

**Blanchland Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**Held in the Village Hall**  
**On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Mr Kennedy, Mr Bowers, Mr Graham, Mr M Forster, Councillor Horncastle, Clerk Mrs C Asquith. Members of the Public: Caroline and John Rickerby

**1. Apologies:** Stan Graham

**2. Declarations of Interest:** None.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 12/09/18:** Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**4. Matters Arising:**

4.1 Drain Derwent View and Roadside Verges, hedges and trees: Ongoing no further activity. Clerk to follow up.

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, no further developments Clerk to continue to press for attention.

4.3 Clapshaw Bank: Ongoing Clerk to follow up.

4.4 Birkside Road Collapse: Extensive work has been carried out on both sides of the road, with large, deep trenches being dug and cleared out, work should be completed shortly. Councillor Kennedy pleased with the work so far.

4.5 Condition of Public Car Park: Ongoing, subject to Councillors Kennedy and Forster's health and workload. The donation box has been moved and re-built and is now located shortly after the entrance on the grass to the left. Michael Forster to install some large rocks around the structure to act as a deterrent from further incidents of theft.

4.6 Parking in The Square: Councillors considered the questionnaire devised by the clerk as fit for purpose. It was agreed that the questionnaires should be placed in envelopes and left in the village shop/Post Office for residents to collect, complete and return. 50 Copies to be issued, a poster to be placed in the Arch to sign post residents to the questionnaire. Results to be collated and feedback to be discussed at next Parish Meeting in 2019

4.7 Hexham Bus: On-going

4.8 Defibrillator: 4 laminated A5 signs were provided by the Clerk, the Councillors accepted them and they will be passed onto Alice Ellison for distribution around the village.

4.9 Grass cutter maintenance: On-going. Councillor Forster has a quote of £400 to fill tyres to minimise punctures from thorns etc. Councillors would like to look at alternative options at the next meeting.

4.10 Footbridge at Pennypie: Duncan Lovett has inspected the site and has agreed that repair and replacement work can go ahead. Progress to be check for the next meeting.

4.11 NALC Website: Ongoing, Clerk to write a short narrative for the website, and a small introduction to each Councillor. David Asquith will be asked to take some photos of the village and the new stone wall and plaques for the home page. Administrators will be the Parish Clerk and Michael Kennedy.

4.12 Online banking/change of bank accounts: Ongoing Clerk to try and complete this online.

4.13 Hexham Road: Emails from G Harrison and Peter Daley to confirm road sweeping will take place on next available ice/frost free day.

4.12 Parish Records: It was agreed that the fire and water-proof metal storage box, at a cost of £59 from Amazon would be ideal, and silica pouches to prevent dampness at £2.99. Clerk to order from Amazon. Cheque will be refunded once purchase had been made. Once secured the Records could be stored within the Village Hall so that access would be available with permission and they would be safely kept within the village.

4.13 Computer Repairs: It was agreed unanimously that the Parish Lap top could be cleaned up and repaired where required at a cost of £80 by Corbridge Computing. Clerk to arrange.

**5. Finances:**

5.1 Current statement/balance: account stands at £3367.50 (05/09/2018 Statement) Interest for this period £0.24.

5.2 AGAR for 2017-2018, PFK Littlejohn have contacted NALC with regard to the conclusion of the audit for 2017-18 "If an Exempt Council has sent their certificate of exemption and contact details to PKF Littlejohn, then the Council should not receive any communication to say no formal questions have been raised. Exempt Councils will not receive an audit completion certificate from PKF Littlejohn".

### **7. Planning Applications:**

7.1 Presser Pumping Station Bale Hill. DM/18/02742/FPA and DM/18/02743/LB were discussed Blanchland Parish Council have submitted an objection in support of Hunstanworth Parish Council, with regard to AONB, Dark Skies, Heritage and new builds. Whilst they support the principle of renovation of the Pumping Station and conversion to residential dwelling they felt the other planning objectives should be opposed. The meeting was suspended for 10 minutes to allow public discussion for Mr and Mrs Rickerby to voice their thoughts and to listen to the Councils views. Meeting was reconvened at 8.30pm

7.2 3 Shildon Road: No objections or concerns raised.

### **6. New Business:**

6.1 Precept for 2019-2020: It was agreed that the final decision will be made at the next meeting in January 2019, but it would most likely stay the same as this year at £1000.

6.2 Village Hall Annual Firework Display: It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would make a donation of £100 to the Village Hall for this year's display. Cheque was issued at the meeting. Display is on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 6pm

**Meeting closed 8.40 pm**

**Date of next Parish Meeting: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 at 7.30pm**