

Chair of the Council:
Cllr Stephen Ashfield
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DH1 4PF



High Shincliffe
Sherburn House
Shincliffe Village

Shincliffe

Parish Council

www.shincliffeparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk:
Richard Ormerod
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Minutes of the Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held on Tuesday 18 February 2025 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), County Councillor David Freeman, Audrey Christie (CDALC), Councillor David Bell (CDALC) and two members of the public.

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: Two members of the public wished to speak on item 7.
5	Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 20 February 2025: Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6	Chairman's announcements: Cllr Ashfield congratulated the Clerk on attaining the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification. The Clerk was presented with the certificate by the Chairman of the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC), Councillor David Bell. It was noted that the council had received expressions of interest from three other parishes in attending a meeting of parish councils involved in the new City of Durham Local Network, which will be replacing the Area Action Partnership. The Chairman had encountered problems with renewing WiFi in the church hall but was working on a solution. Members were reminded about the informal session on the Neighbourhood Plan on 24 March and the litter pick on 12 April.
7	Planning and licensing applications: A discussion took place involving members of the public on the variation of condition of planning application DM/22/01509/FPA at Heathways. It was thought that the changes to the wall exacerbated highway safety problems and the roof overhang would increase the size of the balcony. It was noted that the application was likely to be determined by the Central &

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	East Planning Committee of Durham County Council on 8 April 2025. Resolved: That the council re-assert its objection to the plans with Durham County Council.
8	Financial matters: The Clerk had circulated a report on the council's financial position. On 14 March 2025 the council had £16,485.66 in the current account and £5,021.62 in the reserve account. Resolved: That the council note the council's current financial position (proposed by Cllr Callaghan, seconded by Cllr Clatworthy). Resolved: That the council pay the outstanding invoices (proposed by Cllr Callaghan, seconded by Cllr Clatworthy).
9	Spring Gardens Competition: A discussion took place on the possibility of re-introducing the Spring Gardens Competition in addition to the summer equivalent, in order to suit residents whose gardens are more geared towards spring. Resolved: That the council delegate the matter to the Horticulture Committee.
10	Traffic matters: HGVs in the village The council was broadly in favour of introducing unofficial advisory signage for HGVs leaving the garden centre to direct them back along Low Road. The garden centre staff had indicated that they would be prepared to pay for these. Resolved: That that the Clerk investigate possible locations and costs of introducing unofficial advisory signage for HGVs leaving the garden centre to direct them back along Low Road (proposed by Cllr Ashfield, seconded by Cllr Callaghan). 20mph limits It was noted that there was no date agreed as yet for the county council's consultation to start. It was noted that a parish in Norfolk had managed to have a 20mph scheme introduced which did not involve any additional mounted signage but relied on road surface markings. It was thought that this would be favourable option for Shincliffe. Resolved: That the Clerk draw the attention of DCC Highways officers to the Norfolk scheme and ask if a similar scheme could be used in Shincliffe.
11	Proposed removal of payphone, Prospect Terrace: A discussion took place. It was noted that the kiosk was a grade 2 listed building. It was noted that the payphone has not functioned for some time and therefore British Telecom's statistics on its use are not a true reflection of demand. There was anecdotal evidence of people trying to use the payphone but being unable to. Resolved: That the council object to the removal of payphone facilities as the statistics on demand are not meaningful, and because the phone link could be crucial in the event of a power outage. The Clerk to circulate a draft of the

	<i>objection for approval by members before submission.</i> <i>Resolved: That in the event of payphone facilities being removed permanently, the parish council purchase the kiosk for £1 for community use.</i>
12	80th anniversary of VE Day, 8 May 2025: It was noted that there would be a “themed supper” at The Avenue public house in High Shincliffe to commemorate VE Day, but that no street party on the green was planned. In Shincliffe Village the church hall had been booked on Saturday 10 May for an event and there would be a commemorative picnic on the village green/church grounds to which participants would bring their own food and drink. <i>Resolved: That the council consider offering financial assistance and the loan of bunting to community groups wishing to organise events to commemorate VE Day.</i> <i>Resolved: That the Clerk use the website and noticeboards to invite applications for assistance with VE Day events, to be considered at the council’s April meeting.</i>
13	The Big Spring Clean 2025: It was noted that plans for the parish council’s litter pick (as part of Durham County Council’s annual anti-litter campaign, The Big Spring Clean) on 12 April were well advanced, with posters ready and equipment ordered. <i>Resolved: That the council publicise further the event on the website and noticeboards.</i>
14	Motions on notice: None.
	Exclusion of press and public: <i>It was agreed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting.</i>
15	In Private: Terms and conditions for the employment of the Parish Clerk: <i>Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be employed at NJC scale point 25 from 1 April 2025.</i>
	<i>The meeting ended at 8:25pm.</i>

Signed as a true record:

Cllr S Ashfield (Chair)

Date:

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Date: