

BRANXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council website: www.branxtonvillage.weebly.com

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2019 In Branxton Village Hall at 7.05p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman P Turnbull Vice- Chairman J Wilson
Parish Councillor S Rudge
Clerk I Hunter
1 member of the public

Public Question Time- The Vice-Chairman read out the following concerns on behalf of residents:

- There are currently low water pressure issues at the east end of the village, what will Northumbria Water do to resolve the issue especially as there is approval for more houses in the area which increase the problem. *Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk write to Northumbrian Water.*
- The drainage at the east end of the village needs to be investigated as the road in the area floods even with a small amount of rainfall. *The Chairman stated he felt the gullies were blocked. Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact Northumberland County Council and ask for the gullies to be cleaned out.*
- 2 mature scot pine trees have been cut down and the roots of other trees have been cut at the east end of the village. *Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk organise a site meeting with Barry Wilson the Tree Officer at Northumberland County Council and the Vice-Chairman.*

Community Police – No update.

Parish Councillors raised concerns that there are still issues of being overtaken whilst waiting to turn right towards Branxton when heading south on the A697 at the north junction. Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk report the issue to the Police & Northumberland County Council suggesting double white lines should be painted on the road in this area.

Min 431 -Election of Chairman for 2019/20- None of the Parish Councillors present agreed to become Chairman for 2019/20. Therefore, Parish Councillor P Turnbull agreed to Chair the meeting. The Chairman for 2019/20 will be reconsidered at the September meeting.

Min 432- Election of Vice-Chairman for 2019/20- This was deferred until the September meeting.

Min 433– Chairman’s Annual report- The Chairman read out the following report:

The Parish Council meet 4 times during the last year in May, October, December and March.

Thank you to the council members who have stood down during the year, Chairman Allen and long serving Councillor Neill

Two new members have been welcomed to the Parish Council - Councillors MacGregor and Rudge.

As normal the Council have discussed and dealt with a range of matters during the year including.

The planning application for the garage at the west end of the village.

The new sections of wooden fencing facing the highway in the village and above 1 metre high.

The road safety concerns raised about the road junction into the village from the A697 near Barelees were previously passed to County and it was noted this year that signage and road markings have been improved.

It was agreed to purchase a new enclosed litter bin to be sited near the bench and former telephone kiosk.

Funding for the purchase of materials to repair flower boxes was approved.

The condition of Marmion's Well has been discuss and further work will be ongoing.

The Clerk guided the members through the various regulatory requirements and changes GDPR, auditing etc.

Members agreed to increase the precept for 2019/20, having not been raised since 2016/17.

Thank you to the council members without whom the council would be unable to function.

And thank you to Isabel our Clerk whose knowledge of County and Parish matters is invaluable.

Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillor I MacGregor

Declaration of Interests: None

Request for Dispensation: None

Minutes of the Meeting: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th March 2019 previously circulated were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Min 434 (Min 429- Marmion Well -The Chairman informed the meeting that he had been in contact with Lord Joicey and had met a stone mason on site, as Lord Joicey is interested in helping. Parish Councillors agreed this is not a Parish Council matter as the Well is not under the ownership of the Parish Council. The Chairman agreed to update Lord Joicey.

Min 435- Parish Council vacancy- Parish Councillors ratified the resignation of Parish Councillor R Neill. The Clerk informed the meeting that there have been 2 expression of interests to join the Parish Council from Colin Gold & Tony Waddell. Parish Councillors

agreed to accept Tony Waddell for the current vacancy as he was in attendance. Tony Waddell signed the Declaration of acceptance at the end of the meeting. Parish Councillors agreed to consider Colin Gold for the next Parish Council vacancy.

Min 436- Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2018/19

- Parish Councillors noted that no actions were raised from the report of the Internal Auditor
- Parish Councillors approved the Annual Governance Statement
- Parish Councillors approved the Annual Accounts for 2018/19
- Parish Councillors approved the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances
- Parish Councillors confirmed and approved the Certification of Exemption.
- Parish Councillors agreed to pay the Internal Auditor £20 for undertaking the Internal Audit.

Min 437 (Min 418)- Flower Box- Parish Councillors confirmed that the flower boxes have been repaired, and ratified the payment of £35 to a resident for the materials

Min 438- Policy Review- Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Parish Council's Standing Orders and Complaints Procedure and agreed to adopt them.

Min 439- Financial Statement

- Bank of Scotland Account £1052.01 as at 31st March 2019

Min 440- Accounts for Payment –

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| • Broxap | £ 289.14 | Purchase litter bin |
| • Resident | £ 35.00 | Materials flower boxes |
| • Mrs E I Hunter | £ 51.93 | Clerk's Salary 1.75 hours @ £10. 953 per hour |
| | | Clerk's Salary 3.75 hours @ £12.15 per hour |
| • HMRC | £ 12.80 | PAYE |
| • NALC | £ 53.41 | Annual subscription |
| • ICO | £ 35.00 | Annual Data Protection Fee D/D |
| • E Rathbone | £ 20.00 | Internal Auditor |
| • I MacGregor | £ 10.00 | Refund New Parish Councillor training fee |
| • Mrs I Hunter | £ 20.00 | Book 2 places for New Parish Councillor training Event |

Min 441- Correspondence

- **Historic England-** Reply to letter
- **Seafarers UK-** Fly the Red Ensign on 3rd September
- **CPRE-** Spring Newsletter
- **HAGS-**Spring offer
- **Clerks & Councils Direct-** Newsletter
- **NCC-** Consultation on Housing Strategy 2019- 2021
- **Resident-** Local issue. *Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact Northumberland County Council and ask if "No overnight camping" notices can be erected again at the car park.*

Min 442- Parish Councillor training- Parish Councillors agreed the Parish Council would pay the £10 per person attendance fee for Parish Councillors S Rudge, I MacGregor & T Waddell to attend New Parish Councillor training. Parish Councillors agreed to reimburse Parish Councillor I MacGregor the £10 attendance fee which he had already paid.

Min 443- Bank Signatories- Parish Councillor S Rudge agreed to become a bank signatory. This was agreed. The Clerk to organise the forms.

Min 444- Annual Insurance Premium- Parish Councillors agreed to agree the 2019/20 Insurance premium via e-mail and ratify the decision at the September meeting.

Min 445- Parish Council Meeting dates for 2019/20 Parish Councillors agreed the following dates for Parish Council meetings in 2019/20

10th September 2019
10th December 2019
10th March 2020
12th May 2020

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 1th September 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in Branxton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Chairman _____