

Shincliffe Parish Council
Notes of Horticulture Committee Meeting
Thursday 8 February 2018: 6pm at 46 Ancroft Garth

1	Present: Cllr A Lee (chair), Cllr N Cook, Cllr J Wright, M Platts (Parish Gardener) Apologies: P Matthews (Community Representative)	
2	<p>Notes of 19 October 2017 / matters arising (not on agenda)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP has provided an audit of parish benches, indicating one replacement needed. MP agreed to update his audit with some suggested amendments from the committee. Suppliers of composite benches were reviewed and agreed to go with Glasdon style Eco-Rest at £429.42 (incl £71.57 reclaimable VAT and delivery). The bench is made in the UK from recycled materials. Agreed to buy one to replace the wooden bench in Langton Lea. AL to purchase and MP to remove existing bench and install. • MP has done a good job repairing the Avenue bed so the decision to replace the edges with sleepers has been put on hold, to be reviewed annually. • Parish Gardening day was a success with several thousand crocus and dwarf tulips bulbs planted by parish residents. • Several areas in the parish have drifts of spring bulbs which need protecting from the first grass cuts by Durham County Council. NC to contact M Turnball for the date of the first cutting. AL to buy hazard tape and tent pegs to mark areas. MP to install tape before first cutting and removed after initial grass cuts have made bulb areas clearly visible. • NC arranged for the path to be cleared by DCC and the result is a great improvement, both practically and aesthetically. 	<p>MP</p> <p>AL MP</p> <p>NC AL MP</p>
3	<p>Update from Parish Gardener</p> <p>Since the last meeting, AL and MP have met to discuss progress on agreed actions and other issues identified by MP for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrel tub at Overman St need repairing and painting – to be done in Spring • Bench at entrance to Strawberry Lane needs replacement slat asap. • John Hudson plaque in Old Mine Site needs repair to fixings. • Small bed at Ancroft Garth entrance, maintained by resident needs initial digging. No further maintenance by Parish will be needed. • Love Lane at Quality Street end needs hawthorn removing. • Wild flower area at A177 bus stop to be prepared and sown by mid April. MP to undertake or request that work be done by external company. • School mini orchard and wild flower beds to be determined by MP at school site meeting with AL on 19 February. • Bird box, donated by C Pragnell to be installed on tree opposite The Avenue Pub. (asap before nesting season) • Gate beds still need edging plants, then agreed to leave the beds to see how new plants have taken before adding further plants. • Walled bed at Durham entrance to High Shincliffe has had additional planting. Agreed to monitor this year and add plants later if needed. 	<p>MP</p> <p>↓</p>
4	<p>Budget Update</p> <p>The PC horticulture budget has been streamlined now that project monies have been spent. Budget for benches to be managed by the PC Clerk in future. Current horticulture position shows £2,180 for general horticulture and £928 for the Old Mine Site. After several years of roll forward for the OMS, agreed to reduce annual budget to £500, with the proviso that in exceptional circumstances, a request from reserves would be made.</p>	

5	<p>Horticulture Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates have been contributed to the Parish Council documentation for the quality award. • Future consideration to be given to an interpretation board, at Quality Street end of Love Lane, outlining local history. 	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C Pragnell has created a flower bed at the entrance to The Green and will maintain this in addition to the two beds at Langton Lea entrance and the bed at the top of Langton Lea by the bench. • We still have 2 sets of £40 vouchers from Beautiful Durham Awards: one for Shincliffe village and one for High Shincliffe. (post meeting note AL and NC agreed to give one set to a resident in SV to buy plants for the areas he maintains and the other to C Pragnell for the beds she maintains in HS. 	
7	<p>Date of next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 15 March 2018 – venue/timing tbc</p>	

A Lee
13 February 2018