

# **BRANXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council website: [www.branxtonparishcouncil.org](http://www.branxtonparishcouncil.org)**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 In Branxton Village Hall at 7.00p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Chairman I MacGregor, Vice-Chairman N Wood  
Parish Councillor A Darbyshire  
County Councillor M Mather  
Clerk I Hunter

**Public Question Time-** None

**Community Police** – The Clerk read out the following update  
There has been one incident and one crime since the last meeting - A transport related incident.

As everyone is aware due to the Storm there has been a lot of damage, and many have been without electricity for days. The forecast states there is another storm due to start this afternoon. While it is stated this one is not as forceful as the last could people please be mindful that not all damage or damaged trees have been dealt with as yet so please do not go out unless it is absolutely necessary. Please keep yourselves safe.

**Apologies for Absence:** None

**New Parish Councillors:** Alison Darbyshire signed a Declaration of Acceptance and joined the Parish Council at that point.  
The Chairman welcomed A Darbyshire to the Parish Council.

**Declaration of Interest:** None

**Request for Dispensation:** None

**Minutes of the Meeting:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 previously circulated were agreed as a true record, the Chairman to sign a hard copy.

**Any urgent matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda-**

**Min 535- Re-instatement of bus service into Branxton village-** The Clerk read out the response received from Northumberland County Council. Parish Councillors agreed the Chairman prepare a note for the Forum asking residents if they would use the bus service if it was re-instated. County Councillor M Mather agreed to undertake a fact-finding exercise. Parish Councillors agreed to defer any final decisions until the March Parish Council meeting.

**Min 536- Defibrillator-** The Chairman reported that the pads and battery are out of date, new pads cannot be supplied before 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022, however the current pads may still help in an emergency. The Chairman confirmed the pad pack includes the battery. County Councillor M Mather agreed to check to see how many ChargePak defibrillators are within the northern area.

The Chairman reminded Parish Councillors of the fund-raising event to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December to raise funds which will be ringfenced to purchase replacement pads/battery as the cost will be approx. £99 per set and will need to be replaced each time the machine is used, as well as approx., every 3 years if the machine is not used.

Parish Councillors suggested the Chairman contact Branxton Village Hall Committee to see if they would be willing to donate.

County Councillor M Mather agreed a training session could be organised for some time in the summer of 2022.

Parish Councillors ratified the payment of £7.95 to a resident for fixings to allow the replacement door to be fitted

**Min 537- Annual Insurance Premium-** Parish Councillors agreed the payment of £175.07 to Northumberland County Council for the Annual Insurance Premium.

**Min 538- Financial Statement-**

- Bank of Scotland Account £1094.21

**Min 539- Accounts for Payment –**

|                     |          |  |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| • C Hallam-Baker    | £ 7.95   | Fittings for defibrillator door          |
| • A Deptford        | £ 96.00  | Defibrillator replacement door           |
| • Northumberland CC | £ 175.07 | Annual Insurance premium                 |
| • E I Hunter        | £ 89.92  | Clerk's Salary 9 hours @ £12.48 per hour |
| • HMRC              | £ 22.40  | PAYE                                     |
| • E I Hunter        | £ 20.19  | Expenses                                 |

**Min 540- Planning Applications-** Parish Councillors ratified the submission of No Objections to the following planning applications

21/02708/FUL- Conversion and change of use of existing farm buildings to create single dwelling together with revised access- Flodden Croft Milfield Cornhill-On-Tweed Northumberland TD12 4QG

**Min 541- Planning Approval**

21/01365/FUL- Proposed alterations and extension to form additional living accommodation and enlarged kitchen. Installation of external insulation to existing uninsulated dwelling- Marmion Branxton Cornhill-On-Tweed Northumberland TD12 4SN

## **Min 542- Correspondence**

- 1- **GNAA**- Request for a donation
- 2- **Citizens Advice Northumberland**- Information
- 3- **Samaritans Berwick & Borders**- Call for volunteers
- 4- **Playlist for life**- Information on dementia
- 5- **Communities Together**- Invite to Teams meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December. The Chairman said he would try to attend the virtual meeting.

**Min 543- Budget & Precept for 2022/23**- Parish Councillors considered the previously circulated in-year update and draft budget for 2022/23. The Clerk informed the meeting that she is predicting a £194 overspend by the end of 2021/22.

Parish Councillors considered the draft budget figures and agreed the budget for 2022/23 would rise to £1000, and that the Parish Council would hold fund-raising events to cover the defibrillator costs.

Parish Councillors agreed the precept for 202/23 would be £1000.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Min 544- Free trees**- The Chairman informed the meeting that he had received 10 free trees for Branxton, suggesting 4 could be planted at the Village Green, and 6 at the Battlefield, or some could be planted to replace the trees which had blown down during storm Arwen.

## **Min 545- County Councillor M Mather updates-**

- The skip was placed at the car park was to take the freezer food residents lost during the recent storm Arwen power cut, the skip is monitored and will be removed asap.
- The Police, Operation Hawkeye, is the rural police team covering rural crime, so please text/report any crime/event as it happens.
- Referred to the Community Together meeting, stating they are looking to collate a list of venues and groups within the Wooler Division. The next meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> December via Teams.
- He explained how the hub in Wooler worked during Storm Arwen. Parish Councillors responded to say they were unaware of the hub for the 1<sup>st</sup> few days and what it provided. Parish Councillors agreed if there was a similar storm in the future the Parish Council would see if Branxton Village Hall could be a local hub.
- When the upgrading of the A1 takes place the traffic will be diverted on to the A697, and he is hoping to have cameras installed at strategic locations.
- Northumberland County Council have allocated additional funding in the last 2 years for works to be undertaken on C & U roads, and he hoped funding will at least continue next year, if not be increased.
- Berwick Community Trust are offering renewable energy grants to Village Halls.
- There is a small amount of Small Grant funding left, applications need to be submitted by early January.
- Winter preparation- 40,000 ton of salt and 28 gritters have arrived. As usual primary routes will receive a pre-cautionary grit and Branxton is on the secondary route.

Parish Councillors agreed to add County Councillor update to future Agendas.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in Branxton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.32 p.m.

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT