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Minutes of the Meeting of the Horticulture Committee of Shincliffe Parish Council held on Tuesday 5 March 2024 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 (Co-opted member).</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 7 November 2023: <i>The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.</i>	
5	Matters arising from the minutes: In regard to Item 12 it was noted that the Dean & Chapter were doing work on the sycamore trees in St Mary's Close and were also carrying out a tree survey on all church land in the area. Cllr Fairlamb believed that the council should ask Durham County Council to include Shincliffe Woods in the Conservation Area. Resolved: <i>To ask for this issue to be debated at the next meeting of the council.</i> A discussion took place on the nature reserve. It was noted that an additional bench had been donated. The picnic bench would be moved there when better weather comes, in line with the council's earlier decision.	RO
6	Chair's report and correspondence: Cllr Clatworthy informed the meeting that the spring flowers had been put in late. This was followed by frost, snow and very wet weather which meant that the flowers had not established well. There would be "bare root" summer planting taking place. Bird boxes and bug hotels had been donated to the primary school. It was noted that the new playchip surface had been laid at the play park and was looking good. It was noted that the new goal posts would go in soon and may need to	

	go in a different position. The Clerk had been in touch with Savill's regarding the upkeep of the river path but had received no response from the new staff member responsible.	
7	Report from parish gardener: A written report was received. Marc Platts reported that he had cut back vegetation around: • all flower beds • benches • interpretive boards • Love Lane • 'old mine site' footpaths. Also carried out were: Planting of spring flowering bedding plants Inspection of old mine site Wild flower bed (bus stop): • removal of herbaceous die back • removal of fly tipping waste A177 Shincliffe Bank footpath - surface clearance Shincliffe Village Play Park: • maintenance of all fall areas • hedge - filling gaps with hard wood cuttings • trimming of hedge A discussion took place. Yvonne Collingham and Cllr Clatworthy said that they had inspected the flower beds and there was a lot of chickweed. A discussion took place on the work programme for horticulture. <i>Resolved: To recommend to council that a system of purchase orders be introduced via Scribe Accounts for requesting horticultural work for contractors from April 2024.</i> It was agreed that the raised bed in the Avenue be used for growing a community herb garden. <i>Resolved: To recommend to council that the "hedge pack" of free trees be applied for from the Woodland Trust.</i>	RO RO
8	Shincliffe Colliery Nature Reserve (Miners' Wood): It was noted that Japanese Knotweed was not growing at present. See also item 6 above.	
9	Front Gardens Competition and judging: It was agreed that judging	

	should take place in the week beginning 9 July 2024.	
10	Sustainable planting and root ball planting of perennials: Covered under 6 above.	
11	Play park maintenance: Covered under the above items.	
12	Events: It was noted that DCC's Civic Pride team was holding an open session for community litter picks at Durham Town Hall on 3 April at 10:am, at which free litter picking kits will be available.	All
13	Other business: None.	
14	Date and time of next meeting: <i>The next meeting of the Horticulture Committee will be held at a date and time to be confirmed in St Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village.</i>	All

Signed as a correct record:

Date:
