

**BRANDON AND BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL**  
**CHAMBERS**  
**6 GOATBECK TERRACE, LANGLEY MOOR, DURHAM**  
**ON FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015 AT 6.30 PM**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor T Akins (in the Chair)**  
**and Councillors Mrs Akins, Bell, Clegg, Mrs Gates, Graham, Grantham, Jamieson,**  
**Mrs Leckenby, Nelson, Mrs Rodgers, Stoddart, Sims and Taylor**

**170. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were received from:

Councillors Mrs Gates & Jamieson – Item number 9 Discussion to the relocation of the Silver Tree Sculpture to Silver Trees Primary School

Councillors Grantham and Mrs Rodgers – Item number 8d Donation to Brandon & Meadowfield Royal British Legion

**RESOLVED:** To receive the declarations of interest.

**171. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions from the public in the specified time.

**172. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jones, Mrs Nelson, Turnbull and Councillor Mrs Wharton who was attending a civic function.

**RESOLVED:** To receive the apologies.

**173. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes as a true record.

Min. 164. The Clerk informed the meeting that Councillor Mrs Bonner replaced Councillor Bell on the conference at Harrogate as he was unable to attend.

**RESOLVED:** To approve Councillor Mrs Bonner's attendance.

**174. POLICE REPORT**

The Police had sent a written report of crime throughout the area.

**RESOLVED:** To receive the report.

**175. REPORT FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS**

The Unitary Councillors report included the following:-

- Durham County Council's Cabinet agreed a 1.99% increase in Council Tax
- Final approval given to transfer ownership and management of Council's housing stock to County Durham Housing Group. Transfer should be completed on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015. This will result in 3 new Landlords; Dale & Valley Homes, Durham City Homes and East Durham Homes.
- Budget constraints continue to be challenging for the Local Authority which is exacerbated by Government's grant reductions not being evenly distributed across the country.
- Durham City Safety Group has agreed a series of actions and safety measures designed to improve safety in the city and along the riverside. This follows recent tragic loss of another student.
- County Durham Plan has been panned by Planning Inspector, Harold Stephens leaving the County Council in effect, with one option, to withdraw the County Durham Plan after several years of works and costs of several hundred thousand pounds.
- Lumiere returns in November 2015
- Durham Record Office has received recognition for encouraging children to learn outside the classroom
- Durham County Council's members Allowances to remain the same as it was agreed to refuse the proposed 1% increase.

**RESOLVED:** To receive the report.

**176. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING – APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Extracts from planning application lists had been forwarded to the appropriate Ward Councillors.

Application DM/15/00028 Proposed outline application for 5no. detached dwellings at Folds Close Farm, New Brancepeth – objection has been forwarded to Durham County Council on the following grounds

- highway safety, outside settlement boundary
- not in keeping with immediate surroundings
- significant change in terms of scale and character and landscape character of the settlement.

Permissions and refusals had been received.

DM/15/00028/OUT	Ms H Kell	Outline application for 5 no. detached dwellings Folds Close Farm, New Brancepeth, Durham DH7 7HZ
DM/15/00050/OUT	Mr Duali	Proposed construction of five, three bed dwellings along with associated car parking Land to the North West of Harle Street, Browney, Durham
DM/15/00032/FPA	Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council	Modular Building Brandon Cricket Club, Brandon Lane, Brandon, DH7 8PG
DM/15/00048/FPA	Mr M Brett	Conversion of existing single dwelling house into two dwelling houses. The Barn, Langley Hall Farm, Sleetburn Lane, Langley Moor, Durham DH7 8LQ
DM/15/00096/AD	Suzuki GB Plc	Illuminated fascia sign. Stoneacre Car Sales, Stoneacre Kia, Sawmills Lane, Brandon, Durham DH7 8AB
DM/15/00115/FPA	Mr B Jones	Erection of single storey extension to side and rear, and porch to front of existing dwelling 5 Cavendish Court, Brandon, Durham DH7 8UL
DM/15/00157/FPA	Mrs K Elgey	Provision of additional 13 car parking spaces. Milyard House Medical Centre, Broom Lane, Ushaw Moor, Durham DH7 7LQ

**RESOLVED:** To take for information.

**177. DONATIONS**

a) **Durham Miners Gala Brochure**

A request for a donation had been received from the above.

**RESOLVED:** To take out a full page advert in the brochure - £650 (Central Fund)

**177. DONATIONS (Continued)**

**b) Esh Winning Library Easter Egg Competition**

A request for a donation had been received from the above and an invitation for a Ward Member to present the prizes.

**RESOLVED:** To donate £250 in this instance (Esh Winning Ward)

**c) County of Durham School Benevolent Fund**

A request for a donation had been received from the above.

**RESOLVED:** To donate £340 in this instance (£60 each Brandon, Meadowfield, Langley Moor and New Brancepeth wards, £50 each Ushaw Moor and Esh Winning wards).

**d) Brandon & Meadowfield Royal British Legion**

A request for a donation had been received from the above.

**RESOLVED:** To defer until the next meeting so that local Members can speak to the British Legion Club regarding the request.

**e) Durham County Brass Band Association**

A request for a donation had been received from the above.

**RESOLVED:** To defer until a balance sheet is received.

**178. SILVER TREE SCULPTURE, USHAW MOOR-DISCUSSION RELATING TO THE RELOCATION OF THE STRUCTURE TO SILVER TREES PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PROPOSALS FOR A PROJECT FOR THEIR REPLACEMENT AT WHITEHOUSE LANE**

The Clerk explained that Mr Hopper, the original sculptor of the Silver Trees, had advised that the remaining trees be removed for safety reasons. It was then suggested that the trees could be relocated in the Silver Trees Primary School and the Headteacher of the School was supportive of this proposal. Durham County Council had given permission in principle but stipulated that the insurance and maintenance issue needed to be resolved. The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr Hopper had also agreed to work with the Parish Council and local community on a new project at the Whitehouse Lane site.

**RESOLVED:** a) That the Parish Council would pay for the reinstatement cost of the trees at the school.

b) To arrange a meeting with the Headteacher and the County Council to clarify the long term insurance and maintenance issues.

c) To work with Mr Hopper and the Community on a new project for the Whitehouse Lane site.

**179. CIVIC FUNCTIONS FOR APPROVAL**

Approval was requested for the Chairman or Vice Chairman to attend the following;

Sildon T.C.	Charity night	14.2.2015
Peterlee T.C.	Charity evening	18.3.2015
Chilton T.C.	Civic Dinner	20.3.2015
Hartlepool B.C.	Charity evening	21.3.2015

**RESOLVED:** To authorise the Chairman or Vice Chairman's attendance at the functions.

**180. CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL OF PEST CONTROL CONTRACT FOR 2015**

The contract with Durham County Council for Pest Management at Commercial Street, Empire Field and Hamilton Row allotment sites was due for renewal for a further year at a cost of £1,141.68.

**RESOLVED:** To authorise waiver of Financial Regulations and renew the contract with Durham County Council as the County offers a high standard of service and reliability.

**181. ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL**

Authorisation was requested to pay accounts amounting to £21,338.55.

**RESOLVED:** To authorise payment of the accounts.

**182.** The Clerk presented a Report to Council for information. The following issues arose:-

- **Holliday Park**

The Clerk informed the meeting that a S.106 application for £75,000 for play equipment in the Park had been received for comment.

**RESOLVED:** To fully support the S106 application.

- **Floral Displays 2015**

Members were concerned that some of the Parish Council floral displays could be located on land owned by Durham City Homes once land had been transferred from Durham County Council which could affect permissions for the beds.

**RESOLVED:** a) To agenda the item regarding future floral displays at the March Council meeting.

b) To provide 2 planters on land opposite Leesfield Drive, Meadowfield, a further planter at Waterhouses and a floral bed at the entrance to Lymington, Esh Winning.

- **Mobile Football Cages**

The Clerk had informed the meeting that the demonstration of the Football Cages had been arranged for 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at Brandon Top Football field, however Durham County Council had requested more information on the event.

**RESOLVED:** To progress the issues with permission with Durham County Council.

- **Mid Durham AAP – Neighbourhood Networks**

Durham Community Action is organising a Neighbourhood Networks Project in Esh Winning and New Brancepeth on behalf of the AAP and have offered to meet the Council to explain the project.

**RESOLVED:** To arrange a meeting with Durham Community Action.

- **Work Experience**

The Parish Council had been approached by a student at New College with a request to carry out a 1 week work experience at the Parish Council commencing on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**RESOLVED:** To agree to the request.

- **Durham County Council – Community Buildings Grant Consultation**

The Chairman agreed to discuss the above consultation which proposed to withdraw the Community Buildings grant, as the deadline for responses was prior to the next Council meeting.

**RESOLVED:** To respond to the consultation encouraging Durham County Council to continue to support Community Buildings with practical advice and support from Elected members AAP Budgets.

- **Brandon Communal Hall**

Councillor Mrs Leckenby informed the meeting she had been approached by the Chairman of the Communal Hall regarding location of the key for the flagpole within the grounds of the Hall.

**RESOLVED:** To inform the Chairman of the Hall that the flagpole was installed and is maintained by the Parish Council and the key is to remain with Councillor Grantham who will be responsible for the raising or lowering of flags. Also to inform him that the Parish Council are responsible for maintenance of the grassed area to the front of the Hall.

Councillor Taylor requested that it be minuted that, as a member of the Hall Committee, he was unaware of the request regarding the flagpole.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm

Signed .....

Date .....