

Blanchland Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Blanchland Village Hall
On Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 8.30pm

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

1. **Apologies:** Mr D Kelly
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Councillor Bowers Felons and B&H Show. Councillor O'Connor B&H Show Councillor Kennedy BCDO, Village Hall and B&H Show, Councillor Forster BCDO, Felons and B&H Show, Councillor Kelly, B&H Show.. Carolyn Asquith, Blanchland Artisan Markets 2023 and B&H Show.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on February 2023:** Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - 4.1 **Birside Baybridge Drainage/Flooding at Baybridge/Kerbside at Clapshaw:** no update from Glen Harrison, despite emails from the Clerk. Clerk to follow up. Ongoing
 - 4.2 **Slaley Forest Access Public Meeting:** No further updates, although survey has been completed and it is understood that costings are now taking place.
 - 4.3 **Bridle Paths and Public Footpaths:** The Kissing Gate on the Show Field has yet to be replaced, further measures may be required at the Baybridge entrance as horses have been spotted being ridden along the woodland path, which is a health and safety risk to dog walkers, families and people with accessibility issues. The Clerk will arrange a site meeting with Savills to discuss this and other matters, including fallen trees in river, the erosion of the riverside path etc.
 - 4.4 **Grit and Salt Piles:** Salt bins have been delivered and are being stored locally a yellow salt bin has appeared at Bridgend, it is proposed as it is not in keeping, it will be moved to one of the two village car parks and will be filled in winter. The three black bins will be distributed around the village and will be filled by the council in due course.
 - 4.5 **Blanchland Place Making Scheme:** The alterations and planned changes are on the LTP for 2024-25, there are some concerns from residents as per AGM and these will be highlighted when site meeting takes place.
 - 4.6 **Platinum Jubilee:** The metal plaque has arrived and will be installed by the dry stone wallers at the Blanchland and Hunstanworth Show on August Bank Holiday, a further stone will be purchased for it to be set into/onto. MK and MF are organising this. Councillor Forster paid for the plaque via PayPal therefore he has been given cheque no. 61 £84.96 which he has counter signed as he is 1 of the 2 designated signatures on the bank account. Invoice will be passed to Parish Clerk.
 - 4.7 **Parish Funds:** Picnic benches will both be installed on the playing field, one is waiting to be built the other is built but needs painting. The aim is to get both done and on the field by early June, so that the O'Connor family can make their dedication and place their memorial plaque on one of the two benches.
 - 4.8 **Warm Hub/Northern Power Grid Foundation.** The generator has been purchased and work will begin in June, hopefully to install the wiring so that the system is up and running as and when required. The PC has asked for wardens to look after and set up the generator when required, volunteers have come forward. Updates at next meeting.
 - 4.9 **Blanchland Village Spring and Christmas Fair:** The Spring Fair went very well with most traders very happy with the day and good feedback from visitors who enjoyed the different locations and activities. Planning is already underway for the Christmas Market in November.

4.10 **Keeping Blanchland Beautiful:** This will be raised with Michael Evans when a site visit is confirmed. Clerk to take minutes.

4.11 **Coronation Fund:** The Parish Council were too late in applying for the NCC Coronation pot, there was only 1 round of applications this time and the funding was all allocated in the first round. The Parish Council retrospectively makes a £100 donation to the Coronation organising group which is run by Lesley Ogle, cheque no. 56 has been signed by TB and MF and passed onto Lesley on Coronation Day.

5. Finances:

5.1 **AGAR:** Blanchland Parish Council accounts for 2022-2023 have been completed and internally verified by Alice Ellison. The Accounts and Exemption were signed at the meeting and will be published as per requirements and regulations in June – July.

5.2 **Current statement/Balance:** £5500.93 (includes £400 Platinum Jubilee Funds)

5.3 **Petty Cash:** Balance in credit, Clerk keeps spreadsheet updated and keeps all receipts.

5.4 **Clerk Wages:** £117.04 cheque 0057 signed by TB and MF, contract for 2023-24 signed and dated in AGM.

5.5 **Insurance and NALC Membership:** As agreed the payments have been made for 2023-2024 as the annual premium has stayed the same (or no more than 5% increase in 12 months) Cheque 59 £167.44 Zurich and Cheque 58 £132.02 NALC.

5.6 **Election Charges:** The final payment of £100 Cheque no. 60

5.7 **Donations:** No donation requests this meeting.

6. New Business:

6.1 **Transport:** Discussions to continue with Neil Easton at NCC see AGM minutes

6.2 **BCC:** The Parish Council will support efforts to recruit new Committee Members, printing fliers and Social Media posts etc.

6.3 **Litter Pick:** The Clerk was approached by Marie for the Lord Crewe to see if a Litter Pick could be organised by recruiting volunteers, the LC will supply equipment and Pippa Scott-Harden has offered her services with her pony to collect full rubbish bags. The Parish Council agreed they are happy to support, and suggested a Litter Pick before and after The Blanchland and Hunstanworth Show would be ideal. Clerk to liaise with Marie and organise dates and volunteers.

Meeting closed 21.34 pm

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: 12th Sept 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall