

Chair of the Council:
Cllr Stephen Ashfield
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High Shincliffe
Sherburn House
Shincliffe Village

Shincliffe
Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held on Thursday 21 December 2023 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village, DH1 2ND.

1	Record of attendance: <i>Councillors Stephen Ashfield (in the Chair), Ann Callaghan, John Charters, Bill Clatworthy & Brian Fairlamb.</i> Also present: Two members of the public.
2	Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from the Clerk who was unwell. Minutes were taken by Cllr Callaghan.
3	Declarations of interest and dispensation requests: There were none.
4	Co-option of members to Shincliffe Parish Council: <i>Resolved: To open nominations for applications for new members until 15 January 2024, to be discussed at the meeting of the council in January 2024 (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Charters).</i>
5	Public Participation: A member of the public gave a traffic update. Another made comments on parking, footpath on Hall Lane and also locked gates by Shincliffe Hall, these will be put on next meeting agenda (action owned by Cllr Ashfield).
6	Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 21 November 2023 and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 30 November 2023: <i>Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</i>
7	County Councillor's report: No report received. It was noted that Cllr Stoker has a long-term illness/disability which has significantly impacted his ability to act as a ward councillor, this has been the case for at least eight months. Concern was expressed that there has been no support available for him, his constituents or parish councillors, is there a back-up from the Liberal Democrats? Cllr Ashfield has already made a formal phone call to member services to request help. <i>Resolved: That Cllr Ashfield now follow up with an email both to member services and his party leader asking for support both for Cllr Stoker and for the parish council. Cllr Ashfield to circulate email.</i>
8	Planning applications received: A discussion took place on planning matters relating to 4 St Mary's Close in Shincliffe Village. It was noted that there had been no response from the planning department at DCC to emails from either Cllr Stoker or the Clerk and phone calls had not been returned to Cllr

	Callaghan. Resolved: That Cllr Ashfield follow up with DCC.
9	Licensing applications: None. It was noted that the Seven Stars is currently closed as a public house and is open only for bed and breakfast, with a potential reopening in the new year. It was noted that The Avenue had a new landlord.
10	Chairman's update: Cllr Ashfield had circulated a report by email. Resolved: To receive the report.
11	Correspondence: The council had received correspondence relating to traffic speeds on the A177. The council had received correspondence relating to dogs running loose in the park in High Shincliffe. It was noted that Durham County Council had clarified that it was permitted to take dogs into the park on leads, but they should keep to the path, not the grassed areas. Resolved: That the Clerk post this response on the council website.
12	National Association of Local Councils: Foundation Award Resolved: To defer to next meeting.
13	Financial update: The Clerk had circulated a report on the council's current financial position. At the 14 December 2023 the council had £26,690.70 in the current account and £14,080.81 in the reserve account. Resolved: That the council pay the outstanding invoices, though payment to Netpower not to be released until email issues are resolved (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Charters). Resolved: To discuss changing payment regulations on buying at the next meeting of the Finance Committee.
14	Council budget for 2024-25: A discussion took place. It was proposed by Cllr Ashfield and seconded by Cllr Charters that: The council set a budget of £47,000 plus an additional £8,000 for earmarked reserves for the play park. The council request a precept of £55,000 from Durham County Council for the financial year 2024-25. A vote took place which was four votes in favour and one against. Resolved: To set a budget of £47,000 plus an additional £8,000 for earmarked reserves for the play park. Resolved: To request a precept of £55,000 from Durham County Council for the financial year 2024-25. Resolved: That Cllr Callaghan prepare and circulate budget documents to members.
15	Neighbourhood Plan: A discussion took place on the development of the

	Neighbourhood Plan. <i>Resolved: That members read the leaflet submitted by Cllr Fairlamb, supply comments by email and review at the next meeting of the council.</i>
16	Shincliffe Village Play Park: <i>Resolved: To defer to next meeting.</i>
17	Noticeboard, Sherburn House: It was noted that the noticeboard had been damaged. <i>Resolved: That Cllr Fairlamb meet with residents at Sherburn House and report back to the next meeting.</i>
18	Stink pipes, High Shincliffe: <i>Resolved: That the Chair and Clerk liaise and produce a report for the next meeting.</i>
19	Conservation Area Profile for Shincliffe Village: A discussion took place in relation to information given by DCC officers when considering the application at 4 St Mary's Close. <i>Resolved: That Cllr Ashfield try to confirm whether the Conservation Area designated in 1976 is still current.</i> <i>Resolved: That Cllr Fairlamb circulate a write-up to members.</i>
20	Traffic matters: Council received an update from local resident Graham Hollingsworth, together with a discussion on Safer Shincliffe. Councillor Clatworthy proposed that SPC oppose the work indicated in the document 'A177, Shincliffe Road Safety Improvement Report' on the grounds that the seriousness and in depth allegations; made in the complaint document by Graham Hollingsworth; a member of The Safer Shincliffe Group; cast doubt on the integrity of that report and its content. There are major cost implications should that work be carried out without further consultation. The complaint alleged a lack of action and endless contradictions within Traffic Assets and Traffic Management by the Police. No reference was made of speed reduction measures by the authors of the report. They had failed to rectify or repair signage mentioned in that report for a period in excess of 15 months despite complaints and requests by SPC that the road was unsafe due to road conditions, inadequate and poor signage and that the current speed of 40mph should be reduced to 30mph. Further the DCC Highways Committee report dated 7 April 2022, decision to reduce the speed limit at Daddry Shield to 30 mph showed that there are inconsistencies in applied policies by Michelle McIntosh, Traffic Assets and the Police. If the complaint is upheld then any work recommended in the A177, Shincliffe Road Safety Improvement Report would have to be reviewed with a strong possibility of a similar 30mph speed reduction being imposed on the A177. Therefore, the work should not be carried out until all the matters in the letter of complaint by the Safer Shincliffe Group have been considered by an

	independent panel. There was also a discussion on starting to put in FOI requests to council re accidents etc, journalist from Northern Echo is taking an interest, a discussion around decisions Daddry Shield (no accidents but got road signs). Cllr Ashfield suggested putting a question to DCC either at a Cabinet or council meeting to prompt a response. <i>Resolved: That Cllr Ashfield put a question to DCC (proposed by Cllr Ashfield, seconded by Cllr Charters, unanimously agreed).</i> <i>Resolved: Cllr Clatworthy to send an email to Nick Rippin in the MP's office about whether rather than repainting 40mph signs the council delay if the recommendation is going to be 30mph.</i> <i>Resolved: Cllr Clatworthy to write to Laings at East Grange Farm asking if banners can be displayed (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Charters, unanimously agreed).</i> <i>Resolved: That the council consider at its next meeting whether there is a formalised Safer Shincliffe committee.</i>
21	Neighbourhood Watch: It was noted that the police no longer run these schemes. <i>Resolved: To defer to next meeting.</i>
22	Royal Garden Parties: It was noted that no members wished to attend on this occasion.
23	Motions on notice: <i>Resolved: To defer the matter.</i>
24	Date and time of next meeting: <i>The next ordinary meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council will be on Thursday 18 January 2024 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall.</i>

Signed as a true record:

Cllr S Ashfield (Chair)

Date:
