

BRANXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council website: www.branxtonparishcouncil.org

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 10th May 2022
In Branxton Village Hall at 7.00p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman I MacGregor,
Parish Councillors N Wood & A Darbyshire
County Councillor M Mather.
Clerk I Hunter
6 members of the public

Chairman's Annual report 2021/22- The Chairman read out the attached report.

Public Question Time- Members of the public raised the following points & questions

1. The bus service- The current service is not good enough; the regular service has been reduced over the years, in such as there is no return on the same day service, unlike other villages. County Councillor M Mather responded to say he had asked for the service to be increased, however when the past usage was investigated there was not the evidence as the regular bus service in the past was not being used. However. Any resident can phone the bus company and pre book a seat on the bus the next day. He concluded by saying that Northumberland County Council have admitted they need to improve the advertising on this bus service.

1 member of the public joined the meeting at that point

2. There was an incident the other day on the bend over the road where a cyclist nearly collided with a pedestrian who consequently fell and was injured. There is a need for signage "caution pedestrians". It was suggested many years ago that the road was supposed to have been straightened as it is a blind corner. County Councillor M Mather agreed to contact Northumberland County Council Highway's Officers to attend a site meeting, which the resident would be welcome to attend.
3. The viability of the Parish Council- the member of the public quoted the % of annually expenditure over the last few years used for running costs of the Parish Council, stating 2020/21 there was an overspend. He suggested the Parish Council needs to consider alternative options which could include, investigating joining with another Parish Council or closing. He concluded by saying the Parish Council does nothing to benefit the community.

County Councillor M Mather informed the meeting that Parish Councils are important, they are the local voice i.e., repair works were undertaken on the footpath through Branxton village because of the Parish Council raising it with myself as County Councillor. Northumberland Communities Together are working on a county project of installing digital noticeboards locally, to provide local information.

Parish Councillors agreed if residents raise valid issues at Parish Council meetings, Parish Councillors will report back to the individual who raised the issue with any updates received once any updates are received.

Chairman_____

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