

Minutes of the September Meeting of **Shincliffe Parish Council** held in **Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham** on **Tuesday 17 September 2013** at 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Duell (in the Chair) and Councillors Hudson, A Lee, G Lee, Lightley, Lovell and Olechnowicz. County Councillor Stoker was also in attendance.  
There were 2 members of the public present.

**53. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**54. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**55. Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 16 July 2013 (copies previously circulated and publicised) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**56. Matters Arising**

- (a) Love Lane – Marc Platts had inspected the overhanging tree and as this was causing a safety hazard for the resident, necessary works had been undertaken to cut the tree back. The Parish Council acknowledged that requests should as these needed to be considered on a case by case basis and that this was an elderly resident who was physically unable to undertake the works themselves.
- (b) St Marys Close – Whilst the Chapter Office had previously confirmed that they were responsible for cutting the middle green and maintaining the steps, Councillor Olechnowicz advised that there may some be confusion in relation to this. An email from a resident together with a map of the 12 areas maintained by City of Durham Shincliffe Village was circulated. The Parish Council acknowledged that this issue needed to be resolved as soon as possible and suggested that residents from the village be invited to the next meeting held in Shincliffe Village to discuss these issues with Parish Councillors. Councillor Olechnowicz went on to advise that a further issue had been raised in relation to the uneven flagstones on the pavements and the potential hazardous danger for residents in the village.

It was **Resolved:** that discussions needed to take place to ascertain who was responsible for, and had ownership of the greens and also who is responsible for repairing uneven and damaged flagstones. This item of business would be considered again at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

- (c) Water Butts – Councillor A Lee reported that permission for a temporary relocation had been received. A further decision as to their location would be required by December 2013.
- (d) Pot Holes – Whilst some of the pot holes in High Shincliffe had now been filled, the Parish Council acknowledged that further works were still to be undertaken.
- (e) Road Safety (Sherburn House) – Contact had been made with PC Cockburn and the Police had carried out speed checks on the area on occasions.

**57. Police Report**

No police report was received.

**58. County Councillor Update**

- (a) Governors – Nominations to Governing Body's had remained on a four year election period despite the Unitary Authority adopting a 5 year rotation period. This issue of re-alignment was to be resolved. If Jan Blakely was happy to stay on the Governing Body a further year, no issues

were anticipated.

- (b) Garden Waste – A change in policy was being considered which would require households to pay a cost of £20 per year (excluding Pensioners) to have garden waste collected. Whilst this would realise savings to the County Council in the sum of £900,000 per annum, this may lead to Fly Tipping and also increased landfill fill costs if people tried to dispose of garden waste in inappropriate ways.
- (c) Durham City Plan – Unfortunately Durham City had not been consulted on proposals. As a result, further consultations would need to take place.

## 59. 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. Medium Term Financial Planning and 2014/2015 Budget Setting
2. Neighbourhood Protection Team Update
3. St Cuthbert's Hospice Insight (Autumn/Winter 2013)
4. Signs of the Times – Quality Cast Signs
5. LSI – Utility Brokers
6. SLCC – Notice of Annual General Meeting
7. Clerks and Councils Direct (September 2013 – Issue 89)
8. Glasdon Direct Division
9. LCR (Autumn 2013)
10. Spaldings – New Products
11. The Clerk Magazine – SLCC
12. Northumbria in Bloom 2013 – Shincliffe Parish

(c) Current Correspondence

1. Email from resident about repairs to the Recreation Park Wall.
2. Email from resident about overgrown trees in Shincliffe Village.
3. CDALC AGM – notification and request for nominations and motions for discussion. AGM to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013, at County Hall, Durham.
4. Letter from External Auditor (BDO) confirming that the accounts had been checked and verified correct.
5. Letter from Jocasta Lawton (Durham County Council) regarding the Community Governance Review.

## 60. Planning Applications

CE/13/00820/FPA	Bracken Cottage Bank Foot Shincliffe	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 5no. new dwellings and new access
CE/13/00821/CAC	Bracken Cottage Bank Foot Shincliffe	Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of existing dwelling on site

It was **resolved**: that the Clerk, on behalf of the Parish Council would raise objections to the above planning applications on the following grounds:

1. The proposal will result in gross over-development of a site in a designated Conservation Area within a recognised Green Belt. If approved, in a very few years the site will have changed from a relatively small cottage to an estate of nine family sized dwellings due to a succession of incremental planning submission and approval. The proposal will in effect create a “ribbon” development linking Shincliffe Village with High Shincliffe.
2. The proposed new access road to the development will be unsafe, leading onto the very

busy A177 Shincliffe Bank with its fast moving traffic (including cars, buses and many lorries). Sight lines up and down the bank from the proposed access road are very much compromised and will bring inherent danger to all traffic due to vehicles entering and leaving the development whether going up or down the bank. The proposed access road will be a hazard to the many pedestrians (including school children) and cyclists who use the bank footpath. These safety fears will be exacerbated in the winter, in icy conditions when the bank is already a dangerous thoroughfare.

3. The site has several mature trees which will be adversely affected by any excavation work done for foundation building.

The following applications were reviewed by the Chair during the summer recess, any comments submitted on behalf of the parish council are shown below each application.

4/13/00712/FPA	Rose Cottage Low Road Shincliffe	Increase in ridge height of roof to allow loft conversion with dormer windows
4/13/00522/FPA	Land At Former Cape Asbestos Works Bowburn	Erection of 127 no. dwellings and associated works, substituting housetypes on plots 9-10, 13-14, 25-26, 36-37, 56-73, 74-77 and 80-83 on previously approved development 4/12/00973/RM
4/13/00640/FPA	The Old Sawmill Shincliffe	Erection of detached dwelling
4/13/00715/FPA	4 The Old Sawmill Shincliffe	Proposed orangery
4/13/00719/FPA	Beech Cottage 4 Beech View Sherburn House	Revised application for side extension with balcony area
CE/13/00709/FPA	Whitwell Grange House Whitwell Grange Whitwell Farm Road Sherburn House	Detached greenhouse

It was **resolved**: that no objections had been raised in respect of the above planning applications.

#### **61. Horticultural Committee Update**

- (a) A Silver Medal had been received within the 'Small Village Category' for the Northumbria in Bloom Awards. Thanks were extended to Marc Platts for his much valued work. Discussions would take place at future meetings of the Horticultural Committee regarding future involvement in this competition.
- (b) An entry had also been made for the 'Beautiful Durham' awards and this would be at no cost to the Parish Council. An update would be given in due course.
- (c) The Judge of the Summer Garden Competition had chosen a 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner and Joint second prize winners. Councillor Olechnowicz agreed to forward details to the Clerk in order that winners could be invited to the next meeting of the Parish Council for an Award Ceremony by way of a presentation of a certificate and prize from the Chair of the Horticultural Committee. Councillor A Lee suggested that a notice also be placed within the 3 Parish Council Notice

Boards.

(d) Winter Pansies would be delivered to the Avenue Inn on Tuesday 8 October.

**62. AAP Update**

It was **resolved**: that Councillor Lovell would liaise with the Chair and Stephen Ragg regarding the appointment of a new representative.

**63. DCC Community Governance Review**

A copy of further consultation documents had been sent to all households in the affected Bell Ward. This stage of the consultation would also include 2 drop in sessions following which responses would again be evaluated and a draft proposal then formulated.

It was **resolved**: that further responses from this stage of the consultation would be received and considered in due course.

**64. Village Green – Shincliffe Village**

The Parish Council discussed who was responsible for maintaining the Village Green and in particular, problems relating to flag stones which were becoming increasingly worse and also the hedges around the lower green, which although were cut back by the County Council, they did not seem to be cut back enough.

It was **resolved**: that Councillor Olechnowicz make further contact with the County Council to discuss how the Village Green can be preserved.

**65. Shincliffe Village Recreation Ground – damaged wall**

The Clerk to the Council had reviewed the lease for the recreation ground and the Parish Council was responsible for repairs to the wall and steps.

It was **resolved**: that the Clerk to the Council contact the Insurance Company to pursue making a claim for undertaking remedial works.

**66. Overgrown Trees**

A further enquiry had been made from a resident in Shincliffe Village in relation to overgrown trees outside their home. The Parish Council acknowledged that this was not the first enquiry of this nature and suggested that a survey be undertaken. As Oliver's had undertaken a survey in the past, the Chair agreed to contact the Company to ascertain costs and it was also suggested by Councillor A Lee that contact be made with Houghall College to ask whether students, under supervision could carry out this work.

It was **resolved**: that the Parish Council obtain quotations for undertaking a survey of overgrown trees around the village and that this item of business be considered again at the next meeting, once quotations had been received.

**67. Accounts**

H Simpson (back pay due to salary increase on 1 April)	£56.20	
HMRC income tax payment (H Simpson)	£14.00	
K Cuthbert (Salary August and September)	£367.62	

HMRC income tax payment (K Cuthbert)	£91.80	
H Simpson (petty cash settlement)	£35.83	
K Cuthbert (petty cash)	£100.00	
DCC – hire of hall for meeting	£30.36	
BDO External Auditors	£120.00	
CDALC – 7 x Good Councillors Guide	£14.00	
M Platts – Horticulture	£455.50	
M Platts – Maintenance	£40.00	
M Platts – Old Mine Site	£230.00	

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

<b>68. Date of next Meeting</b>
The October parish council meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 October 2013 in Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham at 7.00 pm.
<b>69. Any Other Business – Members of the Public</b>
(a) Parks Regeneration – Whilst a bid of £1500 had already been submitted, a request for further funding had also been made.  Councillor Stoker commended Jane Rans and Claire Ketley for their much valued work. The Parish Council acknowledged this and commented that a donation had been agreed, in principle.
<b>70. Any Other Business – Councillors</b>
<i>Councillor Lovell</i>  (a) Parking outside the school at opening and closing times was causing problems, especially in relation to parking on pavements and also double parking. Concerns were raised as this would in turn, cause problems with Flagstones around this area. It was <b>resolved:</b> that the Chair contact the Community Police to ascertain whether a uniformed presence could be made available to speak to drivers who were illegally parking around the village.

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