

Minutes of the Bewcastle Parish Council Meeting Monday 19th November 2018 at 7.30 pm in Roadhead Hall

Present: Barbara Smith (Chairman), Brian Carruthers, Ann Holt-Thomas, Steven Pattinson, Mary Phillips, Pat Renwick, Frank Waugh

Item No		Action
18.55	Apologies were received from Andrea Nicholson and Malcolm Dodd. Cllr Val Tarbitt also sent her apologies.	
18.56	There were no requests for dispensations.	
18.57	There were no declarations of interest.	
18.58	Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2018. It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and signed as a true record of the meeting.	
18.59	Matters arising. 18.54 Letters had been sent to the various landowners concerned regarding overhanging hedgerows and a number had already been cut back. The stones on the verge at Bankhead had been removed. The request for signs at Blackpoolgate bridge was first made in November 2016. In November 2017 the then Highway Network Engineer told the Clerk that “ <i>signage works</i> ” (are) “ <i>to be ordered as part of the Traffic team’s safety works and it is intended that this is delivered during the current financial year.</i> ” Since then the matter has been repeatedly reported to Highways via Cllr Tarbitt but no action has been taken. A number of near misses have also been reported to no effect. There has been no response either to our report concerning the collapsing ditch at the entrance to the road to the Knowe.	
18.60	Financial report. The Clerk reported that once all cheques had been cleared the current balance would stand at £6257.20 including the Deposit account of £500.62. The full report is attached.	
18.61	Budget for 2019/20 and Precept required. The Clerk had prepared a forward budget based on the same precept requirement as the current year. The Chairman thought that owing to the rising age of the local children and lack of interest in some quarters we	

	<p>should apply for funding for the Playscheme year by year rather than commit ourselves to three years as the County Council had suggested. This was agreed and it was RESOLVED to accept the Budget and to inform the Chief Finance Officer of the decision.</p>	
18.62	<p>Forestry Investment Zone.</p> <p>There was considerable discussion on this matter and much concern raised over the possibility of extensive commercial forestry over-whelming Bewcastle and the area becoming a second 'Kielder'. It was RESOLVED that a letter outlining our fears should be written to the Prince of Wales, whose interest in and concern for our area is well-known. Copies would be sent to Rory Stewart MP and other interested bodies such as the City and County Councils, the Forestry Commission and the NFU. The media would also be contacted.</p>	
18.63	<p>Reivers Cycle Route.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to send a letter of support for the Reivers' Cycle Route.</p>	
18.64	<p>Remembrance Garden.</p> <p>Pat Renwick reported on the plans for the wild garden which include a picnic table and a shelter with information boards on the insects, fungi etc which can be found within it. Donations have been gratefully received and the Council RESOLVED to apply for a Community Grant towards the remainder needed for the picnic table.</p>	
18.65	<p>Highways.</p> <p>In addition to the items at 18.59 there was considerable concern about the sinks or gratings at the side of many of the roads. Some even have grass growing out of them and many are full of gravel washed off the roads. The Council understands the County Council are required to clear the gratings twice a year. Some of them haven't been touched for over a year.</p>	
18.66	<p>Jubilee benches.</p> <p>It was noted that there was now a bench in the Playing Field and that the one near the bus shelter had not been used for some time. It was agreed that the bench at Sleetbeck and the one at Church should be inspected with a view to repair if feasible.</p>	
18.67	<p>2019 meeting dates.</p> <p>The Clerk issued Councillors with a list of dates for 2019. It was agreed that the meeting in January might have to be postponed if the weather was very bad and that there might not be enough business for the July meeting in which case it would be cancelled. In any case the June and July meetings would start at 8pm to allow Councillors time for possible silaging/haymaking.</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.</p>	