

Chair of the Council:
Cllr Michael Banks
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High Shincliffe
Sherburn House
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 July 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), Helen Davidson.
2	Apologies for absence: <i>Apologies were received from Cllr Bill Clatworthy.</i>
3	Declarations of interest and dispensation requests: None.
4	Public Participation: It was noted that Helen Davidson from the Hill Meadows Residents' Association wished to speak on Item 18.
5	Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 22 June 2023: <i>These were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</i>
6	Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council on 4 July 2023: <i>These were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</i>
7	Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council on 6 July 2023: <i>These were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</i>
8	County Councillor's report: There was no written report but the Chairman had received a verbal update from Cllr Stoker.
9	Planning applications received: None.
10	Licensing applications: A discussion took place on the New Premises Licence Application at East Grange Farm, High Shincliffe, Durham, DH1 2TB. Following further correspondence from Durham County Council it was noted that the applicants had met the conditions requested by the parish council. Councillor Banks said he would be attending the Licensing hearing on 31 July and that any members could attend. <i>It was resolved that the council withdraw its objection to the licence but continue to monitor the situation going forward.</i> <i>It was resolved that the council review all licences in the parish periodically.</i>
11	Chairman's update: Cllr Banks gave a report. The Chairman and Clerk had met with the owners of the Poplar Tree Garden Centre to discuss matters of concern. The owners had asked why the parish council had not opposed the development at Shincliffe Mill. The Chairman said that this had been a useful dialogue that would continue. The Chairman and Clerk had met with James Wilson from Unbox to discuss the development in Shincliffe Village. It was established that waste will be treated

	on site. The Chairman and Councillor Clatworthy had attended the traffic round-table meeting in Croxdale with the local MP, Police & Crime Commissioner and representatives from two other parish councils. It had been a useful meeting and a follow-up event was planned. The Chairman had received correspondence from Councillor Ashfield requesting that the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) re-establish its Durham forum. It was noted that local forums of CDALC were now required to reflect AAP boundaries. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk contact CDALC to request the re-establishment of the Durham area forum.</i>
12	Correspondence: Cllr Banks reported on correspondence received and responded to since the last meeting. There had been considerable correspondence received in relation to the New Premises Licence Application at East Grange Farm. Correspondence had been received about the right of way between the Rose Tree public house and Shincliffe Hall. <i>It was agreed to put on the agenda for the September meeting of the council.</i> Other issues raised included the Low Road entrance to Shincliffe Village play park. It was noted that another resident had come forward who was prepared to volunteer at community events in the parish. <i>It was resolved to investigate the concept of a “Good Citizen Award” for the parish.</i> Correspondence had been received from LNER regarding their consultation on changes to ticket offices, including that at Durham Rail Station. A discussion took place. <i>It was resolved that the Clerk make representations to the consultation requesting reassurances (in respect of Durham Rail Station) that elderly and disabled passengers will not be disadvantaged by the changes, that the ticket machines will offer a full range of ticketing options, and that sufficient staff will remain to ensure passenger safety.</i>
13	Financial update: The Clerk reported on the council's current financial position. At the 14 July 2023 the council had £42,009.14 in the current account and £13,970.54 in the reserve account. <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>
14	Traffic matters: <i>It was resolved to write in support of the County Council of Durham Shincliffe, High Shincliffe and Bowburn Parking and Waiting Restrictions Order No.1 2023.</i> It was noted that the banner design needed changing to accommodate the new

	website address. <i>It was agreed contact DCC again regarding the parish council's proposed speed limits in and through the villages.</i>
15	Parish Survey: Cllr Callaghan had circulated a summary of the results of the survey. Discussions took place on Sherburn House and the possibility of having a mobile shop visit the villages. It was noted that there was little interest in warm spaces or community buses. <i>It was resolved to contact those who had expressed interest in a bulk purchase of solar panels.</i> <i>It was resolved to put the summary of results on the council website.</i>
16	Keep Britain Tidy – Love Parks Week: A discussion took place. <i>It was resolved to support the event again this year.</i>
17	Women Against Pit Closures: <i>It was resolved to pledge £250 to the event.</i>
18	Benches: A discussion took place on the siting of the new bench on Hill Meadows. Helen Davidson informed the council that local residents preferred the Cheriton design to the Eastgate design. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk consult the Bell family and if agreed, order the Cheriton bench from Broxap for installation at Hill Meadows.</i>
19	Shincliffe Play Park: It was noted that the access feasibility study would be completed soon.
20	Use of gas cannons: A discussion took place. It was thought that these devices are essential in rural areas. <i>It was agreed that the Clerk check with Richard Laing the exact times when they are used.</i>
21	Motions: Councillor Ashfield moved the following motion, seconded by Cllr Callaghan: Motion to Join the Open Spaces Society In the interest of preserving and enhancing the valuable open spaces within our parish, we, the members of the Shincliffe Parish Council, propose that the council take steps to join the Open Spaces Society. Shared Goals: The Open Spaces Society, as the oldest national conservation body in the UK, aligns closely with our own goals and values for preserving and enhancing our public spaces. Their track record of success in this area is well-established and joining them would offer us a platform to pursue our objectives more effectively. Access to Expertise: By joining the Open Spaces Society, we would have access to a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the field of open space conservation. This would enhance our ability to make informed decisions and develop effective strategies for the preservation and enhancement of our open spaces. Influence and Advocacy: Membership in the Open Spaces Society would grant us the opportunity to contribute to national policy discussions and decisions concerning open spaces. This could enhance our influence and ability to

	advocate for the interests of Shincliffe Parish at a higher level. Community Engagement: The Open Spaces Society encourages and supports local community engagement in the preservation of open spaces. Joining the society would provide us with resources and strategies to engage our local community in the stewardship of our open spaces. Resource Sharing and Networking: Membership in the Open Spaces Society would also provide opportunities for resource sharing and networking with other parishes and organizations with similar goals. This would not only increase our capacity to preserve and enhance our open spaces but also foster a sense of community and collaboration beyond our parish. We believe that joining the Open Spaces Society would greatly benefit the Shincliffe Parish and strongly support taking this step. We urge all council members to consider this motion seriously and vote in favour of joining the Open Spaces Society. <i>It was resolved to support the motion and that the council join the Open Spaces Society.</i>
22	<i>Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 21 September 2023 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall.</i>

Signed as a true record:

Cllr M Banks (Chair)

Date:
