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| <p>Minutes of the Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held in Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham on Tuesday 21st October 2014 at 7.00 pm.</p> | |
| <p>Present: 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. There was one member of the public present.</p> | |
| <p>The meeting commenced with the presentation of a certificate and prize to the winners of the Summer Garden Competition, by Councillor A Lee (Chair of the Horticultural Committee)</p> <p>1st Place – Mr and Mrs Price 2nd Place (Joint) – Mr and Mrs Backhouse 2nd Place (Joint) – Mr Reed and Ms Mitchell</p> <p>Councillor A Lee, on behalf of the Parish Council congratulated Marc Platts (Parish Gardener) for High Shincliffe winning the Beautiful Durham Award. Thanks were extended for all Marc's hard work and the high standards he achieves. Marc was duly presented with a certificate and a £50.00 honorarium.</p> <p>In addition to this, Mr Milburn had kindly offered to Judge the Garden Competition. A £10.00 voucher would therefore also be given to Mr Milburn to thank him, on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> | |
| 78. | Declarations of Interest |
| <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p> | |
| 79. | Apologies for Absence |
| <p>An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting of behalf of PC Cockburn.</p> | |
| 80. | Issues Raised by Members of the Public |
| <p>(1) Foxton Way – A resident was in attendance to provide an update in relation to building works at Foxton Way. Councillor Stoker confirmed that he had discussed the principle elevation decision with a Senior Planning Officer however the decision was not overturned.</p> | |
| 81. | Police Report |
| <p>In the absence of PC Cockburn the Clerk advised that there had been no reported crime since the last meeting.</p> | |
| 82. | Minutes |
| <p>It was resolved that: the minutes of the last meeting be approved as a true record.</p> | |
| 83. | Matters Arising |
| <p>(a) Weedkiller spraying under street signs and around trees – Following a recent decision of the Parish Council, contact had been made with the County Council requesting assurance that weedkiller would no longer be used around street signs and trees. From April 2015, these would be maintained by the Parish Gardener and it was suggested that bulbs be planted around these areas to prevent overgrown grass and weeds. A map of the areas currently maintained by the County Council would therefore be obtained.</p> | |
| 84. | Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council |
| <p>The Clerk circulated and spoke to her report. Any comments and questions were welcomed.</p> | |

NS&I Savings Account – The Parish Council agreed that the £2,500 transferred to the Business Money Manger Account should remain there.

CiCLA Qualification – The Parish Council agreed to support and fund the Clerk to undertake this qualification at a cost of £170.00

External Hard Drive – The Parish Council authorised the Clerk to purchase an External Hard Drive for use with the Parish Council Laptop.

85. County Councillor's Update

Councillor Stoker provided the following update:

1) Assisting the Junior Football Club – A discussion had taken place with Peter Warburton (Director of Sport and Culture, Durham University) regarding the hire of pitches. Unfortunately there were no pitches available during term time.

Councillor G Lee agreed to contact Houghall College as the festival of football appeared to be monthly and normally finished by Saturday midday.

2) Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) – Councillor Stoker had attended two meetings with officers. As the accident record around Shincliffe Village was deemed to be 'sufficiently low' a funding contribution would not be made at the present time. Costs were likely to be in the region of £18,000 - £20,000 as the TRO must operate both ways and illuminated signs must also be installed. In addition to this, delays in implementation were highly likely as the consultation process had to include the proposal as a whole and not just half way, and legal issues could arise with the signage of the restriction.

Officers had therefore suggested an alternative solution to a TRO, by means of closing off the slip road from the A177 into the village which would cost between £12,000 - £20,000 and could be completed by the end of the financial year. An illustration of this proposal was circulated.

The Parish Council acknowledged the mixed views in relation to the traffic problems within the village and the surveys which had been undertaken. As there was not an obvious suitable solution it was proposed that an informal meeting be held in the Church Hall, with all residents being invited to attend and that the suggested options be shared with them for consultation.

It was **resolved** that: Councillor Olechnowicz and Stoker produce a briefing on proposals with associated costings.

3) Speeding on A177 at High Shincliffe – Due to complications of/arising from reducing the speed limit, the County Council had recommended a series of speed calming techniques that could be introduced incrementally. These included: white lines near the curbs on either side of the road; plastic bollards; plastic boxes containing flowers; 'Dragon's Teeth' (against a blue background); 'slow down' signals; and a central reservation. The last suggestion was the most expensive; but also the most effective. The other methods psychologically created an impression of a narrowing road ahead. Consideration having been given to each of the options:

It was **resolved** that: initially white lines (as wide as possible) would be painted near the curbs on either side of the road and also that the tree in front of 40mph sign be cut back.

4) 'Beware Children Crossing' sign on Chapel Place – This would be erected the following week.

5) LED Street Lights – Were now used as a replacement in lampposts. They were both more reliable and produced a brighter direct light immediately beneath, and less glow to the sides.

6) Primary Schools in Bowburn – This planning application had been narrowly lost.

7) AAP Update – Two presentations had been delivered from Developers detailing proposals for near the 'Gates' and also lower Claypath. Councillor Stoker outlined the detail to the Parish Council.

8) High Shincliffe Park – The Community Association were now only £1,200 away from reaching their funding targets. Councillor Stoker had therefore agreed to fund this shortfall. In addition, he had asked that they obtain a quote for resurfacing the whole football pitch.

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| 86. Correspondence |
| (a) <u>Matters arising from last month's correspondence</u> There were no matters arising |
| (b) <u>Correspondence to circulate for discussion/decision at next parish council meeting</u> (1) Spaldings October 2014 (Leaflet) (2) Wicksteed Playgrounds (Leaflet) (3) Letter of thanks from the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham (4) Garden Waste Collections in 2015 (5) Winter Salting Routes in County Durham 2014/2015 (6) CDALC – 68 th Annual General Meeting – 8 November 2014 (7) County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Public Consultation (8) Email of thanks from Durham County Brass Band Association (9) NALC Manifesto |
| <u>Current Correspondence</u> No items to raise. |
| 87. Planning Applications |
| No planning applications had been received since the last meeting. |
| 88. Horticultural Committee Update |
| Councillor A Lee provided the following update: 1) Village Entrances – proposed planting schemes for new beds and the associated costs were being established. Checks were also underway for any services below ground. As it was previously agreed by the Parish Council that one of the priorities of spend within the budget reserves was sustainable planting, a request was made for funding from Parish Council reserves for first phases of the project and also further funding for Year 2 which would look at new beds, maintenance and bedding plants. 2) Perennial Beds – A second sustainable, perennial bed was also proposed which would be planted at the entrance to Whitwell Acres in the Spring 2015. This would be similar to the Thropton bed in that it would be predominately perennial planting supplemented with some summer bedding plants. The Parish Council welcomed these proposals and commented upon the welcoming impact these enhancements would have on the village. As a result: It was resolved that: £2,000 be allocated to the horticultural budget, from Parish Council reserves for use with sustainable planting projects and that a further £1,500 - £2,000 be earmarked from reserves within the 2015-2016 financial year for further projects. 3) Love Lane – It was proposed that this area be cleared, and planted and maintained as a wild country lane. Councillor A Lee would speak to Mr Tate to discuss potential involvement of Shincliffe School children and a discussion may take place in future about applying for Britain in Bloom: It's your Neighbourhood. Proposed costs for reclaiming and maintaining Love Lane were circulated which amounted to £386.85. It was resolved that: these costs be split 50:50 with £200 being funded from Parish Council reserves and £200.00 funding from Councillor Stoker. On-going fly tipping issues were discussed and the negative impact that this could have on this project. As a result it was resolved that: Councillor Stoker would arrange for the lane to be cleared once again and that a letter be sent to residents advising them that fly tipping was illegal and providing them with a number to ring to report these issues. |

Marc then asked if the Parish Council were aware of anyone with storage capacity nearby to store water tanks. It was suggested that Popular Tree Garden Centre may be willing to assist.

89. AAP Update

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

90. Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – Shincliffe Village

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

91. Accounts

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| M Platts (Bench Maintenance) | £172.82 | | |
| M Platts (Horticulture) | £432.00 | | |
| M Platts (General Maintenance) | £25.00 | | |
| M Platts (Old Mine Site) | £60.00 | | |
| Darlington Borough Council (Summer Plants) | £828.43 | | |
| DCC (Hire of School Library) | £30.36 | | |
| Durham Cathedral (1/2 Yearly Rent) | £70.00 | | |
| BDO (External Audit Fees) | £120.00 | | |
| CDALC (Finance Course – (two attendees) | £54.00 | | |
| K Cuthbert (October Salary) | £249.71 | | |
| HMRC Income Tax | £62.60 | | |
| K Cuthbert (reimbursement garden centre vouchers) | £50.00 | | |
| K Cuthbert (reimbursement printer cartridges) | £18.48 | | |
| M Platts (Honorarium) | £50.00 | | |
| M Platts (Bench Maintenance) | £198.00 | | |
| M Platts (Old Mine Site) | £90.00 | | |
| M Platts (Horticulture) | £531.00 | | |

Resolved: that the above accounts be paid.

92. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The November Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th November 2014, 7.00 p.m. at Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham.

93. Any Other Business – Councillors

- (a) Advertising Boards – Councillor Duell asked whether advertising boards were able to be displayed by local businesses in the villages. In the past, businesses had been asked to remove them by Conservation Officers so it was felt that a consistent approach was needed. Councillor Stoker agreed to determine whether the County Council had a policy in relation to this.
- (b) Signs on BT Telephone Poles and Lampposts – The Chairman had received a complaint about signs being erected on telephone poles and lampposts. Councillor Stoker agreed to find out if there was a policy in relation to this as there could be time constraints attached to any such signs.
- (c) Accumulating Vegetation – Councillor Lightley reported on the amount of leaves and vegetation accumulating around the area which was often resulting in dangerous conditions and likely to affect paths and roads. Councillor Stoker had reported this issue to the County Council.
- (d) Bin on Farm Track – this had not been emptied for some time and was almost overflowing. The Chairman agreed to ring the County Council and request that this be emptied.

The meeting terminated at 9.10 pm