

BRANXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council website: www.branxtonparishcouncil.org

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 In Branxton Village Hall on the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting

PRESENT: Chairman N Wood Vice-Chairman S Rudge
Parish Councillor A Darbyshire
County Councillor M Mather
Clerk I Hunter
2 members of the public

Min 616 -Election of Chairman for 2023/24- Parish Councillor A Darbyshire proposed & Parish Councillor S Rudge seconded Parish Councillor N Wood as Chairman for 2023/24 Parish Councillor N Wood accepted the position and signed a Declaration of Acceptance.

Min 617 -Election of Vice-Chairman for 2023/24- Parish Councillor A Darbyshire proposed & the Chairman seconded Parish Councillor S Rudge as Vice- Chairman for 2023/24. Parish Councillor S Rudge accepted the position and signed a Declaration of Acceptance.

Min 618- Parish Council Annual Report 2022/23- A copy of the report that was read out at the Annual Parish meeting is attached to these minutes.

Apologies for Absence: None.

Declaration of Interest: None

Request for Dispensation: None

Minutes of the Meeting: The previously circulated Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th March 2023 were agreed as a true record. The Chairman signed a hard copy.

Any urgent matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda- None

Min 619- Parish Council Policies

- Parish Councillors agreed to adopt the previously circulated Code of Conduct.
- Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Standing Orders and agreed to adopt them.
- Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Parish Council's Complaints Procedure and agreed to adopt it.

Min 620- Community Police- The Clerk read out the following report:

As of 5th May. There have been no recorded crimes within the Branxton area since the last meeting on the 14th of March. Further to this there have been three calls to

service, none of which have any impact on the Branxton community. There have also been no calls of Anti-Social Behaviour.
If there are any issues by all means let me know.

Min 621- County Councillor report- County Councillor M Mather gave the following verbal update:

It has been a busy year.

The bus service was limited however, with the help of the Vice-Chairman and the Parish Council we have managed to get an improved service.

There have been meetings for the Wooler ward at the Glendale Gateway Trust, which have raised inequalities which includes rural poverty. This has led to a bid being submitted to fund a part time member of staff to be based in the Glendale Gateway Trust hopefully for a minimum of 2 years, to investigate the inequalities in the area. The bid has been accepted so the next stage is to work out the job role. There has been good working between, the Play Park group, the Village Hall committee, and the Parish Council, which included the breakfasts over the winter in the Village Hall.

Highways- there have been complaints, repairs and the winter gritting of the roads got off to a difficult start, however, it improved, and the secondary routes did get gritted. Please report any highways issues including requesting a gritter on the Northumberland County Council website.

There have been a few complaints about planning issues within the Parish.

A big thank you to the Parish Councillors who are all volunteers.

He concluded by stating the Northumberland County Council's 3 priorities are achieving value for money, tackling inequalities & driving economic growth.

Min 622- Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022/23

- Parish Councillors noted that no actions were raised from the report of the Internal Auditor
- Parish Councillors completed and approved the Annual Governance Statement
- Parish Councillors approved the draft Annual Accounts for 2022/23
- Parish Councillors approved the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances
- Parish Councillors approved the completion of the Certification of Exemption.
- Parish Councillors agreed to pay the Internal Auditor £20 for undertaking the Internal Audit.

Min 623- Clerk's Salary Annual review

- Parish Councillors noted the previously circulated NALC 2022/23 National Pay scales for the Clerk (SCP 16), which came into effect as of 1st April 2022.
- Parish Councillors agreed the additional payment of 32.25 hours @ £1 per hr to cover the hours already paid since 1st April 2022.

Min 624- Financial Statement-

- Bank of Scotland Account £728.93 Includes £148.88 for defibrillator

Min 625- Accounts for Payment –

- E I Hunter £ 138.28 Clerk's Salary 10.25 hours @ £13.70 per hour +

• HMRC	£ 34.40	back pay PAYE
• NALC	£ 56.77	Annual subscription
• ICO	£ 35.00	Annual Data Protection fee D/D
• E Rathbone	£ 20.00	Internal Auditor
• A Deptford	£ 140.40	Replacement pads

Min 626- Correspondence

- **Belford PC-** Reply from Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP to letter from North Northumberland Parish Councils in relation to dualling the A1.
- **The Local Government Boundary Commission-** Consultation on draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements in Northumberland County Council

Min 628- Annual Insurance Premium- Parish Councillors agreed to agree the 2023/24 Insurance premium via e-mail and ratify the decision at the September meeting.

Min 629- Defibrillator- The Clerk advised the meeting that the replacement infant pads were due to arrive within the next 2-3 days.

Parish Councillors agreed the payment of £140.40 to A Deptford on receipt of the replacement infant pads.

Parish Councillors confirmed that the first aid training event will take place on 15th May, and all funds raised will be earmarked for the defibrillator.

Min 630- Parish Council meeting dates for 2023/24- Parish Councillors agreed the following dates for Parish Council meetings in 2023/24

12th September 2023

5th December 2023

12th March 2024

14th May 2024

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Min 631- Grass cutting- The Vice-Chairman raised concerns about the level of grass cutting, which included cutting up to hedge lines in places, and cutting areas which have not been cut in the past.

Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact Northumberland County Council and ask for a local grass cutting schedule for Parish Councillors to consider as a starting point.

The next Parish Council will be held on 12th September 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in Branxton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 19.28 p.m.

Chairman_____

Ch's Initials_____