

The Minutes the March 2018 Meeting of the Blindcrake Parish Council
held at 7.30 on March 19th in Blindcrake Village Hall

Apologies: Martin C; Present: 8 Councillors, Clerk and ABC Councillor Tony Annison.

1. **Minutes of the January 2018 meeting.** The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting as a true record of that meeting.

2. **Members to declare any interests they may have in any item on the agenda:**

Joe Marrs re pipeline

3. **Adjournment of meeting: The Chairman will adjourn the meeting to allow parishioners an opportunity to ask questions and raise matters of interest.** No members of the public present.

4. **Maintenance and Matters of Report**

a) **United Utilities** gave a Power Point presentation showing their time table and targets. Work had been affected by the wet weather. This has increased the environmental aspect of the work. Several areas of environmental control were in place: Water quality monitoring; trialling alternative techniques. 16 wheeled wagons were being used to reduce damage to the roads. Routes were being approved by Cumbria CC and Traffic Management Plan would be in place. Councillors felt that their views were not being considered. It was important that there was no work during the school holidays.

It was hoped that the crossing of the Ghyll road that the road would be restored to standard. What would happen to the surplus material? Natural draining should be restored. Why was everything being planned so late?

AP

b) **Highways Issues:** There had been many complaints about the number of road closure and diversion signs over recent months. There seemed to be no co-ordination and sometimes "road closed" and "diversion" signs pointed the same way!

GF

c) **Broadband:** Connecting Cumbria are now able to contribute towards the cost of providing fibre broadband to communities which have entered into a Community Fibre Partnership. Currently this is £1,200 per premises but this is likely to increase to £1,400. This arrangement has not yet been trialed, but Sunderland is an option for the trial, and we will be pushing for this as soon as we have the updated quotation from BT/Openreach for the provision of fibre to the village.

At this stage we are looking for a contribution from residents of £350 per property – a grant for this amount is available under the BDUK scheme for all properties not able to access broadband speeds more than 2Mb/sec.

We hope to be able to get grant help for the balance of funding needed.

We continue to seek ways to achieve affordable fibre broadband to the rest of the parish.

AP

d) **Mobile phone coverage:** Several Blindcrake residents had taken out packages with BT to include mobiles but there is no BT coverage in the village. This matter had been taken up with our MP.

GF

e) **The Green – Drainage:** Nothing to report.

AP

f) **Flooding:** Awaiting a report from Andrew Harrison.

GF

g) **Speed limit in Blindcrake:** No news

MC

h) **Village Hall:** The final costings were more than expected so there would have to be a reduction in specification. Hopefully local expertise can be used.

RB

i) **Future of the pound:** No news.

GF

j) **Cockermouth Post:** This was now being delivered by Jaden Jackson.

GF

k) **Data Protection:** New laws come in during May, but we don't really carry data other than that of councillors.GF

5. **Planning Matters:** a) The change of use for the annex at Blindcrake Hall was refused.

b) The caravan at the Threapland junction near Sunderland was still in the field.

6. Financial Matters:

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|---|----------------------------|
| a) Current financial position | |
| b) Payment for the village hall hire for meetings | £84.00 Agreed Unanimously |
| c) Payment for Clerk's travel and postage | £84.14 Agreed Unanimously |
| d) Payment for photo copying for the year 2017/18 | £208.88 Agreed Unanimously |
| e) Payment for maintenance, A. Mossop | £300.00 Agreed Unanimously |

Future agenda items and dates of future meetings:

The school bus sometimes appears as a taxi in Sunderland.

The notices in the notice boards will be altered to say that keys may be obtained from the key holders to put up notices.

Dates for 2018

May 21st (AGM) July 16th

September 17th

November 19th

Signed as a true record: _____ Date: _____