

Minutes of the January Meeting of **Shincliffe Parish Council** held in **Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham** on **Tuesday 21 January 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 2 members of the public present.

#### **128. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

#### **129. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting on behalf of PC Cockburn.

#### **130. Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2013 (copies previously circulated and publicised) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to an amendment that the recent survey to the Old Mine Site was undertaken by a County Ecologist.

#### **131. 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 County Hall again, requesting that a lock be fitted.

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

#### **132. Police Report**

There were no police matters to report.

#### **133. County Councillor Update**

Cllr Stoker updated the Parish Council on the following:

- (a) Offset Railings (outside the Avenue Inn) - discussions had taken place with relevant Officers and all parties were now in agreement with the works to be undertaken.  
(b) The Avenue Inn FC – It had been agreed that £150.00 of Cllr Stokers' Members' Initiative Fund be donated to the Avenue Inn Football Club.  
(c) Shincliffe Bridge – A 'slow' speed sign would be installed on the road, positioned on the slope of the bridge to ensure visibility.  
(d) Bid for Play Equipment – This had been turned down, likely due to reasons of relevant deprivation.  
(e) Play Strategy – To be submitted to February Cabinet, March Council.

#### **134. Correspondence**

- (a) Matters arising from last month's correspondence  
There were no matters arising.

- (b) Correspondence to circulate for discussion/decision at next parish council meeting  
1. Update on Durham Riverbanks Footpaths  
2. Changes taking effect in the new planning system: Vital information for Parish and Town

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3. WW1 Centenary – The Great War 1914-1918
4. Community Right to bid
5. World War I Commemorations
6. DCLG Local Government Finance Settlement
7. Durham AAP – E Bulletin
8. Durham County Council Tree Management Policy Consultation
9. Neighbourhood Protection Team Report (December 2013)
10. Durham AAP Board Meeting – Thursday 23 January 2014
11. Smaller Local Council Forum Meetings
12. CDALC January 2014 Newsletter.

Current Correspondence

1. Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – Prohibition of Motor Vehicles

A letter had been received regarding the number of complaints lodged about excessive traffic in Shincliffe created by drivers using the village as a short cut to avoid the traffic lights on the main A177 during the morning peak. A request had been made to introduce a restriction to prevent this traffic from driving through the village.

The proposal was to introduce a Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Traffic Regulation Order on High Street from its junction with Low Road.

It was: **resolved** that David Battensby be invited to discuss issues in greater detail with Parish Councillors in order that comments on proposals could be made.

2. Email from resident about sponsoring pots on the Village Green, in particular those outside of the Old Rectory and also refurbishing the path in front of the garden.

The Parish Council welcomed the fact that this was resident was willing to sponsor a pot outside the Old Rectory. The issue in relation to refurbishing the path was not a matter for the Parish Council to comment upon however it was agreed that Councillor A Lee would respond to the resident accordingly.

3. Email from resident about the use of chemicals as a weed-killer particularly around the street signs of Heathways and the adjacent sign leading to Mitford and Meldrum Close.

4. An invitation had been received for the Royal Garden Party on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014, at Buckingham Palace. No nominations were received.

5. Campaign to Protect Rural England - A membership renewal had been received at a cost of £29.00. It was: **resolved** that the Parish Council renew its membership until 31 January 2015.

**134. Planning Applications**

No planning applications had been received.

**135. Horticultural Committee Update**

Councillor Stoker would have a future discussion with Councillor A Lee regarding any potential contribution to the Horticultural budget.

**136. AAP Update**

The Parish Council was advised that Cllr Lightley was stepping down as an AAP Board Member Representative. No further nominations were received.

Councillor Hudson then introduced the invitation for nominations of the prestigious Medal Award. It was: **resolved** that a notice be placed in Parish Council notice boards inviting nominations.

**137. Shincliffe Village**

Councillor Olechnowicz reported that he had contacted the County Council to discuss problems relating to stagnant pools of water which turn to ice in poor weather conditions on Low Road to Main Road. As there had not been much rain or snow, this was not deemed to be a priority. Councillor Stoker agreed to pursue this matter, if necessary.

**138. Shincliffe Village Recreation Ground – Update**

The Clerk reported that three quotations had been received to undertake the works to repair the damaged wall. Details of these quotations were circulated.

It was: **resolved** that Mr McGregory be appointed to undertake the works at a cost of £1900.00 (including VAT).

**139. Overgrown Trees – Decision on results of survey**

The results of the Tree Survey were circulated within the correspondence for consideration.

It was **resolved** that: the Chairman ascertain which trees were the responsibility of the Parish Council and authorise the Clerk to proceed with works for those which were, and it was anticipated that this would be in the region of £390.00 + VAT.

**140. Budget 2014/2015 – Setting of Precept**

The Clerk circulated a budget position statement as at 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013. Councillors were notified that the precept deadline was 31 January 2014 and in turn, were asked were asked to consider the precept for the forthcoming year.

Councillor G Lee commented that he did not feel that the precept should be increased, given the current economic climate, and the fact that the precept had been increased in the previous year and would rather see no increase in the Council Tax Base, and how this is depicted on the Council Tax Statement.

The Clerk was asked to circulate an Email, asking what other levels of reserves similar Council's held.

A discussion ensued in relation to the current precept and it was: **resolved** that the precept be set for £14.122.37.

**141. Councillor Stoker's Members' Initiative Fund**

The Clerk reported that £500.00 had now been received from Councillor Stoker's Members' Initiative Fund.

It was: **resolved** that £150.00 be donated to the Avenue Inn FC and that the remainder of the monies be used for community purposes.

**142. Accounts**

K Cuthbert (Salary January)	£245.08	
HMRC income tax payment	£61.20	
Darlington Borough Council	£568.80	
Shincliffe PCC Hire of Hall	£22.00	
Avenue Inn FC	£150.00	

NEPACS (S137)	£50.00	
Butterwick House (S137)	£50.00	
DCC Mayor's Appeal (S137)	£50.00	
Real Care (S137)	£50.00	
M Platts	£81.00	

**Resolved:** that the above accounts be paid.

#### **143. Request for Financial Assistance**

A request had been made for financial assistance to the Junior Football Team.

It was: **resolved** that a donation of £300.00 be made.

As £500.00 had been received from Councillor Stoker's Members' Initiative Fund, and £450.00 had been allocated to Football Clubs, the remaining £50.00 would be used for horticultural purposes.

#### **144. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The February parish council meeting will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham at 7.00 pm.

#### **145. Any Other Business – Members of the Public**

(a) An issue was raised in relation to flowers being tied to a lamppost at Hall Lane and signs relating to dog fouling being removed.

(b) A further issue was raised relating to an oversized pot hole on Hall Lane.

#### **146. Any Other Business – Councillors**

No issues were raised.

*The meeting terminated at 8.40 pm*