

# BRANXTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 In Branxton Village Hall at 7pm

**PRESENT:** Vice-Chairman N Wood (in the Chair)  
Parish Councillor A Darbyshire & S Rudge  
County Councillor M Mather  
Clerk I Hunter  
5 members of the public

The Vice-Chairman N Wood agreed to Chair the meeting, however, he did not have any ambition to be Chairman, however, he would consider the position if it was necessary.

**Public Question Time:** A Member of the public asked about the abandoned vehicle in Branxton village. County Councillor M Mather advised the meeting he has dealing with this issue and will chase this up again.

**Community Police –** The Clerk read out the following report:

There has been no crimes in the area since the last meeting. There has also not been any incidents of any sort which would raise community tension or cause any issues of vulnerability to anyone local either.

County Councillor M Mather informed the meeting he had received complaints from Parish Councils in the Wooler ward about the non-attendance of police at Parish Council meetings and the lack of content in the police reports, therefore he was contacting the police to see if they will attend a meeting with Parish Councils within the Wooler ward, if a meeting is organised each Parish Council will be invited to send 2 representatives.

**Min 595- Election of Chairman for the remainder of 2022/23-** None of the Parish Councillors agreed to take on the position as Chairman. This was deferred until the March meeting.

**Apologies for Absence:** None.

**Declaration of Interest:** None

**Request for Dispensation:** None

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022 previously circulated were agreed as a true record, the Chair to sign a hard copy.

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

**Min 596 (Min 586)- Annual Insurance Premium-** Parish Councillors agreed not to proceed with adding the bus shelter to the Parish Council Insurance policy.

**Min 597- Highways-** The Chair again raised concerns about the potholes and the state of the road from Branxton Buildings into Branxton village. County Councillor M Mather agreed to report the issue.

**Min 598 -Parish Council vacancy**

- Parish Councillors received the resignation of Parish Councillor I MacGregor
- Parish Councillors ratified the display of the vacancy notice.
- Parish Councillors agreed to now co-opt to fill the Parish Councillor vacancy.

**Min 599- County Councillor report-** County Councillor M Mather gave the following verbal updates:

The consultation on the reorganisation of the schools in the Berwick Partnership has had a low response so far, however, the consultation event at Wooler received a good attendance. School transport will be free to children attending the closest school in the partnership.

Northumberland County Council Communities Together are promoting warm hubs, as well as supplying support and advice to residents, so if you know of any resident looking for any support, please contact Northumberland County Council Communities Together.

The Boundary Commission are undertaking a review of all county divisions in Northumberland, Northumberland County Council have made their submission which says Wooler division will remain unchanged.

Northumberland County Council have promised that emergency filling of potholes will continue, however, permanent fixing of potholes will improve by cutting out and filling the potholes.

A Town & Parish Council conference took place on 16<sup>th</sup> January, Northumberland County Council Highways & Planning Departments, Communities Together & Broadband were all in attendance.

Northumberland County Council have setup an Inequalities working group, to look into levelling up the life expectancy of residents across Northumberland. We will be working with small groups with the aim to support great local work, locally the log bank in Crookham provides fuel support, and were struggling to get volunteers to undertake the deliveries due to the increase in fuel prices, so Communities Together along with the Fire & Rescue Service, have provided support to the initiative which includes deliveries 1-2 days a week.

Northumberland County Council winter gritting teams were working 22-23 hours a day during the recent cold spell, they managed to get to the secondary routes, however, it appears the salt was not working as it should.

Northumberland County Council are looking into providing funding for communities to celebrate the King's Coronation.

Northumberland County Council has 3 priorities:

- 1- Value for money
- 2- Inequalities.
- 3- Increase growth & jobs.

**Min 600- Financial Statement-**

- Bank of Scotland Account £ 918.98 Includes £148.88 for defibrillator

**Min 601- Accounts for Payment –**

• E I Hunter	£ 81.40	Clerk's Salary 8 hours @ £12.70 per hr
• HMRC	£ 20.20	PAYE
• E I Hunter	£ 4.79	Expenses
• E I Hunter	£ 27.93	Clerk's Salary 2.75 hours @ £12.70 per hr
• HMRC	£ 7.00	PAYE
• E I Hunter	£ 21.39	Expenses (£13 website fee)

**Min 602- Correspondence**

- 1- NCC- Invite to visit recycling centre at West Sleekburn
- 2- NCC- Invitation for locations for EV Chargers

**Min 603- Defibrillator-** Parish Councillors ratified the order of a set of the replacement infant pads at a cost of £92 + VAT. The Clerk agreed to obtain an estimated delivery date.

**Min 604- Consultation-** Parish Councillors agreed Parish Councillor S Rudge review the consultation and consider drafting a Parish Council response to the Phase 2 Consultation on Education in the Berwick Partnership if she feels it is appropriate.

**Min 605- Budget & Precept for 2023/24**

- Parish Councillors received an in-year budget update.
- Parish Councillors considered the previously circulated draft budget for 2023/24, and agreed the budget for 2023/24 would be £1000
- Parish Councillors agreed the precept for 2023/24 would be £1000

**Min 606- Pension provision for Parish Clerk**

- Parish Councillors undertook the 3-year review of a pension provision for the Parish Clerk and following advice from the Clerk agreed not to provide a pension for the Parish Clerk.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Min 607- Branxton breakfast-** Parish Councillor S Rudge reminded the meeting that there will be a Branxton breakfast on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 9am-11am in Branxton Village Hall all funds raised will be used towards the village park, everybody is welcome to come along.

The next Parish Council will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 p.m. in Branxton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_