

**Blanchland Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**held in the Village Hall**  
**on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm**

**Apologies for cancelling meeting last week due to snow.**

**Present:** Councillors Mr Kennedy, Mr Bowers, Mr Graham, Mr M Forster, Councillor Horncastle, Clerk Mrs Ellison.

**Apologies:** none

Declarations of Interest none

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**Matters Arising**

**Drain Derwent View and Roadside Verges, hedges and trees:** The drainage problem is now worse than before the work was done. Water tracks across the road and freezes, one vehicle has hit the wall and several others have skidded. Clerk has requested a site meeting with Mr Westerby and awaiting a reply.

**Footpath Shildon Road:** We will discuss this with Mr Westerby at the same time as Clapshaw and repairs to the road in The Square.

**Parking in The Square:** NCC have notified residents of the plans and we await results.

**Dogs in playing field:** Still monitoring

**Hexham Bus:** Awaiting review.

**Mounting Block** The mounting block at Baybridge is to be restored soon.

**Birkside Road Collapse:** The major damage was repaired the week before Christmas. There are still one or two problems which Mr Kennedy discussed with the engineer on site.

**Defibrillator:** We have a cost of £1,375 + vat. Clerk to find out what planning permission we will need and also the cost of supplying electricity to this. The agent for the estate has no problem with this but to place next to telephone box it will be on a Grade 1 listed building. We are looking into funding.

**Planning Applications:** It is noted plans for Cowbyres was withdrawn.

**Clerk retirement.** The clerk has had three applicants but they have shown no further interest.

**Donation for grass cutting.** It was unanimously agreed to give Mr Whelpton £100 for grass cutting services for the year. As the Sports Club is closed at present we have been asked if we can pay for the service of the grass cutter so that the field can be maintained. We have a quote of £200 to £300 + parts for this service but we may need 2 quotes. Clerk to look into this.

**New Business**

**Condition of Public Car Park:** Mr Kennedy and Mr Forster have already discussed this with Savills and will carry out the work when weather conditions improve. It was noted that a lot of building rubble has been deposited there and we will discuss this with Savills representative at the next BCDO meeting.

**Low Water Pressure:** There have been problems with this since May and although the water company has done some work there is still an occasional problem. The clerk will write to Northumbrian Water on behalf of the residents.

**Financial report**

Interest: Nov. 30p, Dec. 29p

It was agreed to keep the precept at £1K.

Date of Next meeting. 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018