

Minutes of the December Meeting of **Shincliffe Parish Council** held in **St. Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village** on **Tuesday 10 December 2013** at 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Lightley (in the Chair) and Councillors Hudson, A Lee, Lovell, and Olechnowicz. There were no members of the public present.

#### **110. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

#### **111. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Duell, G. Lee and Stoker and also PC Cockburn.

#### **112. Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2013 (copies previously circulated and publicised) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to an amendment that the Beautiful Durham Voucher would be used to plant bulbs in the 'D shaped' border.

#### **113. Matters Arising**

- (a) Access Gates to High Shincliffe Playing Field – Councillor Lightley reported that the gates had been left open for several weeks. Several calls had been made to County Hall however a response was still awaited. The Clerk was asked to write a letter requesting that a lock be fitted.
- (b) Offset Railings (outside the Avenue Inn) – The Clerk was asked to contact Councillor Stoker to ascertain timescales for the erection of the Offset Railings. Once the design and position of the fence was known, contact was to be made with the Landlord of the Avenue Inn.
- (c) Front Garden Competition – details of dates for the 2014 Front Garden Competition to be publicised in SCAN.
- (d) Low Road to Main Road (Shincliffe Village) – A discussion ensued in relation to the stagnant pool of water which turns to ice in cold weather conditions and the dangers that this could cause. Councillor Olechnowicz agreed to contact the County Council in relation to this as two emails had been received from residents expressing their concerns. A discussion would therefore take place with the Highways Engineers to see if gritting could be used to help alleviate the problem.
- (e) Love Lane – Councillor Lightley explained that the Bungalows belonged to two separate housing associations and unfortunately there was no gardening service available to residents. As complaints had been received, the Clerk was asked to write a letter to residents explaining that Love Lane was an unadopted road and that materials could not be disposed of in this area and suggesting that they contact the Parish Council with any concerns or issues, as these could be considered on a case by case basis with a request being made to the Avenue Inn Football Team to occasionally clear the area.
- (f) Old Mine Site – The recent survey from Durham Wildlife Trust had suggested planting some Oak Trees. Councillor Hudson commented on how muddy this area often was, and suggested that consideration be given to laying some gravel.

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

#### **114. Police Report**

As PC Cockburn had submitted his apologies for absence, he provided the Clerk with the following written update which was read out:

22/11/2013 Items of scrap metal taken from outside The Rose Tree Inn

25/11/2013 Tools taken from an insecure van in High Street South

28/11/2013 Tools taken from a secure van by breaking a window in Pond Street.

There had been an increase lately in car crime which had mainly been in the Coxhoe , Gilesgate and Belmont areas of Durham.

It was **resolved** that: the Police Report be noted.

**115. County Councillor Update**

As Councillor Stoker had submitted his apologies for absence, the following written report would be electronically circulated:

The changes to make the road through the village access only, could happen this year, provided a funding gap of £5000 was met. Councillor Stoker had agreed to do this, which was his total Local Area Member's Budget highways money for the year.

**116. Correspondence**

(a) Matters arising from last month's correspondence  
 The issue of the street lights on High Street had been referred to the County Council however they were still only working intermittently. The Clerk agreed to raise this issue again.

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

1. LCR (Winter 2013)
2. The Clerk's Magazine (November 2013)
3. Neighbourhood Protection Team Update – Durham Area Performance Report for October 2013
4. NALC – Council Tax Benefit Support Grant
5. County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) funding for Secretariat
6. North East Leadership Board (Combined Authority email 27/11/13)
7. Community New – Launch Edition – Autumn 2013

Current Correspondence

1. Email from resident about inappropriate driving around the village. The Clerk explained that she had contacted PC Cockburn in relation to this and that a message would be included in the Parish Newsletter.
2. Big Spring Clean – An invitation had been received to be involved in the Big Spring Clean on Monday 7 April 2014. The Parish Council agreed to be involved in this initiative and asked that the Clerk publish a flyer in the notice boards asking for volunteers.

**117. Planning Applications**

CE/13/01381/TPO  
[http://publicaccess.durhamcity.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_detailview.aspx?caseno=MW57PLBN5B000](http://publicaccess.durhamcity.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_detailview.aspx?caseno=MW57PLBN5B000)

Mr Stewart	Poplar Tree Garden Centre Poplar Tree House Hall Lane Shincliffe Durham DH1 2NG	Felling of 1no. Poplar and crown reduction of 1no. Maple
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It was **resolved** that: no objection be made in relation to the above planning application.

**118. Horticultural Committee Update**

Councillor A Lee reported that she would have a discussion with Cllr Stoker in due course regarding a commitment for a small contribution. £150.00 of Councillor Stoker's Members' Initiative Fund had been allocated to the Avenue Inn Football Team and the remaining £350 was to be used for community purposes and would be discussed in January.

**119. AAP Update**

Councillor Lightley reported that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 11 December 2013. A consultation was currently taking place regarding Care Homes as the cost to the County Council per bed was double that of private firms, making it almost unsustainable.

Councillor Lightley went on to say that he was looking to step down as a Parish Council APP Board Member and asked that anyone interested in the position to contact CDALC.

**120. Shincliffe Village**

The County Council and the Dean and Chapter were to be asked to meet and try and resolve the various issues. Councillor Stoker would be asked to be involved and co-ordinate a meeting.

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

The Clerk reported that repairs to the recreation ground wall had not been covered within the existing insurance policy. As a result, the policy needed to be reviewed and particulars added where necessary.

The Clerk was asked to obtain three quotes for discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council with a view of appointing a contractor to undertake the remedial works.

It was **resolved** that: three quotes be obtained for remedial works.

**122. Overgrown Trees – Results of Survey**

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

It was **resolved** that: this item of business be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**123. Budget Update – 2013/2014**

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 to consider potential spend and notify the Clerk prior to the January meeting.

**124. Accounts**

K Cuthbert (Salary December)	£245.08	
K Cuthbert ½ yearly electricity allowance	£50.00	
Durham Cathedral ½ yearly rent	£70.00	
Oliver's Tree Services (Survey)	£180.00	
HMRC income tax payment	£61.20	

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

**125. Requests for Financial Assistance**

The Parish Council considered requests for financial assistance and awarded a grant of £50.00 to the following charities:

Mayor's Appeal 2013-2014  
NEPACS (Building bridges for prisoners, their families and the community)  
Children's Hospice Butterwick House  
Together we Achieve

It was **resolved** that: a donation of £50.00 be made to each of the above charities.

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

The January parish council meeting will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014 at Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham at 7.00 pm.

**126. Any Other Business – Members of the Public**

There were no items of business.

**127. Any Other Business – Councillors**

- a) Police and Crime Commissioner – Young People – A matter to draw to people's attention.
- b) Councillor P Hudson commented that residents were objecting to the Garden Centre frequently parking their van on the corner. The Clerk was asked to contact the Conversation Team about their policy in relation to this.

***The meeting terminated at 8.20 pm***