

Blanchland Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held in the Village Hall
On Wednesday 27th March 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Mr Kennedy, Mr Bowers, Mr M Forster, Mr S Graham, Clerk Mrs C Asquith.

- 1. Apologies:** Councillor Horncastle
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Councillor's Bowers, Forster and Kennedy/Felons Bar and The Village Hall
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 03/01/19:** Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- 4. Matters Arising:**
 - 4.1 Drain Derwent View and Roadside Verges, hedges and trees, no further work. Clerk to email Glen Harrison for update.
 - 4.2 Footpath Shildon Road: Ongoing
 - 4.3 Condition of Public Car Park: Michael Forster and Michael Kennedy to attend when their work permits, which will be after lambing season.
 - 4.4 Parking in The Square: Clerk has communicated with Richard Mackenzie, who has asked for the addresses of the respondents, Clerk will complete feedback report and will pass this by Councillors before sending it to Richard within the next month.
 - 4.5 Hexham Bus: Councillor Horncastle passed on prior to the meeting that there are no further developments.
 - 4.6 Grass cutter maintenance: The tyres have been sorted and a goodwill gesture of £100 was unanimously agreed upon to Cliff Whelpton (Chq no. 279) for his work and maintenance of the mower. The council are aware that the rims are in a bad condition.
 - 4.7 NALC Website: The website is now up and running, the Clerk will promote this in the Arch, there is the opportunity for local events to be promoted on the site, if interested please contact the Clerk.
 - 4.8 Online banking/change of bank accounts: There has been some issues with statements not arriving at Cowbyres the issue seems to be with the name on the account which is Michael Kennedy, but the address is Cowbyres. The Clerk is in dialogue with Virgin to find a way to rectify this situation. During Easter holidays the Clerk will visit the Lloyds branch in Hexham and chase up the opening of the new account.
 - 4.9 Hexham Road: The road sweeper revisited and cleared some debris, but could not get any nearer due to the big step at the edge of the tarmac. Clerk to contact Glen Harrison, regarding some wiring that is visible on the road surface and to look at the Cundy as it still needs clearing from the other side of the road at the bottom of the bank.
 - 4.10 Parish Records: Tim Bowers is sourcing a safe, in which the record could be safely stored.
 - 4.11 Computer Repairs: The computer is now fixed and software is running. The cost was £50.
 - 4.12 Presser Pumping Station Bale Hill: Further panning permission has been sought, BPC have no further involvement at this time.

5. Finances:

- 5.1 Current statement/balance: account stands at £2877.94 (17/2/2019 Statement) Interest earned for the proceeding period £0.24.
- 5.2 Clerk's wages: Cheque no 278 for £75.11 was paid to the Clerk for Jan-Mar and 1/3 broadband costs for the same period, Income Tax at £11.60 (chq no. 277) is payable to HMRC. Clerk will keep a log of her hours for 2019-20 and advised the Council of the change in Minimum pay rate from £7.83 to £8.21 per hour for the coming year.
- 5.3 Donation: Letter of thanks from CAN for Chq no. 274 £20

6. Planning Applications:

19/00794/LBC, 19/00775/LBC, 19/00829/LBC, 19/00795/LBC, were all discussed at the meeting and Councillors had no objection to any of the planned work. Clerk will log this as a comment on NCC Planning Portal.

7. New Business:

7.1 Dispensation: As guided by Stephen Ricketts from NALC, Councillors who have declarations of interest in Felons Bar and the Village Hall signed a Dispensation form, so that they would be able to vote on matters regarding these interests. Councillor's Bowers, Forster and Kennedy all signed the

Page 2 of 2

7.2 Notice of Vacancy: The Councillors agreed that the Vacancy for Councillors could be advertised in the Village Arch, the Clerk will report the vacancy to NCC Electoral Team. If there is no call for a By Election, they will be in a position to co-opt a Councillor.

7.3 Felons Bar: Discussions are still on-going, Tim Bowers has the Licence, but they are still waiting for the lease to be agreed and signed. A letter from Margaret Bowers, Secretary to the Village Hall, requesting a donation was read out. The Councillors unanimously agreed to make a donation to the new committee, a letter will be sent in response and an outline of specific details and costs will be requested in order to release the funding set aside for Felons Bar.

7.4 Healthwatch Northumberland: The questionnaire deadline had closed prior to the date of the meeting.

7.5 North Pennines AONB Partnership- Annual Forum 2019: Unfortunately the members of the council are unable to attend.

7.6 Petty Cash: The Clerk requested £30 as a Petty Cash budget to buy stationary, and stamps. This was unanimously agreed (Cheque no. 280 was made out to Mrs C Asquith) All receipts and a written record of any expenditure will be kept by the Clerk.

Meeting closed 8.40 pm

Date of next Parish Meeting, AGM and Parish Council Meeting: Monday 20th May 7.30pm at the Village Hall