

WINDLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 31st August 2023 at Hutton House, Chilton

Present:	Councillor Dave Willshaw (DW) (Chair) Councillor Derek Cattell (DC) Councillor Phil Woods (PAW) Karen Youngusband, Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer (KY) 2 Members of the Public were also in attendance	ACTION
14/23-24	Apologies Councillor Alison Morris (AM)	
15/23-24	Declarations of Interest None received	
16/23-24	Minutes Members agreed to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Windlestone Parish Council held 18 th May 2023, with one amendment being made to the second paragraph of Minute Number 4/23-24. The paragraph to read as follows: <i>Residents present at the meeting reported that should the building ever be demolished, they would prefer not to see a housing development given the likely increased pressure this would place on the local infrastructure. A preferable alternative would be for a public house or green space to be developed.</i>	
17/23-24	Matters Arising from the Minutes <u>Parish Council Website</u> Members agreed that without sponsorship or securing grant funding, replacing the Council's website would not be viable. Durham Animal Feeds, Halls Construction and Windlestone Hall had all been contacted to determine if they might be interested in sponsoring a new website. <u>Traffic Calming Measures</u> Karen agreed to chase up a response from the Local Authority regarding the potential to install traffic calming measures at Rushyford, to help residents cross the busy road over into Chilton. <u>Street Lighting</u> KY agreed to chase up the conversion of the remaining two streetlights in the Parish to LEDs.	KY KY

<p>18/23-24 Public Participation</p> <p>Two Members of the public were present at the meeting. Residents queried why headstones in the Church yard had been laid down flat. KY recommended that residents contact John Robinson but advised that where headstones had become loose then they were usually laid flat on health and safety grounds, to prevent them falling over and potentially injuring someone. Headstones could be re-instated but John would be able to advise further.</p>	
<p>19/23-24 Finance</p> <p><u>Update on LCTRS Grant</u> KY gave an overview of the purpose of the LCTRS Grant, which in recent years Durham County Council had passed on to local Parish and Town Councils. The Grant was paid annually to Local Authorities by the Government, to help support the shortfall in Council Tax monies received, where residents were not obliged to pay the full amount levied i.e. where residents were in receipt of specific benefits. As Local Authorities weren't obliged to pass on the grant monies, and faced with having to make large spending cuts; correspondence had been received confirming that the Local Authority was considering cutting the amount of monies it passes on to Parish and Town Councils moving forward. Although this would not impact on Windlestone Parish Council, it would be a devastating blow for many neighbouring Parish and Town Councils, especially in more deprived areas such as Ferryhill.</p> <p><u>Banking Arrangements</u> KY agreed to explore options for moving the Councils Current Account with Barclays Bank to Unity Trust Bank.</p>	<p>KY</p>
<p>20/23-24 Planning</p> <p>There were no Planning Applications to discuss.</p>	
<p>21/23-24 Casual Vacancy</p> <p>Members agreed to continue advertising and trying to encourage interest in the Casual Vacancy with the Parish Council.</p> <p>Members discussed the potential of setting up a Facebook page for the Parish Council and advertising the Councillor Vacancy on it. KY agreed to try and set this up asap.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>KY</p>

22/23-24	Definitive Map/Public Footpaths	PAW/DC
<p>Councillors Woods and Cattell agreed to meet up at the end of September to look at Public Footpaths in the Parish with a view to reporting back at the next Council meeting, and before making contact with the Footpaths Officer at Durham County Council, Peter Crinion.</p>		
23/23-24	<u>Eden Arms</u>	
<p>No further updates had been received. The exterior of the property had however, been noticeably improved in recent weeks.</p>		
24/23-24	Windlestone Hall	KY
<p>No further updates had been received. KY agreed to contact Stephen Robertson to see how plans were progressing, and to establish when the enabling development would be commencing.</p>		
25/23-24	Update from the Clerk	
<p>KY reported that she had received reports from residents that large advertising boards had been placed on the main Rushyford Roundabout, which were causing a distraction to drivers. KY had arranged for these to be removed.</p> <p>KY also reported that several of the concrete bollards at the end of Eden Gardens had been knocked over, so she had arranged for these to be reinstated. Similarly, a road sign had been hit by a lorry at the entrance to Eden Gardens. This had now been removed and would be replaced in due course.</p>		
26/23-24	Date and Time of Next Meeting	KY
<p>KY to book Hutton House (Chilton Town Hall) for the next meeting of the Parish Council as follows:</p> <p>Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – 6.00pm Thursday, 7th December 2023.</p>		

With no further business to discuss the Chair declared the meeting officially closed at 7.00pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: