

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
Durham
DH1 4PF
clerk@shincliffeparish.gov.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Shincliffe Parish Council held on 17th July 2025 at 6pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village, DH1 2ND.

Record of attendance: *Councillors Chris Tunstall (in the Chair), Ann Callaghan, Bill Clatworthy, Graham Hollingworth, Jamie Pearson, Peter Tiffin &.* Also present: Dianne Rickaby (Locum Clerk), County Councillor David Freeman

7 Members of the public were present

1	Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Stephen Ashfield Richard Ormerod Resolved: To receive and accept the apologies Proposed. Cllr Callaghan, Seconded Graham Hollingworth, - all in favour
2	Declarations of interest: None. Cllr Callaghan declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 11
3	Members' dispensation requests: None.
4	Public Participation: A member of the public shared their concerns regarding the parking at the rear of the park where the hedge is overgrown which is causing public problems accessing the paths. The chair advised that this would be covered in agenda item number 9.
5	Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 19th June 2025 Resolved: <i>The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. True record – Proposed Cllr Tunstall, seconded by Cllr Clatworthy.</i> Any other actions not covered on the agenda - all agreed
6	Chairman's announcements: 'Recent Activity in High Shincliffe It was noted that following a recent Bat Survey on the fields abutting Whitwell Acres and Heathway's a land survey had also been carried out.' Cllr Clatworthy also raised an issue re potential development in Bowburn alongside the former Leamside Railway Line would also entail a possible link road bypassing the A177 through Bowburn. Green Open Space in High Shincliffe A detailed plan showing Durham County Council DCC land ownership had been

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	received. Virtually none was in DCC ownership. Based on this it's assumed that the developers retained ownership. Resolved: Cllr Tunstall to follow up with the developers.'
7	Planning and licensing applications: Resolved: None to consider. Previous actions. Heathways - Cllr Tunstall had visited and suggested further action Stables- Cllr Tiffin confirmed no additional information provided with the appeal. Resolved: No further action.
8	Financial matters: Item 8 Financial matter: the Clerk had circulated a report on the council's financial position. On the 14July 2025 the Council had £66,438.47 in the current account and £5,049.88 in the reserve account (£71,488.35 in total). Cllr Callaghan reviewed payment, receipts and bank reconciliation. Noted that money still needed to be moved from the current account to the reserve account. Resolved that the council note the current financial position and that Cllr Callaghan speak to the Clerk re moving funds from the current to the reserve account (proposed by Cllr Callaghan, seconded by Cllr Tiffin), passed unanimously. Discussion took place re outstanding extra payments to Marc Platts for watering during the recent dry spell. Unfortunately, the schedule of outstanding payments had not been received by all Councillors. Cllr Clatworthy give an update as to the reason for the payment and suggested that whenever possible some form of natural irrigation be considered in the future. Resolved that the council pay the outstanding invoices and that the question of some form of natural irrigation be discussed by the Horticulture Committee (proposed by Cllr Callaghan, seconded by Cllr Tiffin) unanimously approved.
9	Cllr Hollingworth confirmed that unfortunately something had come up at the last minute and as a result Kirk couldn't attend. It was confirmed that residents could report footpath issues by DCC Doitonline. It was suggested that this be reported in SCAN. It was also noted that Durham City pay extra for an enhanced service and subsequent reporting. Resolved: that Cllr Hollingworth invite Kirk back to the September meeting and the clerk be asked to make enquiries as to the enhanced service Durham City receive and the cost. It was further agreed that Cllr Callaghan submit an article to SCAN re the use of Doitonline. Pebble Paths in Shincliffe Village

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	County Cllr Freeman updated the meeting on the feedback he'd received from DCC Officers. There was no money to rectify the works. It was pointed out that it was not fit for purpose and constituted a hazard particularly for those with mobility issues to forcing some into the road. Several possible solutions were discussed but after extensive discussion, which included members of the public present, it was agreed that the clerk should submit a freedom of information request as a pre requisite to making a formal complaint. Resolved: Clerk to submit a freedom of information request. Overgrown Vegetation A member of the public raised an issue re an overgrown hedge and parking on footway in Low Road, Shincliffe. Cllr Clatworthy confirmed this was normally cut back by the County Council. Issues re parking on the footway need raising with the Police direct. Resolved: Cllr Clatworthy to raise with Durham County Council. It was also agreed that Parish Council members identify and report any overgrown vegetation. Resolved: Cllrs report any overgrown footways/ footpaths in their area. Resolved: Cllr Callaghan also include details of where to report vehicles parking on footways. Poplar Tree field footpath Cllr Clatworthy reported that signs had been erected at both entrances to Poplar Tree field footpath. The signs stated that when the nursery was closed the footpath shouldn't be used. Resolved: that the clerk determine the status of the footpath, permissive or public right of way, and write to the nursery to ascertain man the reasoning behind the signs.'
10	Provision of internal audit - Deffered
11	Request for donation towards SCAN Cllr Callaghan gave a financial update but did not participate in the decision making. £ 400 towards production of magazine Church feels not viable for the magazine to go to Bowburn. SCAN is produced by the community Assoc - funded by advertising, church and community How much does it cost for the scan publication Resolved: That the council agreed to sponsor SCAN with £400, proposed Cllr

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	Clatworthy and seconded Cllr Tiffin– all in favour
12	Traffic Matters - Update on 20 mph Chair gave update and advised he chased Michelle (Highways) – experimental traffic regulation orders – government guidance – not appropriate – she does say experimental order would still mean money be put up for road humps. Councillors discussed the lack of consultation with the PC and the very tight timeframe for the public consultation. Consultation – who is doing this - HGV in Shincliffe Village – DEFER to next meeting - Traffic speeds on Mill Lane (the B1198) DEFER Resolved: That the council chase up again with Michelle from Highways on any progress on the consultation.
13	<i>Crop spraying in Shincliffe Village</i> Brendan Quale was welcomed to the meeting to give an update on the ongoing concerns with regards to local farmers spraying their crops with harmful chemicals. Brendan advised that he and other residents had been captured by the spray of chemicals at which suffered side effects. He then went on to advise that there are now in the Shincliffe Land Group active participants of 25 people, including both parents from the young families in the village, and all have expressed themselves willing to go forward with an active campaign to stop the spraying if a settlement of some kind cannot be negotiated. Members discussed a potential meeting with Savills, Dean & Chapter and Shincliffe PC to discuss the severity of this matter. Resolved: A letter be sent to Dean & Chapter for an urgent meeting.
14	Recruitment of parish/town councillors to Durham County Council's Standards Committee Due to lack of time (3-hour max reached) this agenda item was deferred.
15	Motions on notice – None received
	<i>The meeting ended at 9.05 pm</i>

Signed as a true record:

Cllr C Tunstall (Chair)

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