

**Blanchland Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**Blanchland Village Hall**  
**On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Mr M Kennedy, Mr T Bowers, Mr M Forster, Mrs J Burgess, Mr R O'Connor, Clerk Mrs C Asquith.

**1. Apologies:** Mr C Horncastle

**2. Declarations of Interest:** None

**3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 14/12/2021:** Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**4. Matters Arising:**

4.1 Birkside Baybridge Drainage: No further response regarding this issue, however Kate Rankin from Savills is now in touch with NCC and is included on emails, Glen has responded and said it will be looked into. Clerk to link Colin Horncastle in to further email and ask for an update. The road has been flooded on numerous occasions after heavy rainfall this year.

4.2 Slaley Forest Access Public Meeting: Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Michael Kennedy attended, not immediate outcomes, ongoing.

4.3 Dog Waste Bin: The bin is now installed and the NCC waste collections team have the key. Many thanks to Michael Forster for installing. There has been some confusion as people have mistaken it for a junction box. MF to apply signage. It is being used which is good, however bags with dog waste are still being left along paths despite there being 3 accessible bins in key locations and within half a mile of each other. .

4.4 Bridle Paths and Public Footpaths: The paths alongside the river between Blanchland and Baybridge are becoming increasingly waterlogged and very muddy, increasing health and safety concerns. This path is highlighted as a route for visitors to use, and it's not accessible after heavy rain, there is also a large bush/shrub blocking party of the path. There are other concerns which have not as yet been rectified, the Clerk will approach Duncan Lovatt again and ask for immediate input.

4.5 Grit and Salt Piles: No schedule was received, despite reminder emails. However Michael Kennedy organised delivery through the online portal, and will use this method again when required. Anyone can access this online. This item can be removed from the next agenda.

4.6 Election Charges: No further updates.

4.7 Blanchland Place Making Scheme: No further information had been received by the Parish Council, The Clerk will contact Savills for an update.

4.8 Kerbside at Clapshaw Felons. No progress on this since the last meeting, however a letter has been received regarding the poor condition of the Village Hall Car Park, which has suffered due to this excess run off. The council agree that the kerb needs raising so that the excess water is channelled away from the car park entrance and into the nearest drain. The water is coming from the horse troughs, which were cleared [previously, but need clearing again. Clerk to contact NCC and Savills to ask for this to be looked at as a matter of some urgency to avoid any further damage.

**5. Finances:**

5.1 Current statement/Balance: £1609.06

5.2 Petty Cash: £23.47 available.

5.3 Clerk Wages: Breakdown Jan - Mar = 3 months wages 2.5 x 3 = 7.5 hours x £8.91= £66.83  
Monthly Line rental = £29 x 12 = £348/3= £116 (per Year) With EE Broadband 1/3 for 3 months (Jan - Mar 2022) £116/12= £9.66 x 3 months = £29.00 (claimed as expenses) Printer costs £1.50 x 3 (Jan - Mar 2022) = £4.50. Sum total of £100.33 Cheque no. 31)

**6. New Business:**

6.1 **External Requests for Donations:** Letter received from GNAAS and Tynedale Hospice thanking the Parish Council for their recent donation. Further letter received from Citizens Advice Bureau, the Parish Council said no to this on this occasion.

The Parish Council discussed the Ukraine donations at Slaley Hall, and agreed that they would like to do something, but had concerns that the collections may not be as useful as money donations. A local resident informed the Council that he is organising a Felons Quiz, where all proceeds would be donated to the Appeal, and the Parish Council and local groups would do their best to promote and support this event and also a planned music night. Further discussion to take and residents are invited to share their ideas and suggestions.

- 6.2 **Platinum Jubilee:** After a public meeting in February, it was agreed that the Parish Council would support a number of events. The first is a bring your own Picnic, which will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June after 4pm outside the Tea Rooms, the Clerk is gathering numbers through Facebook, tables and chairs will be provided, and volunteers will be called for to help set up. Secondly a stone wall commemorative seat, with stone donated/provided by Lady Cross, Michael Kennedy to organise as part of the Blanchland and Hunstanworth Show on the 29<sup>th</sup> August. Also fruit tree planting in the vicinity, Clerk to liaise with Kate Rankin at Savills for donation.
- 6.3 **Salt Bins :** The Council agreed that they should purchase a number of salt bins, to be placed in accessible locations including the 2 car parks and 1 other location. This will help with issues in the winter particularly along Shildon Road and the VH Car Park. Sizes and prices were discussed and further discussion and quotes needed and a decision will be made at the next meeting in May.
- 6.4 **Dog Waste Bag Dispenser:** The Clerk provided some examples of pricing, but it was agreed that the Council wouldn't purchase one as it was felt this would not help improve matters as bags are often left on pathways and not placed in bins. Parish Council to post again on Facebook with gentle reminder regarding fines and where the bins are located. Also bags are available from the Lord Crewe, The Phone Box and the Jaspah Crewe, if anyone is without.
- 6.5 **Electric Shredder:** The Clerk requested a shredder to dispose safely and securely of personal information. It was agreed this was a reasonable request and confirmed the clerk can purchase one from Amazon.
- 6.6 **Accounts Leger:** The Clerk also asked if the Council could purchase a new leger as the current one is becoming very frail and has been in use since the 1950's and it would be better to preserve it. The council agreed and the Clerk took receipt of a cheque for £5 to cover leger and shredder.

Meeting closed 8:52 pm

**Date of next Parish Council Meeting and AGM : 7pm Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at the Village Hall**