this be repeated. 																									
10.	<p>Sherburn House Planting Initiative (Standing Item)</p> <p>Councillor Fradgley reported that the Daffodils which had been planted were now starting to bloom at the junction, which was pleasing to see.</p>																									
11.	<p>Current Accounts for Approval</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payable to</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Well Medical (3 x replacement of Electrode Pads)</td> <td>£136.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Bell (Installation of Bench St. Mary's Close)</td> <td>£95.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northern Landscapes (Supply and Delivery of Rock Salt) – Invoice Number 6715</td> <td>£105.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reimbursement K Kirton (Amazon) – New Battery Charger</td> <td>11.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DCC (Spring Planting)</td> <td>£297.84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S137 Mayors Appeal</td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S137 GNAR</td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K Kirton (February Salary)</td> <td>£373.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC Income Tax (February)</td> <td>£93.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K Kirton Reimbursement Zoom (28th February)</td> <td>£14.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northern Landscapes (Supply and Delivery of Rock Salt) – Invoice Number 6728</td> <td>£105.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payable to	Amount	Well Medical (3 x replacement of Electrode Pads)	£136.74	Ian Bell (Installation of Bench St. Mary's Close)	£95.00	Northern Landscapes (Supply and Delivery of Rock Salt) – Invoice Number 6715	£105.00	Reimbursement K Kirton (Amazon) – New Battery Charger	11.04	DCC (Spring Planting)	£297.84	S137 Mayors Appeal	£250.00	S137 GNAR	£250.00	K Kirton (February Salary)	£373.40	HMRC Income Tax (February)	£93.20	K Kirton Reimbursement Zoom (28 th February)	£14.39	Northern Landscapes (Supply and Delivery of Rock Salt) – Invoice Number 6728	£105.00	
Payable to	Amount																									
Well Medical (3 x replacement of Electrode Pads)	£136.74																									
Ian Bell (Installation of Bench St. Mary's Close)	£95.00																									
Northern Landscapes (Supply and Delivery of Rock Salt) – Invoice Number 6715	£105.00																									
Reimbursement K Kirton (Amazon) – New Battery Charger	11.04																									
DCC (Spring Planting)	£297.84																									
S137 Mayors Appeal	£250.00																									
S137 GNAR	£250.00																									
K Kirton (February Salary)	£373.40																									
HMRC Income Tax (February)	£93.20																									
K Kirton Reimbursement Zoom (28 th February)	£14.39																									
Northern Landscapes (Supply and Delivery of Rock Salt) – Invoice Number 6728	£105.00																									

	RESOLVED that: the above accounts be paid.	
12.	Date of Next Meeting Thursday 25 th March, 2021 at 6.00pm.	
13.	Any Other Business – Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Committee – The Chair advised that if the planning application in relation to the Holiday Unit was to be considered by DCC’s Planning Committee, this was likely to be in April/May 2021. 	

Meeting Terminated at 7.30pm