

Minutes of the October Meeting of **Shincliffe Parish Council** held in **Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham** on **Tuesday 15 October 2013** at 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Duell (in the Chair) and Councillors Hudson, A Lee, G Lee, Lightley, and Olechnowicz. County Councillor Stoker was also in attendance.  
There were 4 members of the public present.

**71. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**72. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Lovell.

**73. Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 17 September 2013 (copies previously circulated and publicised) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair following a minor amendment.

**74. Matters Arising**

- (a) Car Parking - The Chair reported that he had made contact with PC Cockburn regarding the parking issues around school at opening and closing times and a uniformed presence was being made available to speak to drivers. Car registration details would be taken and anyone repeatedly offending would be fined.
- (b) Lee's Coaches – contact had been made with the Managing Director of the company regarding inappropriate parking. Several sub-contractors were used however assurances had been made this would not continue to happen. If the problem did re-occur, contact would be made with the Neighbourhood police to ask them to remind the drivers of the position.

**75. Police Report**

No police report was received. Councillors commented upon the value of the police presence at meetings and asked that the Clerk convey this message to PC Cockburn.

**76. County Councillor Update**

- (a) Avenue Street – Due to the potential risk of the road opening at the end of Avenue Street a site visit had been arranged for Friday 18 October at 9.30am.
- (b) The Durham County Plan – Councillor Stoker agreed to forward a copy to the Clerk for circulation.
- (c) Football Team – Discussions would take place with the local Football Team regarding any voluntary work they may be able to undertake.
- (d) St Mary's Close – A commitment had been made from the County Council to undertake improvement works to the footpaths.
- (e) Adoption Maps – As the Local Highways Inspector had indicated that he would be happy to brief the Parish Council, it was suggested that he be invited to a future meeting.

**77. Correspondence**

(a) Matters arising from last month's correspondence

There were no matters arising.

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

1. NALC Annual Report 2012-2013
2. Communities and Local Government – Our Place Programme
3. DCC – Winter Health Check Leaflet

4. Lunchtime School Crossing Patrol Consultation
5. NERO – Time Management Course for Members and Officers – Tuesday 22 October 2013
6. Notification of intention to dispose of former playground equipment at Staindrop
7. The County Durham Plan – Pre Submission Draft Local Plan (Executive Summary October 2013)
8. The County Durham Plan Pre Submission Draft (Cabinet Report 18 September 2013)
9. County Durham Plan Consultation (Press Release dated 8 October 2013)

#### Current Correspondence

1. CDALC AGM Notification – 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013 @ 10.00am
2. Review of Garden Waste Collection Service (Cabinet Report 18 September 2013)
3. CDALC – Notification of meeting Saturday 23 November 2013 @ 10.00am.

#### **78. Planning Applications**

No planning applications had been received. The Chair reported that the planning application in relation the Bracken Cottage had been declined.

#### **79. Horticultural Committee Update**

- (a) Winter Pansies had been ordered to be delivered to the Avenue Inn on Tuesday 8 October.
- (b) Beautiful Durham – Councillor A Lee would circulate the photo's which had been taken. Certificates would also be displayed in Parish Council Notice Boards and Poplar Tree Garden Centre. Entries would be made again next year.
- (c) Northumbria in Bloom – The Best Village Award (silver) had been received. Certificates would be displayed in Notice Boards and Poplar Tree Garden Centre and also the Trophy forwarded to the school for use in assembly. Discussions had taken place at the Horticultural Committee where it had been proposed that the village would opt out of participating in 2014 and the money be instead used to enhance the plants in the village. Views from residents would be sought in relation to this.
- (d) £40.00 gift vouchers had been received with the Trophy. M Plattts would use these to buy something sustainable for the village.
- (e) Discussions would take place with the Avenue Inn Football Team regarding voluntary work on the path maintenance at the Old Mine Site.
- (f) Garden Competition – Gardens had been judged by last year's winner Mr Grady. Due to the number of beautiful gardens around the villages the Committee had proposed introducing a 'highly recommended category' with certificates to be placed in notice boards.
- (g) County Council Support – The committee had reluctantly made cuts relating to the Old Mine Site, maintenance of benches and tubs, reduced summer planting and a decision to leave 22 tubs unplanted in the winter. The total deficit of £1,920 based on last year's budget is £1,200 plants, £300 clearance of Old Mine Site, £420 maintenance of benches, tubs and roadside clearance. Discussions would therefore take place with Councillor Stoker regarding any potential support.

#### **80. AAP Update**

Councillor Stoker explained the prioritisation exercise being undertaken by the Durham City Area Group to ascertain what could be achieved by April 2014. Priorities would be brought to the next meeting.

#### **81. DCC Community Governance Review**

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received in relation to the Community Governance Review and that views were being sought from the Parish Council. Consideration having been given to the matter it was **resolved**: that the Clerk submit the following response to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council:

Shincliffe Parish Council currently has two wards, the Shincliffe parish ward (represented by six Councillors) and the Bell ward (represented by one Councillor). The transfer of the Bell Ward to Casop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council would result in Shincliffe Parish Council reverting back to an un-warded Parish (as it was prior to the creation of the Bell Ward in May 2013). The Parish Council are happy with this proposal.

With regards to Council size, the Parish Council felt that 7 Councillors should remain on the Parish Council. Therefore that the 6 Councillors allocated to the unaffected ward (Shincliffe) and the Councillor who was elected to serve on the Bell Parish Ward, would continue to be represented on the Parish Council with no change to Council size.

#### **82. Village Green – Shincliffe Village**

Councillor Olechnowicz advised that he intended to meet with Councillor Stoker to discuss the ongoing problems at Shincliffe Village. It was then hoped that the County Council could attend a future meeting where residents of the village could also be invited to attend to discuss these issues with the Parish and County Council.

#### **83. Shincliffe Village Recreation Ground – damaged wall**

The Clerk to the Council had requested a claim form from the Parish Council Insurance Company. This had now been received and the required information was being obtained.

#### **84. Overgrown Trees – Receipt of Quote for Survey**

The Chair had received a quote from Oliver's Tree Services Ltd to re-inspect 47 trees as per the report dated January 2009 at a cost of £150.00 (+VAT).

It was **resolved** that: Oliver's Tree Services Ltd be appointed to re-inspect the trees and that the survey be undertaken in December.

#### **85. Appointment of Internal Auditor**

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that the current Internal Auditor (Mr Ian Lawlan) intended to retire. As a result contact had been made with various other Internal Auditors to ascertain whether they would be interested in undertaking the role. Two people had responded and their information was circulated.

It was **resolved** that: Mr Gordon Fletcher be appointed as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor.

#### **86. Dates and Times of Meetings 2014**

The Clerk circulated proposed dates and times of meetings for the forthcoming calendar year.

It was **resolved** that: the dates and times of meetings for 2014 be approved.

#### **87. Litterpick**

As the Parish Council often undertake a Litterpick twice per year a suggestion was made that one be undertaken late October/early November.

It was **resolved** that: Councillor G Lee and P Hudson make the necessary arrangements in relation to this, with the help of the Clerk.

#### **88. Accounts**

K Cuthbert (Salary October)	£245.08
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HMRC income tax payment	£61.20	
DCC – hire of hall for meeting	£30.36	
M Platts – Horticulture	£598.00	
M Platts – Old Mine Site	£50.00	
M Platts – Old Mine Site	£50.00	

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

**89. Date of next Meeting**

The November parish council meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 November 2013 in Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham at 7.00 pm.

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

(a) Cyclists – An issue was raised about cyclists not using the cycle paths and instead using public footpaths or playing fields. The Chair agreed to raise the issue with PC Cockburn

(b) Old Mine Site – M Platts commented upon the amount of bracken on the site and asked if the Parish Council would allow him to remove it free of charge for his own personal use. The Parish Council welcomed this.

**91. Any Other Business – Councillors**

(a) Love Lane – Cllr Lightley explained that the barriers outside the playing field were being left open. Contact had been made with the County Council to look into this.

(b) Accident outside Rosetree Inn – Sadly a lady had been knocked over outside the Rosetree Inn and was in hospital. The Parish Council commented that a sign should be installed advising drivers of a blind spot. Councillor Stoker agreed to take this issue up with the County Council.

(c) Sherburn Hospital – Best endeavours were being made to have visible cameras around this area. Cllr Stoker was liaising with the Police in relation to this matter.

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