

Blanchland Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
held in the Village Hall
9th March 2016

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

Apologies: none

Minutes of the previous meetings held on 20th January 2016 were read out and approved as a true record.

Declarations of Interest none

Matters Arising

Drain Derwent View and Roadside Verges, Footpath Shildon Road: Councillors Michael Kennedy and Tim Bowers met with Glen Harrison, Highway Inspector on 8th March. He did some remedial work on the ditch west of Derwent View and cleared the pipe under the road further west on Clapshaw Road. He has raised jobs for the potholes around the village and has determined that the Footpath Shildon Road is the responsibility of NCC and will look into this and also the edge damage at each side of the road in the Square. He will also look into the water run off leading to Birkside. It is noted that we are pleased that we have someone who is willing to get his hands dirty and give us some prompt feedback.

Hedges and Trees: Savills, (formerly Smiths Gore) have been in touch with a tree surgeon to clear the trees overhanging Clap Shaw Road and with the farmer to trim the hedges on his land.

New Audit regulation: Taking advice from NALC we need to opt in to the new regulations which means we do nothing.

Workplace Pensions. This council has registered with Inland Revenue.

New Business:

Planning Permission: Byres Clap Shaw 15/03758/FUL No objections.

Post office House and Gallery 16/00452/COU No Objections.

Litter Bin at the Pant: NCC taped it up as the refuse collector said the bins inside were damaged: Councillor Graham has agreed to look and see if he can repair them.

Damage to Blanchland Bridge: This was done a couple of weeks ago when icy but it is not known who went into it. Clerk has informed Durham County Council.

Grant for a Computer and Printer: It is possible to obtain a government grant towards these items under the new transparency scheme. The clerk thought it would be a good idea to have a dedicated computer for this council in the event that a new clerk comes forward. At present she uses family equipment. It was agreed to go ahead and apply for the grant.

Risk Assessment: The clerk has completed this year's assessment, no new risks have arisen.

Finances:

Interest in Dec 24p, Jan 25p, Feb 25p.

Clerk's wages 2015-2016: 100 on the electoral roll at £2 per head, 1/3 of Broadband £200 (this has increased as a new contract with fast fibre optic was taken out) and £20 expenses for attending a training session at Bardon Mill £420 in total.

Next meeting will be the Parish meeting followed by the AGM and the ordinary meeting on May 25th at 7pm.

Meeting Closed 8.30pm