

Chair of the Council:
Cllr Michael Banks
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High Shincliffe
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Shincliffe Village

Shincliffe

Parish Council

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Clerk:
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Minutes of the Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held on Thursday 20 April 2023 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, Ann Callaghan, & Brian Fairlamb.</i> Also present: Richard Ormerod (Clerk), Anne Stark & Christine Warburton.
2	Apologies for absence: <i>Apologies were received from Cllr Bill Clatworthy.</i>
3	Declarations of interest and dispensation requests: Cllr Banks declared an interest in Item 7 due to knowing personally several residents potentially affected by the proposed development. <i>It was agreed to allow Cllr Banks a dispensation to remain in the meeting (proposed by Cllr Fairlamb, seconded by Cllr Callaghan).</i> The Clerk declared an interest in item 15 as a member of the City of Durham Parish Council.
4	Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 16 March 2023: <i>These were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the correction (item 24) that the bookmarks are for all residents (one per household with the remainder offered for sale).</i>
5	Public Participation: It was noted that Anne Stark and Christine Warburton wished to speak on item 7 in respect of planning application DM/23/00889/FPA.
6	County Councillor's report: There was no written report but the Chairman had received a verbal update from Cllr Stoker.
7	Planning applications received: A discussion took place on planning application DM/23/00889/FPA at 4 St Marys Close, Shincliffe Village, for a two storey rear extension with juliet style balcony, pitched roof dormer to rear, front porch extension, conversion of garage into storage, external alterations to appearance and installation of solar PV panels to front facing elevation. Christine Warburton expressed concern about the size of the extension being disproportionate, and the style not being in keeping with the rest of the close and the Conservation Area. Anne Stark added that the proposed additional drive would block views from her property and the development was unsympathetic to the surrounding area. <i>It was resolved that the parish council object to the application on the above grounds and request that the application be determined by the Central & East Planning Committee of Durham County Council (proposed by Cllr Ashfield, seconded by Cllr Callaghan).</i> A discussion took place on the holiday lets to be situated near the garden centre

	in Shincliffe Village. <i>It was resolved that the Clerk set up meetings with Mr James Wilson and the management of the garden centre, and ask the planning staff at Durham County Council about day-to-day management of the planning conditions.</i> A discussion took place on the application DM23/00955/FOA on High Street in High Shincliffe. <i>It was agreed to make no objection to the application.</i>
8	Chairman's update: Cllr Banks gave a report. The bench at Bank Foot had been delivered but there had been some confusion over the location. To be discussed at Item 17. Members of the Horticulture Committee and the Clerk had met with Mr Phill Catton, Conservation Manager with Durham Wildlife Trust at the Old Miners' Woods for a very useful meeting about improvements to the woods. The North East Air Ambulance had landed in the Shincliffe Village play park but it was noted that this had not been connected with any incident in the park.
9	Correspondence: Cllr Banks reported on correspondence received and responded to since the last meeting. There would be a test alarm sent to all modern mobile devices on 23 April at 3pm to test the Government's warning system to inform people of severe weather or other emergencies. It was agreed that the Clerk put a news item on the council website to inform residents of this. Correspondence had been received about a St George's Day walk in the parish. Other issues raised included potholes in High Shincliffe, issues with hedges in Heathways and a request for a date when new yellow lines will be put in. Durham County Council had been notified of all of these. Correspondence had been received from St Mary's PCC thanking the parish council for its donation towards floodlighting. There had been numerous contacts about the sandbags at Ancroft Garth, to be discussed at Item 16. There had been numerous contacts about pesticide usage, to be discussed at Item 12. It was noted that the Women's Institute had requested that a poster advertising their organisation be displayed in the parish council's notice board at High Shincliffe. This had been put up. Cllr Callaghan had received concerns from a resident about the state of the footpath on the A177. There had been a request from the Hedgehog Highway Project for the council to sign up to its aims. <i>It was agreed that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting.</i> A local resident had sent a report to the council about another road traffic accident on the A177 in the parish. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk circulate the</i>

	report to members.
10	Financial update: The Clerk reported on the council's current financial position. At the 31 March 2023 the council had £22,360.13 in the current account and £13,904.51 in the reserve account. Since then the precept for 2023-24 had been received along with several invoices relating to the 2022-23 financial year. <i>It was resolved to note the current financial position (proposed by Cllr Ashfield, seconded by Cllr Callaghan).</i> <i>It was resolved to pay the outstanding invoices (proposed by Cllr Ashfield, seconded by Cllr Callaghan).</i>
11	Coronation events: It was noted that the coronation planters had been installed and much positive feedback had been received already from residents. It was thought that a new commercial printer might need to be found in order to ensure that the coronation flyers were printed in time. Bunting and children's games had been ordered and had arrived, with delivery of bookmarks still awaited. <i>It was agreed to order crowns for decoration by children.</i> A discussion took place on ordering paper crowns for children to design. It was noted that a risk assessment for the events on Sunday 7 May would be needed, the Clerk to liaise with Cllr Clatworthy.
12	Meeting with representatives of the Dean & Chapter: It was noted that the Chairman, the Clerk, Cllr Clatworthy and a local resident would be meeting with Mr Guy Sampson from Savill's (acting on behalf of the Dean & Chapter) on 25 April to discuss pesticide use and erosion of footpaths.
13	Parish Survey: The Clerk had circulated a final draft version of the survey. <i>It was resolved that the council print sufficient copies for each property in the parish as soon as possible so that they can be delivered with the Coronation flyer and the bookmarks.</i>
14	Use of consultant for Neighbourhood Plan: A discussion took place. It was noted that Neighbourhood Plans can be compact and short. <i>It was agreed the Clerk contact Jo-Ann Garrick to ask her if she would be prepared to meet with members to discuss further.</i>
15	Request from the City of Durham Parish Council for financial assistance with the Terracycle scheme: A request had been received from the City of Durham Parish Council for a contribution towards its successful Terracycle scheme with Boots in the Market Place to have empty pill packets recycled (see attached). A discussion took place. <i>It was agreed not to make a contribution, though it was seen as a worthwhile scheme.</i>
16	Sandbags, Ancroft Garth: It was noted that Marc Platts had removed the sandbags. <i>It was agreed that new ones be purchased towards Christmas 2023.</i>
17	Benches: A discussion took place on the siting of the new bench on Bank Foot. Whilst there had been some local opposition to positioning the bench at the

	agreed location, members still thought that it was the best option if permissible. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk find out the ownership of the land via the Land Registry.</i>
18	Shincliffe Play Park: It was noted that funding from the Durham Area Action Partnership for the access feasibility study was still awaited. It was agreed that the Clerk pursue this. Cllr Fairlamb noted that the small swing was making a “mechanical shrieking” noise. The Clerk was in touch with the manufacturer with a view to getting this and the wooden beam repaired. A discussion took place on the recent inspections and the recommendations for repair and the football area. <i>It was agreed that Covid-related signage could now be taken down.</i>
19	Traffic matters: Cllr Ashfield had spoken to Cllr Mark Wilkes Durham County Council’s Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Neighbourhood Services, about 20mph limits in the residential parts of High Shincliffe and Shincliffe Village. The response had been positive. Cllr Callaghan was supportive but concerned that 20mph schemes in the villages might jeopardise the campaign for a 30mph limit along the A177. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk approach the county council to ask for 20mph schemes in the villages.</i>
20	Naming of Miners’ Wood: A discussion took place on whether the council should use a new name for the land in High Shincliffe that is referred to on the council’s Fixed Asset Register as “Nature Reserve Recreation North Side of Area (site of former Spoil Heap)”. <i>It was agreed that the council refer to the area as “Shincliffe Colliery Nature Reserve”, regardless of any official title(s).</i>
21	Motions: There were none.
22	Date and time of next meeting: <i>The next meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 18 May 2023 at 6pm in St Mary’s Church Hall.</i>

Signed as a true record:

Cllr M Banks (Chair)

Date:
