

## Blindcrake Parish Council

### Minutes of the November Meeting of the Blindcrake Parish Council held at 7.30 on November 16th 2015 in Blindcrake Village Hall

- 1) **Apologies for absence:** A. Bowness (CCC)
- 2) **The Minutes of the September 2015 meeting were signed as a true record of the meeting**
- 3) **Members to declare any interests they may have in any item on the agenda:** None
- 4) **The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow parishioners an opportunity to ask questions and raise matters of interest.** None
- 5) **Maintenance and Matters of Report**
  - a) **Police Matters:** (Apology). A written report confirmed no adverse activity in the Parish.
  - b) **Better Highways:** A “No HGV” sign on back laning is to be installed. CCC Highways are to meet with Isel Hall Estate regarding the hedges and trees over hanging the roads.
  - c) **Footpath Group:** NPA to replace sign in Sunderland The rain was washing the gravel from the new path to the Clints down into the beck. The NPA have been asked to clear it. RB
  - d) **Broadband** - Work in Blindcrake happens from time to time. In theory it would be completed by the year end. There was no news of Sunderland and Isel. which are in “phase 2”. It may be we will have to do the work ourselves. AP
  - f) **Removal of phone boxes:** There is a proposal to fit defibrillators in each box and the phone would only be for emergency use. Our “First Responders” box was only metres from the Blindcrake phone box. The First Responders felt there was no need for duplication. The Council would have to maintain the phone box. This was felt to be pointless. Tony Annison was to contact BT.
  - g) **Improvement projects in the Parish.**
    - Signposts,
    - Replica AA sign; (£249 plus VAT) Postponed
    - Pound fence change; Alan Mossop will move the fence.
    - Bus shelter area; the tree has been trimmed back
    - Low Farm (Contact Chris Hill)It was agreed to put any additional spending on hold until we knew of any cost for Broadband for Sunderland.
  - h) **United Utilities Water Pipe route;** Ros Berry had the draft route. Drilling bore holes would happen shortly. How long was the pipe in the Parish? We had more than any other Parish so it was felt we could ask for more grant aid. It was noted that the NPA was already putting in grant requests.
  - i) **Overhead electric cables:** it is possible to claim for loss of value of properties where electric cables pass near to the buildings. Andy Prickett would check in Blindcrake.
  - j) **The Green** – drainage: Andy Prickett and Rachel Gerrard will look at solutions.
  - k) **Electric supply.** It was noted this had been disconnected for a week in Isel the letter explaining this was not clear.
- 6) **Correspondence:**

Various items circulated. Notice re Winter Warmth Fund will be displayed.
- 12) **Planning: Herdwick Croft:** No objections  
It was noted that there was an application to extend the **North Lakes Caravan Park** considerably. This would impact on the drains and sewers in the Parish. The Clerk would write to the NPA expressing our concern.

**13) Financial Matters:**

- a) The latest financial up-date was circulated.
- b) Payment of Audit fee (BDO) £36 Approved
- c) Payment of grass cutting for 2015 £720 Approved
- d) Setting the precept for 2016-17 this was set at £6,120 in line with inflation and was one of the lowest in the county.

**10) Future agenda items and date of next meeting**  
Flooding

**Dates of meetings in 2016:**

January 18<sup>th</sup>                  March 14<sup>th</sup>                  May 16th                  July 18<sup>th</sup>                  September 19<sup>th</sup>                  November 21st