

BRANXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council website: www.branxtonvillage.weebly.com

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2019 In Branxton Village Hall at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman I MacGregor, Vice- Chairman S Rudge.
Parish Councillors I Wilson, A Waddell, Nigel Wood (after Min No 461)
Clerk I Hunter
2 members of the public

Public Question Time- A resident informed the meeting that her son had purchased daffodil bulbs for planting within the grass verges on the approach to Branxton village, asking if the Parish Council would support the proposal. Parish Councillors agreed to support the proposal, and agreed the Clerk organise a site meeting with the Chairman, the resident and Northumberland County Council Officers as Northumberland County Council own and manage the grass verges to discuss the proposal.
Parish Councillor J Wilson report a resident had raised concerns about the road from Branxton Moor to Milfield saying there had been 2 accidents recently on the corner, the resident had asked if a grit bin could be located near the corner. Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact Northumberland County Council Officers and see if they would meet on site to consider a grit bin.

Community Police – The Clerk read out the following update:

For the past three months to the 10th December there have been no recorded crimes or disorder in relation to Branxton. In the wider rural area, there have been some issues regarding poaching and suspicious vehicles. I would remind residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious incidents, vehicles or person.

The Chairman stated that Parish Councillor A Waddell had raise concerns that there has been suggestions that dogs and cats have gone missing in surrounding areas, so he raised the concerns with the local police officers who have not received any specific cases, however the police officers suggested the Chairman contact North East Crime Stoppers and request posters and leaflets which cover more general issues but will lift the awareness asking resident to be more vigilant. The Chairman concluded by saying he has ordered posters and leaflets which he will display and share with Parish Councillors when they arrive.

Apologies for Absence: County Councillor A Murray

Declaration of Interest: None

Request for Dispensation: None

Minutes of the Meeting: The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 10th September 2019 previously circulated were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Min 459 (Min 449)- Trees in Branxton Village- Parish Councillors asked if there were any updates from the Tree Officer about the tree overhanging the road at the junction at the north-

west end of the village. The Clerk reported there has been no updates, however, she will contact the Tree Officer at Northumberland County Council again.

Min 460 (Min 458)- Speeding in Branxton Village- Parish Councillor J Wilson asked if there were any updates. The Clerk replied Northumberland County Council are going to place the speed monitoring wires on the road to check the speed of the vehicles going through Branxton village. Also, the police have suggested the speed monitoring wires are the first step. The Clerk agreed to contact Northumberland County Council to see when the speed monitoring wires will be installed.

Min 461- Parish Council vacancy- Parish Councillors considered the request from Nigel Wood to join the Parish Council and agreed to co-opt Nigel Wood as a Parish Councillor for Branxton Parish Council.
Nigel Wood signed the Declaration of Acceptance and joined the Parish Council at that point.

Min 462- Financial Statement

- Bank of Scotland Account £972.02

Min 463- Accounts for Payment –

- E I Hunter £ 99.74 Clerk's Salary 10.25 hours @ £12.15 per hour
- HMRC £ 24.80 PAYE

Min 464- Correspondence

- 1- **Clerks & Councils Direct-** Newsletter
- 2- **CAN-** Request for a donation. *Parish Councillors agreed not to donate.*
- 3- **GNAA-** Request for a donation. *Parish Councillors agreed not to donate.*
- 4- **CPRE-** Autumn newsletter
- 5- **Clerks & Councils Direct-** Newsletter
- 6- **Northumberland County Council-** Notification of examination hearings for Local Plan
- 7- **Resident-** Letter raising concerns about the state of a road in the Parish. *Parish Councillors agreed to raise this with Northumberland County Council Officers if they attend a site meeting.*
- 8- **Cornhill PC**—Request for input to Community project. *Parish Councillors considered the request and agreed the Parish Council have not been involved in a Community Asset Transfer. Parish Councillors agreed to support Cornhill Parish Council in principle with the project, However, they agreed that Branxton Parish Council are unable to make any financial contributions as they are a small Parish Council with a small precept. Parish Councillors agreed Parish Councillor A Waddell would be the Parish Council representative, and feedback to future Parish Council meetings.*

Min 464- Budget & Precept 2020/21- Parish Councillors considered the current year's expenditure and the previously circulated draft budget.

Parish Councillors considered increasing the precept annually by a reasonable figure instead making a larger increase every 2-3 years. Parish Councillors agreed to increase the precept by £50 in 2020/21, the precept for 2020/21 will be £950.

Min 465- Tourism- The Chairman informed the meeting that he had been approached by some residents asking if the Village Hall would consider opening the toilets for visitors to use during the summer months. The Chairman asked Parish Councillors if they would support the Parish Council asking the question of the Village Hall Committee.

Parish Councillors asked the member of the public for her comments as she is a member of the Village Hall Committee.

Standing Orders suspended.

The member of the public said a similar request was considered last year and it was agreed it was not an option, due to the increase in the insurance premium, the cost for staffing, works that would be required to ensure the remainder of the Village Hall would remain secure, as well as Health & Safety issues.

Standing Orders reinstated

Parish Councillors agreed there would be additional vehicles parking outside the Village Hall as well additional traffic using narrow village roads.

Parish Councillors agreed not to proceed with the request as there are no benefits identified.

The Vice-Chairman again raised concerns about the signage at the car park as camper vans etc, have been using the car park overnight and there are no facilities. The Clerk agreed to contact Northumberland County Council again.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Min 466- Highways- Parish Councillor A Waddell raised concerns about the standard of the filling of potholes, saying that the potholes reappear within a short period of time. Parish Councillors agreed to invite a Northumberland County Council Highway's Officer to the March meeting to discuss potholes and highway's issues.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 10th March 2020 at 7.00 p.m. in Branxton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.53 p.m.

Chairman_____