

Minutes of the Bewcastle Parish Council Meeting Thursday 18th February 2016 at 7.30pm in Roadhead Hall

Present: Barbara Smith (Chairman), Brian Carruthers, Malcolm Dodd
Andrea Nicholson, Steven Pattinson, Mary Phillips, Pat Renwick

16.17	Apologies were received from Ann Holt-Thomas, Frank Waugh, Cllr David Shepherd and Cllr Val Tarbitt.
16.18	Requests for Dispensations – none received.
16.19	Declarations of Interest – none received.
16.20	Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2016 - RESOLVED: to authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes as a true record.
16.21	Matters arising (15.33) Mobile Phone Mast - no further action until Rory Stewart has a reply from Vodafone. (16.15) Buckingham Palace Garden Party – no reply as yet from CALC re Andrea Nicholson's nomination. (16.16) The Queen's 90 th Birthday Celebrations – Geoff Price and the Scouts would not be available for a combined celebration. RESOLVED: to postpone activities until Her Majesty's official birthday in June.
16.22	Financial report (attached). RESOLVED: to accept the report and defer consideration of opening a deposit account until the next meeting.
16.23	Website – the Clerk reported that she had held an initial meeting with Phil Guest of G-Business Solutions and that a preliminary draft of the website would be available in a couple of weeks. Suggestions as to text and pictures would be welcome.
16.24	Bewcastle Fund – Steve Pattinson reported that the Fund now stood at £8,150 and it was hoped that the proceeds from the Masked Ball would put it back up nearly to the original £10,000. Thirty six farms would have benefitted from the spray courses and there was a waiting list for a further course.
16.25	New mower –Andrea Nicholson had provided a number of estimates around £2,685. Garry Phillips had stated that after the recent repair the present mower should last for another couple of years. RESOLVED: to postpone consideration of a replacement until next year.
16.26	Highways –. The new bollard was in position at the Irish Ford. Highways had been to see the Chairman about the drain at Sleetbeck and the blocked pipe had been cleared by Malcolm Dodd. The drainage problem is still ongoing. Highways were investigating the collapse in the road outside No 27 Sleetbeck. The ditch at the Stubb was in a dangerous condition and was compromising the stability of the road. The road at the Park was in a worsening condition as was the road from Wellington up to the Forestry. ACTION: the Clerk to speak to Highways.

Overhanging branches which were a hazard to traffic had been cut back on Sleetbeck Bends but the road had been left in a rather untidy condition. More care should be taken in future to clear up branches and twigs.

16.27 Dial a Friend – this item was removed from the agenda at the request of Mary Phillips as it was not Council business.

16.28 Communications – Rural Services Network had reported that Up to 50 Tory MPs are preparing to vote against the government's proposed funding settlement for rural local authorities.

Hadrian's Wall - The National Trail officer wished to point out that rumours of the Trail being closed were incorrect.

Neighbourhood policing – Laura Woods, is the PCSO with responsibility for the Longtown Rural area.

16.29 New dates for Parish Council meetings – it was felt that Mondays were more convenient for both Councillors and the Clerk. **RESOLVED:** to adopt the amended list from May. It would be circulated and posted on the Notice Board.

Date of next meeting: Thursday March 17th

The meeting closed at 9pm.