

Chair of the Council:
Cllr Stephen Ashfield
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DH1 4PF



High Shincliffe
Sherburn House
Shincliffe Village

Shincliffe

Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held on Thursday 20 June 2024 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village, DH1 2ND.

1	Record of attendance: <i>Councillors Ann Callaghan (in the Chair), Bill Clatworthy, Brian Fairlamb & Sunny Moon-Schott.</i> Also present: Several members of the public.
2	Apologies for absence: <i>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Stephen Ashfield, John Charters & Janice Gorlach.</i> Due to the Clerk being absent due to illness, minutes were taken by Cllr Moon-Schott.
3	Declarations of interest and dispensation requests: None.
4	Public Participation: A member of the public wished to speak on item 11.
5	Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 16 May 2024: <i>Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a correct record subject to the addition of apologies from Cllr Moon-Schott, and signed by the Chairman.</i>
6	Planning and licensing applications: None.
7	Chairman's update: Cllr Ashfield had circulated a written report. <i>Resolved: To receive the report.</i>
8	Meeting of the Horticulture Committee on 4 June 2024: The committee had recommended that Airedale Forestry be commissioned to remove the Japanese Knotweed in Shincliffe Colliery Nature Reserve. It was noted that their quote for the work was £189.12. <i>Resolved: That Airedale Forestry be commissioned to remove the Japanese Knotweed in Shincliffe Colliery Nature Reserve. (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Fairlamb).</i> The committee had recommended that the council fund a new sign to replicate the old one regarding the Turkey Oaks in Shincliffe Colliery Nature Reserve. <i>Resolved: That the council fund a new sign to replicate the old one regarding the Turkey Oaks in Shincliffe Colliery Nature Reserve if it can be done for £100 or less (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Fairlamb).</i>
9	Financial matters: The Clerk had circulated a report on the council's financial position. At the 31 March 2024 the council had £43,471.90 in the current account and £36,418.03 in the reserve account.

	Resolved: That the council note the current financial position. Resolved: That the council pay the outstanding invoices. Resolved: That the Annual Governance & Accountability Return and supporting documents to be sent to the external auditor on 24 June 2024. Resolved: That the unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return to be published on the council's website and noticeboards on 24 June 2024. Resolved: That the date for the commencement of the thirty-day public inspection period in relation to the Statement of Accounts be 24 June 2024. Resolved: That the date for the notice of the publication of accounts and the public inspection rights to be advertised on the council's website and noticeboards, in line with 2 and 3 above, be 24 June 2024.
10	Sherburn House and Sherburn Hospital: A discussion took place on rights of way in the area. It was noted that Cllr Moon-Schott had engaged the help of the Open Spaces Society (of which the council is a member). It was noted that a request for information about historical usage had gone out in SCAN magazine. Cllr Clatworthy explained the modification order process and that there was no legal right to close the paths. Resolved: That the council defer a decision on which noticeboard to purchase until the next meeting.
11	Chemical spraying in Shincliffe Village: Following representations from residents of Shincliffe Village Cllr Clatworthy proposed that the parish council facilitate a public meeting on 11 July 2024, and that the Dean & Chapter and Savill's be invited. Resolved: That that the parish council facilitate a public meeting on 11 July 2024 (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Moon-Schott). Resolved: That that the parish council attempt to meet with the Dean & Chapter to find out information in advance of the public meeting on 11 July (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Callaghan).
12	Hazardous steps into St Mary's Close from the A177, Shincliffe Village: It was noted that the problem was still present. Resolved: That the Clerk follow up the issue with Durham County Council (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Fairlamb).
13	Highway safety: It was noted that Durham County Council was drawing up a 20mph scheme.
14	Grass cutting: A discussion took place. It was noted that three gravestones had been damaged by mowers in the churchyard. Resolved: That the Clerk find out what recourse the parish council has against poor or careless contractors (proposed by Cllr Callaghan, seconded by Cllr Clatworthy).
15	Hedgerows at Low Road: A discussion took place.

	<i>Resolved: That the hedgerows be pruned (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Fairlamb).</i>
16	<i>Dog fouling, High Shincliffe: Resolved: That a local resident follow up with the Neighbourhood Wardens.</i>
17	Storage of parish council property: It was noted that the current arrangement of storing items in the commercial lock-up in Langley Moor is expensive. It was noted that the Parochial Church Council was not initially favourable to the idea of the parish council paying to store items in the church hall. <i>Resolved: That the council follow up the request with the Parochial Church Council.</i>
18	Neighbourhood Plan: <i>Resolved: That copies of the consultation document be made available in strategic locations in the parish and on the council website.</i> <i>Resolved: That Jo-Anne Garrick be paid for work done as per the current invoice.</i>
	<i>20:05 Resolved: That the meeting continue beyond the two-hour limit (proposed by Cllr Callaghan, seconded by Cllr Moon-Schott).</i>
19	<i>Access to field behind garden centre: Resolved: That the Clerk compose a letter to the garden centre asking the owners to clarify the current position in regard to access to the public footpath along the river bank (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Fairlamb).</i>
20	Motions on notice: Councillor Fairlamb moved the following motion: Shincliffe Parish Council shall as soon as possible purchase two metal signs to be displayed at the Shincliffe Village Play Park which clearly give all the information necessary. This will include the parish council's logo, a welcome message, the precise address for contact in case of emergency and reporting defects and a suitable disclaimer. Also included shall be a suggested age range, an anti-littering message and a dog prohibition notice. These shall be situated on the existing pole facing the main entrance and the other visible from inside the park. <i>Resolved: To agree the motion and to call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 2 July to agree the precise wording of the signage.</i> <i>Resolved: That the Clerk contact Durham County Council to ask whether their out-of-hours helpline number can be added to the signs.</i>
21	<i>Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting of the Council on Thursday 18 July 2024 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall.</i>

Signed as a true record:

Cllr S Ashfield (Chair)

Date:
