

Shincliffe Parish Council

Chair of the Committee:

Cllr Bill Clatworthy
22 St Mary's Close
Shincliffe Village
Durham
DH1 2ND
clatworthy.b@btinternet.com



Clerk:

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

www.shincliffeparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of the Horticulture Committee of Shincliffe Parish Council held on Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 7pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village

1	Record of attendance: <i>Cllr Bill Clatworthy (in the Chair), Cllr Stephen Ashfield, Cllr Ann Callaghan, Cllr Brian Fairlamb, Yvonne Collingham (Community Representative).</i> Also present: Richard Ormerod (Clerk), Marc Platts (Gardener) plus two members of the public.	
2	Apologies for absence: <i>Pat Matthews (Community Representative).</i>	
3	Declarations of interest and dispensation requests: There were none.	
4	Minutes of the Meeting of the Horticulture Committee held on 14 June 2022: <i>The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.</i>	
5	Matters arising from the minutes: None.	
6	Chair's report and correspondence: There had been no correspondence relating directly to horticulture. Cllr Clatworthy said that it had been a hot summer with little rain and it had therefore become necessary for Marc Platts to water the plants in the villages. The Chairman thanked Marc for doing this. A discussion took place on whether local residents might be able to take on watering in the future. The Chairman thanked all those involved in judging the front garden competition. Cllr Fairlamb commented on the recent heavy rain which caused flooding in Shincliffe Village. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk ask Durham County Council to empty the gullies in Low Road.</i>	RO
7	Report from parish gardener: Marc Platts gave a report. He had been unwell for several weeks and therefore the weeding has only just started. Marc had taken photographs of the Japanese Knotweed in the nature reserve but it was difficult to differentiate between different plants on the pictures. Parts of Shincliffe Village play park had not been cut in order to allow the growth of clover and to encourage wildlife. This section will	MP

	alternate between cuts. <i>It was agreed to receive the report.</i>	
8	Shincliffe Village play park: It was noted that Tom Forster from Durham County Council had met with the Chairman, Clerk and Marc Platts to explain weekly safety inspections, which the Clerk will carry out. It had been recommended that 3 or 4 inch posts be installed at the rear of the goalposts to support the 'back stop' fencing installed by Marc Platts. The current fence was deemed safe for use but posts to be installed when weather and ground conditions permit. It was noted that the see-saw had been repaired following contact with the supplier (Kompan). It was noted that there was a large crack in one of the timber supports on the zip-wire platform. The Clerk had carried out a patch-up repair with wood-filler but it was felt that this was not satisfactory in the long term, and that the supplier should be contacted to carry out a repair. It was noted that Kompan had supplied recommended age limits for use of each piece of play equipment. Cllr Ashfield reported on the application for AAP funds for the access feasibility study. The application was nearly completed and the deadline is 20 September 2022. Cllr Ashfield requested evidence of need for the change. Both Cllrs Fairlamb and Clatworthy provided evidence. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk contact Kompan to request repair to the zip-wire platform.</i> <i>It was agreed that the Clerk contact the council's insurer to establish whether age limits for use of equipment need to be publicised, and that the full council should then discuss signage.</i> <i>It was agreed to refer the issue of the third picnic bench to full council.</i>	RO RO
9	Budget: The Clerk informed the meeting of the current financial position. It was noted that the spending in the current financial year was as follows: Bench maintenance: £4.79 spent (budget £250) Tree maintenance: £0 (budget £600) Play park maintenance: £710.86 (budget £4,000) Horticulture: £1297,27 (budget £7,000) There were outstanding invoices totalling £1112.84 for horticulture and £101.50 for play park maintenance. <i>It was agreed to note the current financial position.</i> <i>It was agreed that the outstanding invoices be paid.</i>	RO

10	Bank Foot planting: It was noted that Durham County Council had repaired the barrier. <i>It was agreed that Marc Platts therefore plant up the area in front of it.</i>	MP
11	Front garden competition: It was noted that ten winners had been chosen to receive £20 vouchers. <i>It was agreed to pay for the prizes from the horticulture budget and to ask finance committee to organise a virement of the funds.</i> <i>It was agreed that the Clerk update the letter to winners and send out to them.</i>	RO
12	Adaptation of stiles to assist people with mobility problems: It was noted that Durham County Council had offered assistance with improvement of stiles or replacement by gates if landowners could be contacted. <i>It was agreed that committee members carry out a survey of walkways and footpaths in the parish to establish which gates and stiles might be suitable for improvement.</i>	All
13	The Mews “triangle”: Marc Platts was intending to have grass around the edge to allow access and a mix of perennials. A resident requested permission to site a “for sale” sign on the triangle which had been there before. <i>It was agreed to allow this sign to be erected for no more than six weeks. The resident offered to pay the initial cost of planting grass and plants in the triangle. This offer was accepted by the committee.</i> <i>It was agreed that any further requests to place signage there would need the permission of the parish council.</i> <i>It was agreed to give notice that the “triangle” has been adopted by the parish council.</i>	RO
14	Events: A discussion took place on an Autumn Litter-Pick in the parish. It was agreed that the Chairman fix a date for the Autumn Litter-Pick and that the Clerk then request equipment and collections from Durham County Council.	BC/RO
15	Other business: <i>It was agreed to order two Christmas trees from East Grange Farm in early October.</i>	RO
16	Date and time of next meeting: <i>The next meeting of the Horticulture Committee will be held at a date to be confirmed by the Chairman.</i>	

Signed as a correct record:

Date:
