

# BRANXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council website: [www.branxtonvillage.weebly.com](http://www.branxtonvillage.weebly.com)

## Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.00p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chairman I MacGregor, Vice- Chairman S Rudge.  
Parish Councillor Nigel Wood  
County Councillor A Murray  
Clerk I Hunter  
1 member of the public

**Apologies for Absence:** The Chairman submitted Parish Councillor A Waddell's apologies and reported that Parish Councillor A Waddell had advised him that he had resigned from the Parish Council as of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The Chairman proposed sending a letter of thanks to Mr Waddell for his membership on Branxton Parish Council. This was agreed. The Clerk agreed to organise the vacancy notice for Northumberland County Council to approve. The co-option will be an Agenda item at the December meeting.  
Parish Councillors granted Parish Councillor J Wilson leave of absence until the Parish Council elections in May 2021.

**Declaration of Interest:** None

**Request for Dispensation:** None

**Public Question Time-** The Clerk read out the following question:

The public right of way footpath that goes Southwards from the village main street, between the Old School and Wellow Cottage/Hawthorns, and then on over the fields to Mardon has become impassable. The gate from the garden of the Old School into the field has been jammed locked and trees have overgrown it as well.

If keeping the village footpaths open is a matter for the PC then could you please include this issue in the agenda for tomorrow's meeting.

As this is a County Council matter County Councillor A Murray agreed to deal with the issue. The Clerk agreed to forward the details on to County Councillor A Murray.

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

Since your last meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July there has been one incident.

This was an incident of dangerous driving on the outskirts of Branxton.

There have been no crimes or incidents of anti-social behaviour.

I hope the meeting goes well and please remind people to stay vigilant to suspicious incidents. Especially those concerning rural crime.

**Minutes of the Meeting:** The Minutes of the Virtual Parish Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 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-** None

**Min 477- Planting-** Parish Councillors ratified the payment of £18.40 to a resident for the purchase of plants for the flower boxes.

**Min 478- Financial Statement-**

- Bank of Scotland Account £1003.97

**Min 479- Clerk's Salary Annual review-** Parish Councillors considered and agreed the previously circulated NALC 2020/21 National Pay scales for the Clerk (SCP 16), which came into effect as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

Parish Councillors also agreed the additional gross payment of 66p to cover the hours already paid since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

**Min 480- Accounts for Payment –**

• Resident	£ 18.40	Purchase plants for flower boxes
• E I Hunter	£ 147.21	Clerk's Salary 14.75 hours @ £12.48 per hr
• E I Hunter	£ 0.53	Nett additional salary due on 2 hours
• HMRC	£ 8.42	PAYE (already paid)
• HMRC	£ 28.58	PAYE
• E I Hunter	£ 49.58	Expenses

**Min 481- Annual Audit for 2019/20**

- Parish Councillors agreed as no issues have been raised by members of the public the annual accounts are no longer draft accounts.
- Parish Councillors agreed as no issues have been raised by members of the public the Annual Audit for 2019/20 is now concluded.  
All paperwork relating to the Annual Accounts can be accessed on the Parish Council website.

**Min 482- Annual Insurance Premium-** Parish Councillors agreed to agree the 2020/21 Insurance premium via e-mail and ratify the decision at the December meeting.

**Min 483- Local Transport Plan-** Parish Councillors considered the feedback from Northumberland County Council regarding the Parish Council's 2020/21 3 priorities.

Parish Councillors agreed the following 3 Parish Council priorities for the Local Transport Plan for 2021/22

1. The resurfacing of the footway at the east end of Branxton village.
2. Double white lines are required on the A697 near the north junction to Branxton. This is on safety grounds vehicles when heading south continue to overtake vehicles waiting to right turn at this junction.
3. Resurfacing of the road from Branxton Church to Branxton Building cottages.

**Min 484- Website Accessibility requirements-** The Vice-Chairman agreed to check the Parish Council website for compliance before 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The Vice-Chairman to also check the

previously circulated draft Website Accessibility Statement. Parish Councillors thanked the Vice-Chairman for agreeing to undertake this work.

**Min 485- Correspondence**

- **CPRE-** 2020 Summer newsletter
- **NCC-** County Councillor A Murray request for projects up to a value of £2k-£3k  
The Vice-Chairman agreed to check with the Recreational Group about a possible project. Parish Councillors agreed the deadline is 8<sup>th</sup> December for the agreement of a project. County Councillor A Murray asked for an earlier submission if possible.
- **Wooler PC-** Age UK activity packs. The Chairman reported a poster had been placed in the noticeboard which provided the contact number for both the Chairman & Vice-Chairman who were both willing to collect packs for residents.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7.00 p.m. in Branxton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.21 p.m.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_