

Blanchland Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held in the Village Hall
On Wednesday 23rd May at 8.40pm

Present: Councillors Mr Kennedy, Mr Bowers, Mr Graham, Mr M Forster, Councillor Horncastle, Clerk Mrs C Asquith

1. Apologies: None

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 7/3/2018: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. Matters Arising:

4.1 Drain Derwent View and Roadside Verges, hedges and trees: Ongoing, Andrew Olive has now taken over from Kris Westerby and will be undertaking a visit of the Parish with Councillor Horncastle. Clerk to arrange a list of places the Council are concerned about.

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

4.3 Clapshaw Bank: Road surfacing to take place between the end of May to July. The clerk to check if there is a confirmed date for works to start. Map of works to be placed in the arch.

4.4 Parking in The Square: The second consultation took place in April and the results of this consultation on the double yellows in Blanchland were:

For: 6

Against 3

Neutral: 1

This only gives us 60% in favour which isn't enough to go ahead. Richard McKenzie will therefore recommend that the yellow lines are not implemented. Councillor Kennedy would like to confirm how many people in the village received a consultation form as some residents he has spoken to did not receive one and he feels that this is a concern that affects the whole village, not just the residents on the square. The consultation must yield a 75% in favour vote to proceed; we have been advised that a further formal consultation will have to wait a further year.

4.5 Dogs in playing field: The issue will continue to be monitored however the main offender has moved away from the village

4.6 Hexham Bus: Awaiting review.

4.7 Birkside Road Collapse: This has been fixed however there is still some work to do.

4.8 Defibrillator: Savills have said that the defibrillator is not to be placed on the Gatehouse.

Councillors asked if it would be possible to place the defibrillator on the Village Hall which does not have listed status. It was also discussed if the defibrillator within the Lord Crewe which is accessible for all could have some signage around the village, for example near the public toilets, in the car parks and in the arch. Mags Bowers is no longer Community First Responder.

4.9 Planning Applications: Cowbyres NCC 18/00546/FUL has been granted permission 10th April 2018.

NCC 18/01053/LBC has been granted on 15th May 2018.

4.10 Grass cutting: The grass cutter has been serviced and had parts renewed cost £616.00. Cheque towards half the cost received £308 with thanks from The Village Hall Committee. There are still concerns that the cutter is not working as well as it should Councillor Graham to follow up.

4.11 Condition of Public Car Park: On-going

5. Finances:

5.1 Expenses Claims for NALC training, 2 courses, Introduction to Local Councils and Audit and Finance Course for Mrs C Asquith Clerk, at a cost of £10 each.

5.2 Mileage claim for journey to and from Bedlington 45p per mile @76 miles =£34.20.

5.3 Filing cabinet to be accommodated at Cowbyres Farm Cottage to hold parish records and information cost with 15% IKEA staff discount £42.50. Total cheque made payable to MRS C A Asquith for £96.70.

5.4 Insurance for 2018-2019. Councillors agreed to renew with Zurich at an annual fee of £167.44 by cheque.

5.5 AGAR 23017-2018. Completed and signed off during AGM. Clerk to forward PDF for publication on Blanchland.org website. Alice Ellison will be Internal Auditor for Financial Year 2018-2019.

6. New Business:

6.1 Memorial Benches: A new bench has been agreed by Savills as a memorial for a couple who enjoyed the village and talking to the locals. The daughter has agreed to the upkeep of the bench. Councillors discussed the proposition of further enquiries and agreed that it should be looked at on a case by case decision.

6.2 NALC Website: The Clerk asked if the Councillors would consider having a Blanchland Parish Council website through NALC. The new website will publish the minutes, agendas; contact details and finances, this would be in the event of any difficulties with the Blanchland.org website. The consensus was positive however some clarification as to ongoing costs is needed and will be discussed at next meeting.

6.3 Online Banking: The Clerk suggested the council move to online banking to make finances easier to organise for the clerk. It was agreed that this would be acceptable.

6.4 The Footbridge at Pennypie: Concerns over the accessibility and safety of the bridge which is made up of two sleepers, one of which has come away during the winter, this needs to be removed or repaired. The Clerk to contact Neil Dawson at NCC.

6.5 The Chairman and fellow Councillors thanked Mrs Alice Ellison for her service as Parish Clerk for the past 14 years and presented her with a bouquet.

Meeting closed 9.15 pm

Date of Next meeting. Parish Meeting Wednesday 12th September at 7.30pm