

Shincliffe Parish Council

Chair of the Council:

Cllr Michael Banks
2 Robson Terrace
Shincliffe Village
Durham
DH1 2NL

**Acting Clerk:**

Richard Ormerod
Helvellyn, 14 Geoffrey Avenue
Durham
DH1 4PF
shincliffeparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

www.shincliffeparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held on Thursday 16 September 2021 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village, DH1 2ND.

1	Record of attendance: <i>Councillors Michael Banks (in the Chair), Stephen Ashfield, Lizzie Pexton and Christine Warburton.</i> Also present: County Councillor David Stoker, Richard Ormerod (Interim Clerk), Brian Johnston, Margaret Johnston, Linda Fairlamb, Penny Cutter.
2	Apologies for absence: <i>Apologies were received from Councillor Brian Fairlamb.</i>
3	Declarations of interest and dispensation requests: <i>Cllr Banks declared an interest in item 13 as a member of the Parochial Church Council.</i>
4	Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 24 July 2021: <i>These were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</i>
5	Public Participation (please notify the Chairman or Clerk in advance): There was none. <i>It was agreed to clarify the time allowed for public participation in time for the next meeting.</i>
6	County Councillor's report: Standing Orders were suspended to receive a report from Cllr Stoker. Topics included the final sign-off of the play park, holiday homes, Town & Village Funding via the Area Action Partnership, funding for schools, the recent road traffic accident at Bank Foot and dropped kerbs. It was noted that county councillors had an extra £10,000 Neighbourhood Budget for the area this financial year. <i>It was agreed to receive the report.</i>
7	Planning applications received: There were none.
8	Chairman's update: Cllr Banks gave a report on council work since the last meeting. Topics covered included the setting up of committees for finance and horticulture, the parish survey and appointment of the Interim Clerk. It was noted that members had had several very productive face-to-face meetings with residents. <i>It was agreed to receive the report.</i>
9	Correspondence: Cllr Banks reported on correspondence received and responded to since the last meeting. Topics included weed control, the disused oil container at High Shincliffe, Shincliffe Village play park, damage to the bus stop at Low Road, leaflets at the play park, the seat by the play park and the road traffic accident at Bank Foot. All matters were in hand.
10	Meeting of the Horticulture Committee on 18 August 2021. Cllr Warburton reported on the meeting. It was noted that a delivery point in Shincliffe Village

	had been found for bedding plants. <i>It was agreed that the council adopt a policy of encouraging adoption of verges by the community.</i> <i>It was agreed that the council hold a community litter-pick on 25 September starting at 10:30am. The Clerk and Cllr Warburton to liaise on publicising and organising the event.</i> <i>It was agreed that the council hold an “Autumn Tidy-Up” on the afternoon of 16 October with the start time to be confirmed.</i> Cllr Banks thanked the committee for its work.
11	Meeting of the Finance Committee on 7 September 2021. Cllr Ashfield reported on the meeting. A discussion took place on events to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022. It was noted that the Clerk and Cllr Ashfield would sort out the reclaiming of VAT from 2020-21 as a matter of urgency. <i>It was agreed that the council would pay a pension contribution to the Clerk.</i> <i>It was agreed that the council obtain a payment card from HSBC for smaller purchases.</i> <i>It was agreed that the council use online banking with HSBC.</i> <i>It was agreed that the council use Scribe for its accounting and finance.</i> <i>It was agreed that the council allow a virement of £500 from the footpaths & foliage budget and £500 from the garden awards budget into the horticulture budget, as all are essentially treated as one now.</i> Cllr Banks thanked the committee for its work.
12	Service level agreement with Durham County Council for HR services: <i>It was agreed to enter into a service level agreement with Durham County Council for HR advice.</i> This would have no ongoing cost but the parish council would pay for services when needed at a cost of £70 per hour. <i>It was agreed to use Durham County Council’s payroll service for employing the Clerk, at a cost of £8.10 per month.</i>
13	Service level agreement with St Mary’s Church for use of the church hall: Cllr Banks left the meeting and Cllr Pexton took the Chair. A discussion took place on a proposal to agree a service level agreement with the Parochial Church Council to pay £320 per year for unlimited use of the church hall. At present the parish council pays £28 for each session, though this is about to increase. Cllr Warburton thought that the agreement would be mutually beneficial. <i>It was agreed to request from the Parochial Church Council an agreement to pay them £320 per year for unlimited use of the</i>

	church hall.
14	Benches (including play park): Cllr Banks rejoined the meeting. A discussion took place on damage to the bench at Bank Foot caused by the recent road traffic accident. It was agreed to replace the bench and look into whether the costs could be claimed on the insurance of the driver concerned. <i>It was agreed that Cllr Warburton would speak to Marc Platts (parish gardener) to ask whether he was still happy to carry out repairs to benches.</i> A discussion took place involving members of the public on the replacement of picnic benches in Shincliffe Village play park. Some residents said that there was no need for replacement as they would cause noise and litter. Another resident said that they did not believe that reinstating the benches would cause major trouble. Cllr Warburton was aware of strong feelings in the community as reflected by the parish survey. It was noted that the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) had given guidance to the parish council on the positioning of benches in the park. They should not be exposed to full sun, need a circulation space of at least one metre and should be situated away from fences. Cllr Banks said that visitor numbers were down since the end of lockdown and thought that the council should reinstate the tables and see what happens during a period of normality. <i>It was agreed to have a “phased return” of the benches, starting with one being put back by the south fence, but to keep the situation under ongoing review and remove them if necessary.</i>
15	Signage in Shincliffe Village play park: Legal Advice had been sought via CDALC on the issue of signage indicating that bad behaviour in the park towards staff would be recorded. The legal advice was against this. The content of signage in general for the parks was for further discussion. <i>It was agreed to use a noticeboard in the park to convey information.</i>
16	Byelaw regarding dogs in play park: <i>It was agreed that the Clerk find out Durham County Council’s policy on this.</i>
17	RoSPA Play Safety Inspection Report: It was noted that the inspection on 17 August 2021 had given the Shincliffe Village play park a clean bill of health, whilst making several recommendations. <i>It was agreed to receive the report.</i> It was noted that the replacement part for one of the items of play equipment was due to arrive on 17 September.
18	Notice boards: It was agreed that the notice board at Ancroft Garth was of little use as it is not seen by many people and is very close to the main notice board at The Avenue public house. <i>It was agreed to try to site a noticeboard in the play park at High Shincliffe, working with Durham County Council.</i>
19	Terms and conditions of employment and advertising vacancy for Clerk to the Council: This item was deferred.
20	Traffic – Shincliffe Bank: This had been covered under earlier items. <i>It was agreed to put a traffic management plan on the agenda for the next meeting.</i>

21	Parish Survey: Cllr Pexton presented an overview of the findings. The feeling of the meeting was that many of the issues raised could not be solved by the parish council alone, but that many could be taken up with Durham County Council and the local MP. <i>It was agreed to put a summary on the council website. It was agreed to put a summary in the next SCAN newsletter.</i> Cllr Banks thanked all involved for their work.
22	Hedges: It was noted that remedial work had been carried out by Durham County Council at Low Road and on the A177. The situation would be monitored.
23	Footpath linking Shincliffe Village and High Shincliffe: <i>It was agreed that the Clerk report the overgrown foliage to Durham County Council.</i>
24	Motions: <i>The following motions were agreed:</i> <i>Motion 1: Climate emergency (Proposer: Cllr S Ashfield)</i> <i>Shincliffe Parish Council resolves to:</i> <i>1. in this year of COP26 add our voice to calls by the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport & others for a joint local & national government Task Force to plan action to reach ‘net zero’ emissions. Such a partnership can set appropriate regulations, benchmarks and targets and create the much-needed long-term funding mechanisms to enable local communities and economies to decarbonise whilst remaining resilient and sustainable.</i> <i>2. write to Alok Sharma MP, President for COP26, the Prime Minister and the Leadership Board of the LGA informing them of our support for a joint Local/National Government Climate Change Partnership Taskforce and asking for one to be established as soon as possible.</i> <i>Motion 2: Climate action</i> <i>Council notes that:</i> <i>Many local authorities are playing an important role in the UK taking action to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and to protect and revitalise local wildlife and natural habitats.</i> <i>Parliament in May 2019 declared an Environment and Climate Emergency.</i> <i>There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”), which, if it became law, would require the government to develop a strategy to address the emergency that would ensure:</i> <i>the ecological emergency is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis in a joined-up approach;</i> <i>the Paris Agreement is enshrined into law to ensure that UK does its real fair share to limit global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement -1.5°C.</i> <i>the Leaders Pledge for Nature is enshrined into law to ensure that the UK’s</i>

	<i>ecosystems are protected and restored with a focus on biodiversity, soils and natural carbon sinks;</i> <i>the UK takes full responsibility for our entire greenhouse gas footprint (ie consumption emissions plus shipping, flights and land-based transport) by accounting for all of the emissions that take place overseas to manufacture, transport and dispose of the goods and services we import and consume;</i> <i>the UK takes full responsibility for our ecological footprint so that we protect health and resilience of ecosystems along both domestic and our global supply chains;</i> <i>an independent, temporary Climate and Nature Assembly is set-up, representative of the UK's population, to engage with the UK Parliament and UK Government to help develop the emergency strategy.</i> <i>Council therefore resolves to:</i> <i>Declare Climate and Ecological emergency</i> <i>Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;</i> <i>Inform the local media of this decision;</i> <i>Award resource to Shincliffe Parish Council climate action group;</i> <i>Write an open letter to our MP and shared with our residents through local and social media urging them to sign up to support the Bill, or thanking them for doing so; and</i> <i>Write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (joinus@ceebill.uk).</i>
25	Other business (please notify the Chairman or Clerk in advance): Cllr Ashfield reported on a recent meeting of the County Durham Association of Local Councils Smaller Councils Forum. Cllr Pexton spoke about the Friends of Shincliffe School and ideas for fundraising and involving pupils.
26	Date and time of next meeting: <i>The next meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council will be on Thursday 21 October 2021 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall.</i>

Signed as a true record:

Cllr M Banks (Chair)

Date:
