

**Blanchland Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**held in the Village Hall**  
**on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Mr Kennedy, Mr Bowers, Mr Graham, Mr M Forster, Clerk Mrs Ellison. Mrs Carolyn Asquith (potential New Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillor Horncastle

Declarations of Interest none

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**Matters Arising**

**Drain Derwent View and Roadside Verges, hedges and trees:** The councillors had an onsite meeting with Kris Westerby, Highways Engineer on 7<sup>th</sup> February. He was not happy with the work that has been done and he will have a crew out asap to make good.

**Footpath Shildon Road:** We have to await to see if this is included in the local transport plan.

**Parking in The Square:** There were not enough residents in favour of the plan so Mr McKenzie (NCC) has drawn up a revised plan. The councillors felt that there was no choice but to put forward the new plan to the residents and clerk will inform Mr McKenzie of this decision.

**Dogs in playing field:** Still monitoring

**Hexham Bus:** Awaiting review.

**Mounting Block** The mounting block at Baybridge has been restored.

**Birkside Road Collapse:** There is still some work to be done and Councillor Kennedy will get in touch with NCC when the weather improves.

**Defibrillator:** We have had a response from planning that we need to go for Listed Building Application (LBA) which costs £150 with no assurance that this will be approved. It was agreed to ask Michael Orde or Kate Rankine whoever attends next BCDO meeting if they would possibly contribute to the cost. Councillor Horncastle is still enquiring if he can fund the Defib.

**Planning Applications:** A new revised plan for Cowbyre has been submitted LCC 18/0046/FUL Councillors raised no objection.

**Clerk retirement.** Carolyn Asquith has volunteered to take up the position and we are more than happy to have her on board.

**Grass cutting.** We have now got two verbal quotes and they are very similar i.e. £200/300 plus parts. It was agreed to go with Consett Lawnmower Maintenance as they already do the Hotel's maintenance.

**Condition of Public Car Park:** The rubble has been removed and Mr Kennedy and Mr Forster will carry out the maintenance work when they can.

**Low Water Pressure:** This seems to be resolved.

**New Business**

**Risk Assessment:** The clerk has carried out the yearly risk assessment.

**Financial report**

Interest: Jan 30p

**Clerk's Annual Wage:** 30 hours at minimum wage of £7.50 (£225) plus agreed third of Broadband for expenses (£209). Total £434 Agreed

Meeting closed 8.30pm

Date of Next meeting. Annual Parish Meeting May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm