

Shincliffe Parish Council

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held online on Thursday 19th November, 2020 at 6.00pm

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

In Attendance: Stuart Forster, Linda Fairlamb, Christine Everatt and Christine Warburton.

Everyone introduced themselves to the meeting.

Item		Action By
1.	Apologies for Absence There were no apologies for absence.	
2.	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Resignation Councillor Duell The Chairman advised that following a seven year period on the Parish Council, Councillor Duell had given notification of his intention to retire, and had therefore duly submitted his resignation. Parish Councillors recognised the immense amount of work Dave had undertaken, and support and dedication he had given to both the Parish Council and the Community during his term of office. Parish Councillors acknowledged that Dave would be a huge miss and wished him a very happy and well-deserved retirement.	
4.	Appointment of Vice-Chairman Following the resignation of Councillor Duell, a position of Vice-Chairman had arisen. The Chairman proposed the appointment of interim Vice-Chairman, Councillor John Wright. Parish Councillors supported this proposal and it was:-	

	<p>RESOLVED that: Councillor Wright be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.</p>	
5.	<p>Issues Raised by Members of the Public (Since the Last Meeting)</p> <p>All correspondence (emails and letters) received from Members of the public had been previously circulated to all Councillors, for consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shincliffe Play Park <p>A resident referred to and an unpleasant incident which had taken place on 7th November which had resulted in the Police being called and commented that defecating on their fence was unacceptable.</p> <p>Another resident commented that she had also seen children and adults, using the field as a toilet given that there were currently no toileting facilities within the park.</p> <p>A further resident commented that she did not want to encourage a toilet block, her concerns were around people visiting from surrounding areas, the picnic tables encouraging visitors to bring food and drink, and also the level of equipment currently in the park and referred to the previous suggestion to remove three pieces of equipment which she believed could reduce noise levels.</p> <p>A resident referred to the opening of the park on 4th July, 2020 and commented that as Shincliffe Park was one of the first to open, she believed that the number of visitors as a result of this, had caused problems and that she had previously expressed her concerns in relation to this.</p> <p>The resident had been previously assured from the Parish Council, that a risk assessment had been undertaken for the opening of Park following guidance from DCC and all measures were responded to in terms COVID and temporary signage displayed.</p> <p>A resident was clear that they were not suggesting closure of the Park, the request was moving of the picnic tables, removal of three pieces of equipment and reducing capacity within the park, which they believed, would alleviate problems with parking.</p>	

The Chair advised that the Parish Council were currently investigating relocating the picnic tables, and that other issues raised would be responded to in writing, once investigations had taken place and an informed decision could be made.

A resident commented that there were a lot of older people within the village however very few families and that issues seemed to centre around noise and also toileting, and commented that this was a feeling of a several people within the village.

In response to a resident asking what three pieces of equipment other residents felt should be removed, it was suggested that these be the zip wire, shuggy boat and nest swing.

- **Pheasant Shooting**

Concerns had been raised by residents who had been stopped from using the public footpath from Manor Farm down to the village, by the organiser of a Pheasant Shoot and also the noise which such events generate.

Following clarification from one resident, the Chair advised that the 'Right of Way' meant that the footpath had not been closed, they were advised not to proceed whilst the shooting was taking place. It was therefore lawful, however consideration was being given to how people could safely walk down the pathway and minimise disruption.

- **Shincliffe Village Parking**

A resident suggested that parking within Shincliffe Village should be 'residents only' and commented that double yellow lines on the corner of Low Road, whilst making the road more safe, would just transfer the parking issue elsewhere around the village due to volume of traffic.

The Chair advised that the policy of Durham County Council specified that the criteria for 'residents only' parking would not be met, which was the same for paid parking, however discussions were taking place.

The Chair had requested that Officers from DCC outline proposals for consideration, for example a 'No Through Road' for Low Green, brown tourist signs to the Garden Centre, and

following that, a consultation would be undertaken with those properties which could be directly affected.

- **Criminal Damage – Paddock Opposite Bromley Close**

A resident had reported a cable lock which had recently been severed on his gate into the grass paddock. The resident had reported this to the Police and asked that the Parish Council note this for information.

- **Overgrown Grass, Trees, Shrubs – Heathways**

Councillor Wright advised that he had had a discussion with a resident from Heathways regarding the overgrown grass, weeds, fruit trees and bushes at a stretch of land near her house and also the sighting of vermin in the overgrown area according to another neighbour. The resident had reported this to DCC although to date, no progress had been made. The Parish Gardener had visited the area and suggested that DCC could be asked to trim back the vegetation adjacent to the bordering fencing affecting two properties to reduce access by vermin.

- **Shrubs St. Mary' Close and Maintenance of the Two Paths (one from A177 and the other to the Church)**

A resident had asked the Parish Council to investigate various ownership issues at St. Mary's Close (Shincliffe Village) relating to shrub maintenance and path maintenance.

Parish Councillors commented that despite an onerous attempt to identify ownership, no clarity following the development of St. Mary's Close could be obtained from the developers or the Land Registry. Parish Councillors had concluded that unfortunately these were questions that they were unable to answer.

A former resident had very kindly, over numerous years maintained the area, but had sadly passed away some time ago, New residents were attempting to gain community support for maintenance of the shrubs and bushes.

The Parish Council welcomed this and commented that the liability of the Parish Council was the bench, which due to suspected criminal damage had had to be removed. A replacement bench had been ordered, and delivery was anticipated mid-December.

	<p>A resident commented that residents from the upper green were currently maintaining the upper green area and that following a letter requesting support, an offer had been made to help out the lower green in terms of a community gardening day. It was stated that this had always been maintained by residents from the lower green and not by a resident, who had historically only maintained the upper green.</p>	
6.	<p>Minutes</p> <p>RESOLVED that: the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September, 2020 be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:</p> <p>Item 3 (Shincliffe Play Park) second paragraph to read ‘Low Road not Low Green’;</p> <p>Page 2 Paragraph 2 to read ‘An additional resident commented that Low Green had been destroyed and required remedial works’.</p> <p>Item 10 – Bullet Point 3 to read ‘Due to antisocial behaviour a problem had been encountered in relation to a picnic bench which had been removed but abandoned, and subsequently reinstalled.’</p> <p>A resident commented that they felt that the minutes were inaccurate in that they should have referred to the noise which was being experienced, and how picnic tables were encouraging people to bring food, and also in addition to this, the concerns they had raised in relation to the Park attracting families and people from surrounding villages, given that Shincliffe had very few children.</p> <p>A request was made, that it also be minuted, that some pieces of equipment could be removed, as a generous gesture to another area, to reduce the issue of noise, and also reduce the attraction from those of surrounding villages.</p>	
7.	<p>Matters Arising (Including Actions from the Last Meeting)</p> <p>A resident raised an issue of concern in relation to what happened to the emails sent to the Parish Council and was advised that these were either responded to directly, or sent to all Parish Councillors for consideration.</p>	

8.	<p>Written Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Durham Plan – Publication of Inspector’s Report • Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership appoints new Chair • Council Teams up with Developer to provide affordable homes • Plans approved for dynamic heritage hub in the heart of County Durham • Update on Council Services – 25th September 2020 • Durham AAP Newsletter – 29th September 2020 • Coronavirus Testing Centre to open in Durham City • Durham Constabulary – October Newsletter • Update on Council Services – 2nd October 2020 • History Centre Update • Supporting County Durham’s Towns and Villages • Update on Council Services – 9th October 2020 • Two County Durham Venues ordered to close until further notice • Hand Washing Stations to be set up in Schools to support safety measures • Recovery Funding for Culture in County Durham • Popular Heritage Festival runs for its second year • Fly-Tipper left more than £1,000 worse off after being caught on camera • Update on Council Services – 16th October 2020 • North East Councils seek an assurance of fair and sustainable funding package • County Durham premises reminded to follow Coronavirus restrictions • Bonfire Night • Takeaway and Director left £1,500 worse off over unlicensed late-night food • County Durham Plan adoption agreed by Full Council • County Durham premises facing action over Coronavirus restrictions • Update on Council Services – 23rd October 2020 • Adoption of the County Durham Plan to 2035 • Council launches Free School Meals Scheme for half-term • Response to Free School Meals Scheme demonstrates the need • Free Central Heating Grants • More County Durham Libraries to reopen for browsing • Update on Council Services – 30th October 2020 • Activity Packs lift spirits in challenging times • Durham Constabulary – November Newsletter • Update on Council Services – 6 November 2020 	
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9.	<p>Planning Application</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">DM/20/02602/LB</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Thornley House Sherburn Hospital Sherburn House DH1 2SE</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Listed building consent for various alterations including the removal of stone tiles to the cat-slide roof and their replacement with slate tiles, new smoke vent to the cat-slide roof and new external lighting.</td> </tr> </table> <p>RESOLVED that: there were no objections in relation to the above planning applications.</p>	DM/20/02602/LB	Thornley House Sherburn Hospital Sherburn House DH1 2SE	Listed building consent for various alterations including the removal of stone tiles to the cat-slide roof and their replacement with slate tiles, new smoke vent to the cat-slide roof and new external lighting.	
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10.	<p>Horticulture Committee Update (Standing Item)</p> <p>Councillor Wright provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the spring bedding had taken place on time and had been planted; • The Christmas Trees were due to be installed on 30 November, in the same locations as the previous year. A letter had been delivered to those residents in line of sight; 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst baubles were being discouraged as they were potentially dangerous, feedback from a resident had suggested knitted baubles which would be encouraged; • Bench Maintenance around the Parish was ongoing; and • Whips and protective guards had been purchased prior to planting in the New Year. 																															
11.	<p>Sherburn House Planting Initiative (Standing Item)</p> <p>Parish Councillors were advised that the benefit of this planting initiative would hopefully highlight that residents lived adjacent to this busy road.</p> <p>The proposal comprised creating bedding areas and planting drifts of daffodils. Some 3000 bulbs were now in place.</p> <p>A Highways Licence had been obtained from DCC and Sherburn Hospital would be contacted in due course, for engagement.</p>																															
12.	<p>Shincliffe Play Park (Standing Item)</p> <p>This had been covered earlier in the meeting.</p>																															
13.	<p>Current Accounts for Approval</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payable to</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>K Kirton (October Salary)</td> <td>£427.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC Income Tax (October)</td> <td>£107.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K Kirton (November Salary)</td> <td>£373.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC Income Tax (November)</td> <td>£93.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K Kirton Reimbursement Zoom (31st October)</td> <td>£14.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K Kirton Reimbursement Zoom (30th November)</td> <td>£14.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Savills ½ Yearly Rent (Shincliffe Play Park)</td> <td>£70.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reimbursement (Cllr J Wright – Boston Bulb Company)</td> <td>£156.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reimbursement (Cllr J Wright – DCC – Licence Sherburn House Planting)</td> <td>£150.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reimbursement (Cllr J Wright – Trees Please – Shincliffe Play Park)</td> <td>£465.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reimbursement (Cllr J Wright – Cable Ties for Christmas Trees)</td> <td>£3.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M Platts (Sherburn House Planting Initiative and Horticulture)</td> <td>£392.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Bell (Trees Love Lane)</td> <td>£120.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reimbursement (Cllr J Wright – Bamboo Canes & Spiral Tree Guards)</td> <td>£210.90</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payable to	Amount	K Kirton (October Salary)	£427.30	HMRC Income Tax (October)	£107.00	K Kirton (November Salary)	£373.24	HMRC Income Tax (November)	£93.20	K Kirton Reimbursement Zoom (31 st October)	£14.39	K Kirton Reimbursement Zoom (30 th November)	£14.39	Savills ½ Yearly Rent (Shincliffe Play Park)	£70.00	Reimbursement (Cllr J Wright – Boston Bulb Company)	£156.00	Reimbursement (Cllr J Wright – DCC – Licence Sherburn House Planting)	£150.00	Reimbursement (Cllr J Wright – Trees Please – Shincliffe Play Park)	£465.00	Reimbursement (Cllr J Wright – Cable Ties for Christmas Trees)	£3.69	M Platts (Sherburn House Planting Initiative and Horticulture)	£392.81	Ian Bell (Trees Love Lane)	£120.00	Reimbursement (Cllr J Wright – Bamboo Canes & Spiral Tree Guards)	£210.90	
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	M Platts (Leaflet Holder - HS)	£50.98		
	M Platts (Sign Maintenance)	£14.00		
	M Platts (Bench Maintenance)	£198.42		
	RESOLVED that: the above accounts be paid.			
14.	Date of Next Meeting Thursday 10 th December, 2020 at 6.00pm.			
15.	Any Other Business – Councillors No issues were raised.			

Meeting Terminated at 7.10 pm