

Minutes of the Meeting of <b>Shincliffe Parish Council</b> held at <b>Bowburn Community Association, Bowburn, Durham</b> on <b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016</b> at 7.00 pm.	<b>Action By:</b>
<b>Present:</b> Councillor G. Lee (in the Chair) and Councillors Duell, A. Lee, Lovell and Olechnowicz.  County Councillor Stoker was also in attendance.	
<b>122. Apologies for Absence</b>	
There were no apologies for absence.	
<b>123. Declarations of Interest</b>	
There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>124. Issues Raised by Members of the Public</b>	
There were no members of the public present.	
<b>125. Minutes</b>	
It was <b>resolved</b> that: the minutes of the meeting held on 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2015, be approved as a true record.	
<b>126. Matters Arising</b>	
There were no matters arising.	
<b>127. Councillor Vacancies</b>	
The Clerk reported that a letter of resignation had been received from both Councillor P. Hudson and Councillor J. Lightley. Electoral Services had been notified and a statutory notice would be publicised the following day (29 <sup>th</sup> January 2016). This notice would give the electorate 14 working days to request, in writing to Electoral Services, for an election to be called. If the requisite number of signatures was not obtained (10) by 18 <sup>th</sup> February, 2016, the Parish Council were able to fill the said vacancies via a co-option process. In the event that an election was called, this would take place by no later than 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2016.  The Parish Council recognised the invaluable contribution of both Councillor P. Hudson and Councillor J. Lightley over a significant number of years and suggestions were made as to how this could be recognised.	
<b>128. Police Report</b>	
The police had provided a written report advising that during the period 8/12/15 – 16/1/16 there had been one crime of burglary on 17/12/15 in Langton Lea. Enquiries were ongoing.	
<b>129. County Councillor's Update</b>	
County Councillor Stoker reported that planning permission would be sought for the Houghall College Student Accommodation Development to replace three buildings on the existing site. The site previously housed 70 students, whilst proposals for the new development aimed to house 240 students. Three parking spaces would also be reserved for disabled drivers but none for the University students. Some changes were being considered which would add shops to the ground floor.	

<p>In response to a question from the Chairman, Councillor Stoker advised that speeding restrictions on the A177 were still in the queue of works to be undertaken by DCC.</p> <p>Councillor Olechnowicz questioned whether any feedback had been received in relation to the X12 bus service and was advised that information was still awaited. Councillor Stoker advised that whilst this was not the responsibility of DCC, lobbying continued to take place.</p>					
<p><b>130. Correspondence</b></p>					
<p>(a) <u>Matters arising from last month's correspondence</u>  (1) No issues were raised.</p>					
<p>(b) <u>Correspondence to circulate for discussion/decision at next parish council meeting</u>  (1) Glasdon Brochure  (2) The Clerk Magazine (January 2016, Vol.47, No.1)  (3) Clerk's and Councils Direct (January 2016, Issue 103)  (4) Letter - Phase 2 of Development – East Durham College, Houghall Campus  (5) Letter – Durham City Homes</p>					
<p>(c) <u>Current Correspondence</u>  (1) An email had been received from a resident about an overgrown tree on the A177, on the boundary to their house in Telford Close. The ownership of this tree was not registered and it did not have a conservation or preservation order. Councillor A Lee agreed to contact the Parish Gardner to ascertain the cost of pruning the tree back to a suitable size and also his availability to carry out these works. Councillor Stoker agreed to pay for half of the cost. An alternative would be to include this as part of a community gardening event which volunteers had signed up for in the recent resident survey.  (2) An email had been received from a resident regarding dog fouling throughout the village. The Clerk agreed to display notices in the notice boards asking residents to be mindful about keeping the parish tidy and also to report any such offences.  (3) An email had been received from a resident regarding the damage to the playing field in High Shincliffe. Councillor Stoker explained that this was due to the amount of rainfall during the Autumn period. Repairs would be undertaken as soon as possible.  (4) Manor Close – Councillor Olechnowicz reported on the damage to the fence and explained that the site visits had been appreciated by the resident. As the fence belonged to the 'Chapter', Councillor Stoker agreed to ask them to visit the site.  (5) Emails had been received from a resident about the poor broadband speeds at High Shincliffe due to the copper wire feed into some of the households. The resident suggested that contact be made with Openreach to determine whether a booster could be installed. Councillor Stoker agreed to ask whether this was a potential option.</p>	<p><b>Cllr A. Lee</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Stoker</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Stoker</b></p>				
<p><b>131. Planning Applications</b></p>					
<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="132 1805 288 1865"><a href="#">DM/16/0013</a> <a href="#">2/FPA</a></td> <td data-bbox="316 1805 416 1865">Mr Alan Whitley</td> <td data-bbox="528 1805 655 1989">Bracken Cottage Bank Foot Shincliffe Durham DH1 2PD</td> <td data-bbox="756 1805 1155 1989">Retrospective application for single garage with sun-room/gym and toilet on the ground floor and hobby/storage space on first floor with access door and balcony to garden at first floor.</td> </tr> </table>	<a href="#">DM/16/0013</a> <a href="#">2/FPA</a>	Mr Alan Whitley	Bracken Cottage Bank Foot Shincliffe Durham DH1 2PD	Retrospective application for single garage with sun-room/gym and toilet on the ground floor and hobby/storage space on first floor with access door and balcony to garden at first floor.	
<a href="#">DM/16/0013</a> <a href="#">2/FPA</a>	Mr Alan Whitley	Bracken Cottage Bank Foot Shincliffe Durham DH1 2PD	Retrospective application for single garage with sun-room/gym and toilet on the ground floor and hobby/storage space on first floor with access door and balcony to garden at first floor.		
<p><b>Resolved that:</b> the Parish Council unanimously objected to the planning application. The Clerk agreed to provide a written response to the Planning Officer.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>				

<b>132. Horticulture Committee Update</b>	
<p>Councillor A. Lee reported that the Parish Gardener was currently tidying up the flower beds.</p> <p>Plans were also underway to plant fruit trees on the patch of grass near Meldon Way. This would be funded from the sustainable budget.</p>	
<b>133. Finance Committee Update</b>	
<p>Councillor G. Lee reported that the Finance Committee had met on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January and considered the initial draft of the budget for 2016/2017.</p>	
<b>134. Budget Position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015</b>	
<p>The Clerk referred to the budget position previously circulated and explained the overall expenditure as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 which amounted to £13,771.63. Total income was £15,652.24 and bank balances were £12,183.00.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> that: the budget position be noted.</p>	
<b>135. Precept 2016-2017</b>	
<p>The Clerk referred to the draft budget 2016/2017 which had been previously circulated. Anticipated spend for 2016/17 amounted to £16,875.96, therefore an increase in the precept of £1,000 was proposed raising it from £15,300 to £16,300. It was also anticipated that the reserves position would be reduced to approximately £3,675.93 if commitments were made to bench maintenance, election costs, tree maintenance, sustainable planting, and supporting local initiatives.</p> <p>Upon detailed discussion, the Parish Council <b>resolved</b> to: increase the precept for 2016/2017 by £1,000 to £16,300.</p>	
<b>136. Traffic Through Shincliffe Village</b>	
<p>The Clerk had previously circulated the findings of the additional survey undertaken by DCC on High Street and Low Road which detailed statistics in relation to both volume of traffic and speed.</p> <p>A layout plan of a 20mph enforceable limit through Shincliffe had also been drafted and circulated, with costs anticipated to be in the region of £4,000. Councillor Stoker confirmed that he would be willing to contribute 50% of the cost.</p> <p>Parish Councillors discussed the proposals and noted that the signs may be a deterrent but may not necessarily impact on volume of traffic and speed. As a result the Parish Council <b>resolved</b> that: all options had been considered in great detail and agreed that no further action be undertaken. An informal meeting would take place immediately prior to the February meeting, to discuss these outcomes with residents.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>137. Local Council Award Scheme – Quality Gold</b>	
<p>The Parish Council discussed the positive response received from the recent resident survey undertaken, and how this would be used to inform the criteria for the Quality Gold Award. Suggestions were made as to how to communicate the results of the survey to the community and it was proposed that a summary be published in SCAN with full details of the results being published online and paper copies available upon request.</p> <p>Parish Councillors expressed their continued support and commitment to achieve Quality Gold status. The Chairman explained that there were still several tasks to</p>	

be accomplished. The Clerk agreed to circulate a list assigning a role to each Parish Councillor.											
<b>138. Accounts for Approval</b>											
The following accounts were submitted for approval:											
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<b>Resolved:</b> that the above accounts be paid.											
<b>139. Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>											
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on <b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2016, 7.00pm at St. Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village, Durham.</b>											
<b>140. Any Other Business – Councillors</b>											
<p>(1) Councillor Stoker advised that he had donated £10,000 to help fund renovations to the Church Hall. As costs were higher than anticipated, further funds may be available.</p> <p>(2) Councillor Stoker advised that the 'Shovel and Shake' initiative may continue, subject to positive results from the survey to be undertaken in the summer. Information would also be welcomed from residents in relation to particular problematic areas of ice and dangerous conditions. The Parish Council acknowledged that feedback could be requested within the village newsletter.</p>											

***The meeting terminated at 8.45 pm***