

Chair of the Council:
Cllr Stephen Ashfield
3 Geoffrey Avenue
Durham
DH1 4PF



High Shincliffe
Sherburn House
Shincliffe Village

Shincliffe

Parish Council

www.shincliffeparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk:
Richard Ormerod
Helvellyn, 14 Geoffrey Avenue
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Minutes of the Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held on Thursday 19 December 2024 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village, DH1 2ND.

Record of attendance: Councillors Stephen Ashfield (in the Chair), Ann Callaghan, Bill Clatworthy & Brian Fairlamb. Also present: Richard Ormerod (Clerk).

1	Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Councillor Janice Gorlach. Resolved: To receive and accept the apologies.
2	Declarations of interest: None.
3	Members' dispensation requests: None.
4	Public Participation: No members of the public were present but updates were given to concerns raised by residents about DCC refuse vehicles driving over grassed areas in High Shincliffe and the recent thefts from the Amaani restaurant (which is just outside the parish area). Resolved: That the Clerk notify the City of Durham Parish Council about the incidents at Amaani and the action taken by Shincliffe Parish Council members.
5	Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 21 November 2024: Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6	Chairman's announcements: Cllr Ashfield thanked all who helped put up and decorate the Christmas trees. It was noted that the meeting with Shincliffe CE Primary School about parking would not happen until the new year. Members were reminded to contact CDALC with their preferred dates for councillors' training.
7	Planning and licensing applications: A discussion took place on planning application DM/24/02884/VOC: Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) pursuant of application DM/23/01294/RM following outline permission DM/22/01127/OUT to allow replacement of rooflights with 4 no. dormer windows, alteration to garden room and boundary treatments.

Signed:

Date:

	<i>Resolved: That the Clerk follow up on the council's earlier objection.</i>
8	Neighbourhood Plan: Councillor Fairlamb reported on progress made. It was noted that Durham County Council had made supportive comments and suggested expanding the proposed protected areas. The Chairman thanked Cllr Fairlamb for his ongoing work on the plan. <i>Resolved: That the council note the report.</i> <i>Resolved: That the Clerk re-send recent documents to members.</i> <i>Resolved: That the Clerk invite the parish council's consultant to the next meeting to speak to members (via Zoom link if necessary) and that members email questions to her (copied to Cllr Fairlamb) in advance if possible.</i>
9	Financial matters: The Clerk had circulated a report on the council's financial position. On 14 December 2024 the council had £22,916.65 in the current account and £36,770.49 in the reserve account. <i>Resolved: That the council note the council's current financial position (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Callaghan).</i> <i>Resolved: That the council pay the outstanding invoices (proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Callaghan).</i>
10	Council budget for 2025-26: A draft budget had been presented to members by the Clerk and Cllr Callaghan. A discussion took place on each cost code. <i>Resolved: That that the parish council set a budget of £65,107 for the financial year 2025-26 (proposed by Cllr Callaghan, seconded by Cllr Clatworthy-unanimous).</i>
	<i>It was agreed to continue the meeting for an additional 30 minutes.</i>
11	Precept for 2025-26: A discussion took place on budget options. <i>Resolved: That the council request a precept of £61,552 from Durham County Council for the financial year 2025-26 (proposed by Cllr Callaghan, seconded by Cllr Clatworthy – 3 votes for, 1 vote against).</i>
12	Use of footpaths around Sherburn House: The Clerk reported that he had been advised by the Open Spaces Society and was now in a position to request testimonials from residents regarding use of the paths. <i>Resolved: That the council request testimonials from residents via the website, noticeboards and social media.</i>
13	Old Mine Site: A local resident who is a graphic designer had agreed to update the leaflet and a draft version had been circulated to members. A discussion took place on content. Members were pleased with the leaflet but requested some minor adjustments. <i>Resolved: To ask the resident to make the changes and supply an updated draft.</i> <i>Resolved: To print 1000 copies of the leaflet once finalised.</i>

Signed:

Date:

	<i>Resolved: That the Clerk apply for Local Nature Reserve status for the Old Mine Site.</i>
14	<i>Fly-tipping in the parish: Deferred to next meeting.</i>
15	<i>Request for donation: North-East Friendship Dogs: Deferred to next meeting.</i>
16	Motions on notice: None.
17	Date and time of next meeting: <i>Resolved: That the next meeting be held on Thursday 16 January 2025 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village.</i>

Signed as a true record:

Cllr S Ashfield (Chair)

Date:

Signed:

Date: