

Minutes of the Meeting of <b>Shincliffe Parish Council</b> held in <b>Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham</b> on <b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014</b> at 7.00 pm.	
<b>Present:</b> Councillor Olechnowicz (in the Chair) and Councillors Duell, Hudson, A Lee, G Lee, Lightley and Lovell. County Councillor Stoker and Marc Platts were also in attendance.	
<b>94. Declarations of Interest</b>	
There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>95. Apologies for Absence</b>	
An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting of behalf of PC Cockburn.	
<b>96. Issues Raised by Members of the Public</b>	
(1) Foxtan Way – A resident was in attendance to provide the Clerk with a copy of his response relating to a planning application on Foxtan Way.	
<b>97. Police Report</b>	
In the absence of PC Cockburn the Clerk advised that there had been no reported crime since the last meeting.	
<b>98. Minutes</b>	
It was <b>resolved</b> that: the minutes of the last meeting be approved as a true record subject to an amendment to delete that one of the available speed calming measures on the A177 from Bowburn to Shincliffe was a central reservation as this was deemed to be a dangerous end to a fast road, and therefore not an option.	
<b>99. Matters Arising</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) LED Street Lights – Some issues had been raised by residents relating to the introduction of the new LED street lights. Whilst the lifespan of these lights provided advantages as with a more direct glow, some residents had commented that the area was not as well lit. Councillor Stoker confirmed that the levels of lighting were within necessary parameters.</li> <li>(b) Fly-tipping – Once Love Lane had been cleared of Fly-tipping a letter would be sent to nearby residents advising them of a number to ring to report any further issues.</li> <li>(c) Storage of Water Tanks – It was confirmed that the Clerk would contact Poplar Tree Garden Centre to ascertain whether they had the storage facility and, or willingness to store water tanks to assist the Parish Gardener.</li> <li>(d) Advertising Boards – Councillor Stoker confirmed that planning permission should be obtained prior to displaying boards by local companies.</li> <li>(e) Weedkiller spraying around street signs - As weedkiller would no longer be sprayed by the County Council from April 2015 it was suggested that a map be obtained depicting where the County Council currently maintain in order that the Parish Council and willing residents Could maintain these sites in future.</li> <li>(f) Village Entrances – The Clerk confirmed that details of the location of gas and electricity services around the village had been received. A request for the water supply map was still outstanding.</li> </ul>	
<b>100. Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council</b>	
The Clerk circulated her report which included a budget position as at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2014 (income and expenditure), estimated outstanding income and expenditure to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 and current and	

projected bank balances. The total estimated balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 amounting to £6,938.09. The Clerk then circulated estimated expenditure 2014-2015 which totalled £15,237.52. This together with the information above would be used to determine the precept for the next financial year. Parish Councillors were reminded that the precept must be set by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

The second part of the report proposed Parish Council meeting dates for 2015. It was **resolved** that: the dates be approved and published on the website.

#### **101. County Councillor's Update**

Councillor Stoker provided the following update

- 1) Meeting with new Headteacher – A discussion had taken place in hope of finding a playing field for Shincliffe Junior Football Club. Unfortunately the pitch was deemed to be too small for matches, however Mr Tate would explore whether or not it could be used for training purposes.

The Headteacher had also agreed to warn children in Assembly, to be careful when crossing the footpath from Meldon Way across Chapel Place to the path leading to Ancroft Garth.

- 2) Road Sign (Chapel Place) – A warning sign had been erected to warn drivers of children crossing the road from a blind spot. Councillor Stoker had arranged for the sign to be erected opposite lamppost 524 on Meldon Way, however it had been put in the wrong place. Whilst the sign would remain in its present location, the wording would change to 'no footpaths' which was hoped to alert drivers of a potential danger ahead and pedestrians walking on, and crossing roads.

- 3) AAP Update – The November meeting was cancelled due to being inquorate.

500 people had attended the 'It's up to you' event' where the allocation of £20,000 had been considered for community projects. £2,000 had been awarded to 10 projects, namely: Laurel Avenue Community Centre (music & singing project); Blind Life in Durham (to teach visually impaired people to use computer); King's Church (befriending service for the elderly and housebound); Durham Pointers (training for volunteers to deal with disability issues); Durham Foodbank (running costs and the purchase of more collection bins); St. Margaret's Centre (computers for employment programme); Durham v Gilesgate Youth and Community Association (Easter Sports Camp); Co. Durham Stroke Group (exercise equipment); 1<sup>st</sup> Belmont Church Scout Group (camping equipment) and Durham Indoor Bowling Club (purchase of disabled bowling equipment).

It was **resolved** that: the County Councillor Update be noted.

#### **102. Correspondence**

##### **(a) Matters arising from last month's correspondence**

Garden Waste Collections – It was confirmed that the scheme to charge £20 per household for garden waster collections from April 2015 would be implemented.

Authorised Bank Signatories – A discussion ensued in relation to whether it was necessary to have two authorised signatories on all parish council payments. It was agreed that this would be reconsidered for the next financial year with delegation limits set for one signature.

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

- (1) Durham Association News (Issue 49 October 2014)
- (2) Clerks & Councils Direct (Issue 96 November 2014)
- (3) The latest on the Banks Wind Farm Proposal
- (4) Bulletin from Scrutiny Panel, APPG on Local Democracy and the President's Constitution

Review Group

- (5) Spaldings (November/December 2014)
- (6) Campaign to Protect Rural England (Countryside Voice - Winter 2014)
- (7) Campaign to Protect Rural England (Field Work – Winter 2014)
- (8) War Memorials Trust (Bulletin)
- (9) Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)
- (10) Road Traffic Accident Mapping of Interest
- (11) Durham Area Action Partnership Bulletin – November 2014
- (12) The Clerk Magazine (Vol. 45, No. 6 – November 2014)
- (13) Campaign to Protect Rural England (North East Newsletter – Autumn 2014)
- (14) Fly-tipping Posters

Current Correspondence

- (1) Licensing Application – Notification had been received advising that Durham County Council had received a licensing application from Brambledown Contracts Group (Poplar Tree Garden Centre) for the sale of alcohol Monday to Sunday inclusive between the hours of 9.30am to 5.30pm. The deadline for representations was 25 November 2014. It was **resolved** that: no representations be made on behalf of the Parish Council.
- (2) Strawberry Lane Bench – An email had been received from a resident enquiring about the removal of the bench on Strawberry Lane. The Parish Council noted that this had been used to replace a bench in Shincliffe Village which was no longer fit for purpose. Marc was thanked for speaking to the resident first, and it was agreed that a replacement may be considered in due course.
- (3) Noise Issues (Shincliffe Village) – A resident had raised the issue of extreme noise levels in the fields around the village one evening in August/September. The Parish Council commented that this may have been coming from Houghall College and that there was a 24 hour contact telephone number to report such issues, should this occur again in the future. Any parties/weddings should have licensing approval so checks would be made with DCC to ensure that approvals are in place for such events.
- (4) Shincliffe Woods – Ramblers had brought it to the attention of the Parish Council that the steps were in a terrible state. As a result, these residents had offered to lay gravel if this was supplied to them. It was commented that these steps were not the responsibility of the Parish Council therefore concerns would need to be addressed to a Public Footpath Officer at the County Council.

**103. Planning Applications**

[DM/14/03312/FPA](#)

Mr S O'Connor  
3 Heathways  
High Shincliffe  
Durham  
DH1 2PG

Erection of first floor extension above existing integral garage.

[DM/14/03360/FPA](#)

Mr J Kall  
4 Foxton Way  
High Shincliffe  
Durham  
DH1 2PJ

Erection of single-storey extensions at side and rear of dwelling and excavation/boundary works to rear (retrospective application).

It was: **resolved** that no objections were made in respect of the first planning application and that a letter be sent in respect of the second planning application to express the views of the Parish Council in that they were disappointed in the way in which the process has been handled.

**104. Horticultural Committee Update**

Councillor A Lee reported that winter bedding plants were being planted together with a drift of bulbs to flower in the spring.

The £40 voucher received for the winning the Beautiful Durham award would be used to plant a further drift of bulbs.

**105. AAP Update**

This item of business had been covered within the County Councillor's update.

**106. Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – Shincliffe Village**

A draft letter to be sent to residents of Shincliffe Village was circulated. The letter explained the 'rat running' issues which had been reported to the Parish Council together with some of the suggested reasons behind these and reporting the problematic periods i.e. morning rush hour and poor weather conditions.

Several meetings had already taken place between Councillor Stoker, the Chairman, County Council Officers and the Police. The Parish Council acknowledged that they had also considered issues at length, however there did not appear to be any simple solution. In addition to this, confirmation had been received that the County Council did not have any funding available to support any of the proposed measures.

The draft letter outlined suggested proposals namely 1) TRO from Seven Stars to Shincliffe Lane (8am-9am) 2) TRO from Seven Stars to Rose Tree (8am-9am) 3) a one way system 4) closing off the 'slip road' 5) Sleeping Policemen 6) residents action 7) status quo. The cost implications together with the advantages and disadvantages were also set out.

Given the considerable cost implications attached to each of the proposals, Councillor Stoker agreed to ask the County Council to confirm the suggested costs in writing and in addition to this, query whether a one way system could be operated for one hour per day.

The Parish Council acknowledged that a very difficult decision needed to be made in relation to this, in particular how funding would be generated if it was deemed necessary to implement a traffic calming measure. A discussion ensued regarding the indicative precept increases necessary to generate suggested levels of finances and given the severe cost implications, it was agreed that a village meeting be held gather opinions of residents.

**107. Accounts**

K Cuthbert (November Salary)	£249.91		
HMRC Income Tax	£62.40		
DCC (Hire of School Library)	£30.36		
M Platts (Horticulture)	£333.00		
M Platts (Benches)	£16.00		

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

**108. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The December Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014, 7.00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village, High Shincliffe, Durham.

<b>109. Any Other Business – Councillors</b>
(a) BT Open Reach – Councillor Stoker advised that he was exploring the possibility of ‘Superfast Broadband’ in Shincliffe Village.

***The meeting terminated at 8.50pm***