

Chair of the Committee:
Councillor Bill Clatworthy
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Sherburn House
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Clerk:
Richard Ormerod
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Horticulture Committee of Shincliffe Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 7:30pm 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).	
2	Apologies for absence: <i>None.</i>	
3	Declarations of interest and dispensation requests: There were none.	
4	Minutes of the Meeting of the Horticulture Committee held on 16 May 2023: <i>The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.</i>	
5	Matters arising from the minutes: It was noted that there had been little interest in allotments demonstrated in the parish survey. A discussion took place on the nature reserve.	
6	Chair's report and correspondence: Cllr Clatworthy informed the meeting that there had been complaints from residents about the spread of foliage onto footpaths in the parish generally. There were still issues with the bushes obstructing the pavement at Chapter Cottages. Parking on pavements had exacerbated this. It had been a difficult year for flower beds because of the weather. The parish had picked up four awards in the Beautiful Durham 2023 awards. Members were thanked for their efforts in helping to achieve this. It was noted that the new bench was in place at Hill Meadows.	
7	Report from parish gardener: The A177 footpath at Bank Foot had been completely cleared. Strimming of vegetation would take place in the new year. Love Lane had been cleared. Footpaths had been cleared in the Old Mine Site. Himalayan Balsam had been removed. The play park fence had been re-erected.	

	Planting up of spring bedding was imminent. Anything unwarranted would be removed during the autumn. Pansies would be planted in the “triangle”, these would not require much maintenance. Several instances of fly-tipping in the parish had been reported to DCC. Hardwood cuttings would be taken from the play park hedge to fill gaps.	MP MP MP
8	Coronation planters and “triangle” planting: Covered under 7 above.	
9	Shincliffe Colliery Nature Reserve (Miners’ Wood): It was noted that this was an ongoing project, with the picnic bench to be added. A discussion took place about the possibility of adding a page about it to the council website.	
10	Proposed ecology project with Shincliffe CE Primary School: It was noted that seed planting had taken place.	
11	Allotments in Shincliffe: Covered under 5 above.	
12	St Mary’s Close, Shincliffe Village: It was noted that the sycamores were becoming very large. Maintenance of the footpath to the main A177 was an issue, the Clerk agreed to contact DCC about this.	RO
13	Events: A discussion took place on the Christmas trees, it was noted that this would be discussed at council.	All
14	Other business: None.	
15	Date and time of next meeting: <i>The next meeting of the Horticulture Committee will be held early in 2024 at a date and time to be confirmed in St Mary’s Church Hall, Shincliffe Village.</i>	All

Signed as a correct record:

Date:
