

Blanchland Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held in the Village Hall
On Wednesday 12th September at 7.30pm

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

1. Apologies: None

2. Declarations of Interest: Councillor Horncastle-Planning.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 23/5/2018: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. Matters Arising:

4.1 Drain Derwent View and Roadside Verges, hedges and trees: Ongoing. Glen Harrison has now taken over from Andrew Olive who replaced Kris Westerby earlier this year. Glen Harrison had a site visit with Councillors Kennedy and Forster this morning to look at the work undertaken in the summer at Clapshaw and Birkside. Agreements were made that the work was not satisfactory and will be revisited and undertaken appropriately, no time scales were given.

4.2 Footpath Shildon Road: This has not been included on the LTP, and concerns were raised again about the dangers to pedestrians due to the uneven surfaces. Clerk to continue to press for attention.

4.3 Clapshaw Bank: Road re-surfacing took place however there are a number of issues, including stop taps being tarmacked over, and work to rectify drainage issues was started but not satisfactorily completed. Metal detectors may be used to locate position of stop taps, a machine to clear out the rubbish and also a camera are required to investigate the grate at Clapshaw. Glen Harrison has investigated this as above, and work will continue.

4.4 Birkside Road Collapse: Ongoing (see above)

4.5 Condition of Public Car Park: Ongoing.

4.6 Parking in The Square: Following on from the 2nd Consultation it was agreed that an informal survey will be undertaken by the Parish Council as it was agreed that the whole village should be included on the consultation, not just the residents of the Square. Clerk to devise questionnaire and distribute to ensure that everyone in the village is given the opportunity to voice their opinion and raise any concerns. Aim to get questionnaire out by beginning of October 2018.

4.7 Hexham Bus: Awaiting Review, Councillor Horncastle advised that significant cuts are continuing and services such as this are often at risk.

4.8 Defibrillator: Original signs which the Clerk provided caused some confusion amongst the local community who did not know what AED stood for (Automated External Defibrillator) so these signs were removed from sites around the village. New signs to be procured that show the word Defibrillator to avoid confusion. Costings were calculated at £5.00 per sign, it was decided that as long as copyright was not being infringed then handmade laminated signs would suffice. Clerk to organise.

4.9 Grass cutter maintenance: a receipt for £308.00 was provided to Blanchland and Hunstanworth Show for their part of the costs towards the maintenance of the mower earlier this year. Tyres need to be looked at as they lose pressure very quickly, suggested that tyres could be filled at ATS to make them solid. Councillor Forster to investigate.

4.10 Footbridge at Pennypie: No developments, Clerk to contact David Brookes Head of Service-Footpaths and Rights of Way 0167 624134

4.11 NALC Website: It was voted in favour to use the NALC website at a cost of £75 per year, which will ensure the Parish Council has a dedicated website where minutes, agendas and finances can be uploaded and be accessible for viewing. Clerk to action.

5. Planning Application: None

6. Finances:

6.1 Expenses claim mileage for journey to and from Wylam @ 45p per mile @36 miles = £16.20 for NALC Introduction to Local Councils June 2018, cheque issued and received with thanks Clerk.

6.2 Current Statement/balance: Account currently stands at £2867.26 (statement) in addition September precept for £500 received which will show on next statement

7. New Business:

7.1 Online Banking/change of bank accounts: It was agreed that the Clerk can begin the process of opening an account at the Lloyds Bank in Hexham, so that online banking can be utilised.

7.2 Village Hall Donation: correction to the agenda which stated "Blanchland and Hunstanworth Show", this should have read "Village Hall". Councillors agreed in favour of a donation of £100, a cheque for that amount was issued at the meeting. Receipt to follow.

7.3 Northern Saints Trail update: An email has been received from David Pott detailing the process he is involved with. Councillors were made aware of key points and the route through Blanchland was briefly discussed as was accommodation, such as bunk houses and camping. The village Hall are unable to offer accommodation due to Insurances.

7.4 Hexham Road: It was agreed this should be flagged up with highways as drainage continues to be an issue at the bottom of Cowbyres Bank. Clerk to action.

7.5 Parish Records: The Clerk has been advised that Parish Records can be stored at Woodhorn, with an aim to preserving the records and allowing them to be available to visitors. The Council unanimously agreed that the Parish Council Records are to stay in Blanchland, and it was agreed that a fire-proof box would be costed and purchased upon agreement and they would be stored in a locked filing cabinet within the Village Hall. Clerk to action.

7.6 Computer repairs-costings: It was agreed that the Clerk can get an estimate for repairs to the Parish Laptop as it has an issue with the fan and the opening of the Microsoft Word software. Clerk to contact Corbridge Computing for an estimate and this will be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed 8.40 pm

Date of next Parish Meeting: Monday 1st November 2018 at 7.30pm