

Shincliffe Parish Council

Chair of the Council:

Cllr Michael Banks
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Shincliffe Village
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Acting Clerk:

Richard Ormerod
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Minutes of the Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held on Tuesday 15 February 2022 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village, DH1 2ND.

1	Record of attendance: Councillors Michael Banks (in the Chair), Stephen Ashfield, Brian Fairlamb & Lizzie Pexton. Also present: Richard Ormerod (Interim Clerk), Colin Jubb, Helen Jubb, Brian Johnston, Norma Brown, Linda Fairlamb.
2	Apologies for absence: None.
3	Declarations of interest and dispensation requests: Cllr Pexton declared an interest in respect of Prospect Terrace, if discussed.
4	Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 20 January 2022 and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 7 February 2022: These were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
5	Amendment to Standing Orders - Public Participation: It was agreed to bring a form of words to the next meeting which would allow the council to respond briefly to public statements but without starting a debate.
6	Public Participation: None.
7	Vacancy on the parish council: It was noted that Christine Warburton had resigned from the parish council and that the Clerk would be informed on 1 March 2022 whether or not an election would be needed to fill the vacancy.
8	County Councillor's report: None.
9	Planning applications received: None.
10	Chairman's update: Cllr Banks gave a report on council work since the last meeting. Cllr Banks thanked Christine Warburton for her service on the parish council and for chairing its Horticulture Committee. Cllrs Banks and Fairlamb had attended a training session on Neighbourhood Plans. There had been a spate of cold calling in the parish. It was noted that the parish had a supply of "No Cold Calling" signs available from the Clerk on request. It was noted that Leesa Bennison, Police Community Support Officer, would attend a meeting of the parish council in the near future. A problem had arisen with cars using the river path. There were signs up saying access only. The University had acted quickly once alerted to the problem and

	Cllr David Stoker was liaising with the Dean & Chapter. A permanent Clerk to the parish council would be appointed in the next week. Cllr Ashfield was thanked for organising the recruitment process. <i>It was agreed to receive the report.</i>
11	Correspondence: Cllr Banks reported on correspondence received and responded to since the last meeting. Topics included the river footpath; ice forming on footpaths on the bank due to blocked drains; lack of communication from BT Openreach when carrying out the digging up of pavements and a broken lamp standard on the perimeter road in High Shincliffe. All issues had either been rectified or reported to the correct authorities. Shincliffe Community Association had requested that a member of the parish council attend its meetings in order to provide a link. Cllr Fairlamb asked if a Road Safety Audit could be carried out in respect of the bend in the road in the village where the High Street meets Low Road. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk look into this.</i>
12	Financial update. The Clerk reported that the council currently has £21,650.31 in its main account, £5,979.66 in its reserve account and £7,868 in its savings account. <i>It was agreed to receive the report.</i>
13	Council plans – procedure: Cllr Banks expressed regret that Christine Warburton had resigned from the council. It would be necessary to divide her work on plans between the remaining members. <i>It was agreed to combine the Carbon Reduction Plan with the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed to make council plans a standing item on the council agenda in order to give members to opportunity to report back.</i>
14	Village Green: The council had received information from Durham County Council indicating that it owns the green in Shincliffe Village. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk obtain confirmation that this is the case.</i>
15	Policy on casual vacancies including co-option. It was noted that the policy had been agreed at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 7 February 2022.
16	Website. Members had been provided with information from five different providers. A desire was expressed to look into functionality and to keep the current domain name even if a new one is used as the main one.
17	DCC consultation on an economic strategy for the county. <i>It was agreed to formulate a corporate response from the council.</i> This would not affect the ability of any members to respond as individuals.
18	Use of consultant for Neighbourhood Plan: <i>It was agreed in principle to hire the services of a consultant to assist with the formulation of the Neighbourhood Plan, and that Cllr Fairlamb make further enquiries into finding a suitable consultant.</i>
19	SLCC Climate Change Summit, 23 March 2022: <i>It was agreed that Cllr</i>

	<i>Ashfield attend the summit on behalf of the parish council.</i>
20	Tree Grant. It was noted that Durham County Council had rejected the parish council's bid. <i>It was agreed not to amend the application but to proceed with the project using parish council funds.</i>
21	Benches. It was noted that the council's insurers had agreed to the replacement of the bench. There was a consensus that the previous location was unsafe and that the replacement should not go there. <i>It was agreed that the matter be delegated to the Chairman who will liaise with the Clerk.</i>
22	Shincliffe Village play park: Cllr Fairlamb raised the issue of lost property, which frequently occurs in the park. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk find out what other councils do.</i>
23	Noticeboards: It was noted that the iroko noticeboard ordered from the St Margaret's Centre for the Shincliffe Village play park was still under construction and would be complete in the next couple of weeks.
24	Traffic matters: Cllr Ashfield asked whether the temporary electronic speed signs had a positive effect and whether it was worth doing another. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk find out what the effect had been.</i> A resident had requested that consideration to be given to a width and weight restriction on the very large (sometimes articulated) delivery lorries wishing to access The Poplar Tree Garden Centre to curtail their use of the access at The Seven Stars Junction of The High Street and Willow Tree Avenue (A177). <i>It was agreed that the council request this from Durham County Council.</i>
25	Queen's Platinum Jubilee: <i>It was agreed that the Clerk organise a meeting at the church hall on 7 March for a working group to coordinate events.</i> <i>It was agreed to give each child at Shincliffe CE a presentation envelope containing seeds to be planted to commemorate the Jubilee at a cost of around £130. Cllr Pexton would contact the school to agree a design. Sufficient numbers to be ordered so that children of primary school age from the parish who attend other schools can receive one, where they can be identified.</i>
26	Motions: <i>The following motion proposed by Cllr Fairlamb was agreed with three votes for and one abstention:</i> <i>Shincliffe Parish Council is disappointed that the Central & East Planning Committee of Durham County Council decided to approve the change of use for holiday home units application, against the advice of their own officers, and the overwhelming number of local objections, calling for its rejection.</i> <i>However, this council welcomes the conditions imposed by the planning department on any development of this plan in this location with a clear intent to protect the greenbelt, the environment and the tranquility of the village setting.</i> <i>Shincliffe Parish Council and individual councillors are not required to withdraw their previously stated objections and reservations despite the</i>

	<i>granting of outline permission. This council will engage with the developers, should they opt to proceed, with a clear intention to limit the potential harms identified by the many objections and we intend to make sure the conditions of this approval are fully complied with.</i>
27	<i>Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council will be on Thursday 17 March 2022 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall.</i>

Signed as a true record:

Cllr M Banks (Chair)

Date:
