

BRANXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council website: www.branxtonvillage.weebly.com

Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman I MacGregor, Vice- Chairman S Rudge.
Parish Councillors N Wood & R Clark after Min No 486
County Councillor A Murray
Clerk I Hunter
3 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed Rev Margaret Sentamu to the Branxton Parish Council meeting.

Apologies for Absence: None

Declaration of Interest: None

Request for Dispensation: None

Public Question Time- None

Community Police – The Clerk read out the following report:

There has been 2 incidents reported for Branxton since the last meeting.
1 for a wide load being transported and the other incident I am unable to disclose details, but a crime is attached.

There have been no breaches for Covid or ASB.

We currently have a Rural crime team (Op Hawkeye) who deal with incidents such as poaching and those who are members of Farmwatch should already be aware of the team.

Minutes of the Meeting: The Minutes of the Virtual Parish Meeting held on 8th September 2020 previously circulated were agreed as a true record, the Chairman to sign a hard copy.

Any urgent matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda- The Clerk reported there were no updates in relation to the footpath.

Min 486- Parish Councillor vacancy- The Clerk informed the meeting that Rebecca Clark is the only person to submit a written request to join the Parish Council.
Parish Councillors considered the request.
The Chairman proposed, and the Vice-Chairman seconded that Rebecca Clark become a Branxton Parish Councillor. This was agreed.
As Rebecca Clark was in attendance, she signed the Declaration of Acceptance and joined the Parish Council at this point.
The Clerk reported that Parish Councillor J Wilson had resigned from Branxton Parish Council. She confirmed that a vacancy notice has been prepared, approved by Northumberland County Council, placed on the website, and a copy posted to the Chairman for the notice board.

The Clerk reported that the vacancy will remain unfilled until the next 4-yearly Parish Council election which will take place in May 2021.

Min 487- Annual Insurance Premium- Parish Councillors ratified the payment of £175.07 to Northumberland County Council for the 2020/21 Insurance premium.

Min 488- Financial Statement-

- Bank of Scotland Account £1078.00

Min 489- Accounts for Payment –

- Northumberland CC £ 175.07 Annual Insurance premium
- E I Hunter £ 79.84 Clerk's Salary 8 hours @ £12.48 per hr
- HMRC £ 20.00 PAYE

Min 490- Website- The Vice-Chairman reported that she has undertaken reasonable amount of work on the Branxton Parish Council website. However, the website is a free website which has limitations, it is not user friendly and is not easy to access via a search engine. The Vice-Chairman recommended the Parish Council purchase a website package to provide a website for the Parish Council which will be easy to access via a search engine and would-be user friendly. The cost of a website package would be £4 per month + the cost for a domain name. Parish Councillors considered the request and agreed that the Vice-Chairman proceed with purchasing and setting up a new look website at a cost of £4 per month + the price of a domain name.

Min 491- Correspondence

- **GNAA-** Request for a donation. Parish Councillors decided not to donate as Branxton Parish Council is a small rural Parish with a small precept.
- **CPRE –** Newsletter Autumn 2020
- **Clerks & Councils Direct-** November newsletter
- **Age UK-** Information & request for a donation. Parish Councillors decided not to donate as Branxton Parish Council is a small rural Parish with a small precept.
- **Wooler PC-** Notes from Community Groups meeting. Parish Councillors agreed Branxton Parish Council wished to be a member of the Community Group.

Min 492- Budget & Precept for 2021/22- Parish Councillors considered and debated the draft budget prepared by the Clerk. Parish Councillors agreed to add £48+ for website costs, however, there has been savings in 2020 on the hall hire, and training costs. Parish Councillors agreed due to the current economic climate because of covid, as well as the savings the Parish Council have made this year and the current level of bank balances not to increase the precept for 2021/22 even though there is a possibility of election costs because of the 4-yearly Parish Council election in May 2021. The shortfall of the proposed budget will come from the Parish Council balances. Parish Councillors agreed that when the budget is reviewed in December 2021, it is likely there will be an increase in the precept for 2022/23.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Min 493- Parish Councillor J Wilson-The Chairman proposed that he send a letter of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to Mrs Wilson for her years of service as a Branxton Parish Councillor. This was agreed.

Min 494- Benches- The Vice-Chairman gave a vote of thanks to County Councillor A Murray for funding new benches for the play park, stating the benches have been made and will be delivered shortly.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 9th March 2021 at 7.00 p.m. in Branxton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.24 p.m.

Chairman_____