

Blindcrake Parish Council

The Minutes the Meeting of the Blindcrake Parish Council held at 7.30 on Monday 16th January 2017 in Blindcrake Village Hall

1. **Apologies:** M. Corfield & J. Barber
2. **Minutes of the November 2016 meeting.** The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting as a true record of that meeting.
3. **Members to declare any interests they may have in any item on the agenda:** J. Marrs re the UU Pipeline
4. **Adjournment of meeting: The Chairman will adjourn the meeting to allow parishioners an opportunity to ask questions and raise matters of interest.**

None

5. **Maintenance and Matters of Report**

a. UU Pipeline Presentation by UU representatives

The Chairman welcomed David Baines (Project Manager), Dave Watson (Planning and Contents Manager) & Deborah Marsh (Project Co-ordinator).

- They reported that most of the contracts had been awarded. Work on the contracts for the treatment works and the service main which runs adjacent to the A595 will start in March with tree and hedgerow clearance being carried out in February. The service pipe contract which did not include the reservoir should be completed by the autumn. The work on the treatment works site will continue for the four years of the project.

Work on the construction of the raw water pipeline between Castle Inn and the treatment works will start in 2018. This contract has been awarded jointly to Roadbridge and Farrons, both from Ireland. Smaller contracts and subcontracts will be awarded to local firms.

Work on the section of the raw water pipeline alongside the A591 will involve traffic diversions for around six weeks. It was pointed out by members that a likely diversion route via Dubworth and Ouse Bridge was not practical for large vehicles or high volumes of traffic.

There will be a risk assessment re flooding and evacuation procedures.

The parish council's approval will be required for the design of the Ghyll crossing.

- b. Police Matters (Apologies): Nothing
- c. Highways Issues: Repairs had been made in Redmain and Blindcrake. It was noted that not all the repairs had been sealed with bitumen around the edges.
The road from Sunderland to the A595 at Moota was in a very poor state as was the Back Lonning in Blindcrake. The leak caused by Carillion had not been repaired and will cause a large icy area at the main junction in Blindcrake.
- d. Footpath group: Watery Lonning at the A595 end was flooding onto the road.
- e. Broadband: Andy Prickett reported that BT were saying that there was a lack of take up in Blindcrake and yet residents were being told they could not have Broadband or were having to wait a long time for it to be attached. Every house within Blindcrake and Redmain should now have access to fibre superfast broadband. At least two residents had been informed by BT that fibre to their property was unavailable, and others were experiencing considerable delays in getting it installed. This had been raised with BT managers.
Negotiations were being carried out with BT under the community fibre partnership to get superfast to Sunderland. At present there was a shortfall of £69K in funding. A small working group including parish councilors, Mike Gates and Lynne Thomas has been set up to explore ways of reducing the cost and obtaining grant aid for the project.
The meeting approved the expenditure of £2,500 for the BT/Openreach survey, proposed by Ros Berry; Seconded J. Marrs and agreed unanimously.
It was hoped we could use the Community Fibre Partnership to facilitate Sunderland but BT calculate that this would need a £64,000 contribution from the community. The cost allowed per property in the government agreement with BT is not enough to do scattered rural communities. We will need ducting laid from the box at Moota down to Sunderland at a cost of £12 per metre (roughly £20k).
- f. The Green – Drainage: Pending
- g. Lynwood (state of): No further news.

h. State of the Pound: Pending.

i. Sue Buckwell reported that the tree had been removed from the river near Isel Bridge.

6. **Correspondence:** Previously circulated

7. **Planning Matters:** Herdwick Croft (no objections)

8. **Financial Matters:**

The current financial position was approved.

Future agenda items and dates of future meetings:

March 20th May 15th July 17th September 18th November 20th

Sue Buckwell raised the issue of the powerful lights at the Keswick Reach Holiday Park (previously North Lakes Caravan Site) which could be seen from a considerable distance. Given the site was very close to the Parish boundary the Council was surprised that we had not been consulted. The issue of lights will be raised with the NPA.

Signed: _____

Date: _____