

Blanchland Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
held in the Village Hall
27th May 2015

Present: Councillors Mr Kennedy, Mr Patterson, Mr Bowers, Mr Graham, Mr Kilkenny and Councillor Horncastle, Clerk Mrs Ellison,

Apologies: Councillor Horncastle had to leave early.

Minutes of the previous meetings held on 5th March 2015 were read out and approved as a true record.

Declarations of Interest: Mr Kennedy and Mr Patterson declared an interest in donation to the Village Hall.

Matters Arising

Post Office: A full Post Office service will begin on the 5th June. Thank you to the new tenant Dave Hull for making this possible.

Hexham bus: Still awaiting decision from NCC, but Councillor Horncastle says if he is allowed he will provide some funding to try and keep a service going.

BOAT's: Proposed Footpath 29 on Boat's No 80 from corner of Slaley forest south easterly to 1,000 metres short of Pennypie. It looks as though NCC are proposing this goes ahead but we await the outcome.

Hole in the field and flooding of field and Play Area: The AONB dig is not going ahead until later in the year. Terry Snowden who runs the Sports Club is trying to obtain grants to improve the problem.

Footpath Hexham Road: Work on this has been completed. We now await NCC to see if the work will be continued to repair the remainder of the path.

Review of Public Conveniences We have received a letter that states because of the high footfall and small community we will be keeping the toilets open for tourism, but the final decision has not been taken.

New Business

Footpath Shildon Road: We have had a request to try once again to see if NCC will repair it. Clerk to write to NCC

Drain Derwent View and Roadside Verges: Once again this drain is overflowing and flooding the road and nothing has been done to clear the verges along Baybridge Road, which may possibly alleviate the situation. Councillor Horncastle will ask for a meeting with the new Highways Inspector Chris Westerbury to meet on sight and discuss the matter.

Dog Dirt along the paths: Clerk to print notices.

Waste Bin next to telephone box: This and the one on the green south of the Square are not being emptied. Clerk to contact NCC.

Telephone Box: This needs painting and repaired. Clerk to contact BT.

Planning Applications: Two applications by Newbiggin Hall, 15/01063/FUL extension and 15/01067/FUL proposed gymnasium and sauna. The plans were circulated around the councillors and no objections were forthcoming.

Transparency Act: This act comes into force on the 1st July 2015. All Council agendas and minutes have to be available on line. We can go onto Slaley website at a fee of £50 or we can ask Blanchland Community Development Organisation if we can have a link to their site. It was agreed to go on BCDO site if possible and to pay them the £50.

Finances:

Interest in February 23p, March 18p, April 22p.

Nalc fees this year £48.52. Agreed

Village Hall donation for the use of the hall. £100 was agreed by the 3 r councillors allowed to vote.

Insurance Quote from AON is the same as last year. Clerk has requested a reduction but waiting to hear. It was agreed to pay the £218.06 if necessary or hopefully less.

Audit: The Audit for 2014-2015 was scrutinised and approved. The Chairman and Clerk duly signed the document, which has been independently audited by Mrs L Snowdon.

The balance at the end of the year is £2315.19 which balances with the ledger which was signed by the chairman

Meeting Closed 9pm Next meeting TBA.