

WINDLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Special Meeting held 2nd April 2024 at Hutton House, Chilton

Present:	Councillor Dave Willshaw (DW) (Chair) Councillor Phil Woods (PAW) Councillor Allison Morris (AM) Councillor David Oliver (DO) (Co-opted at the Meeting - Item 65/23-24) Karen Younghusband, Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer (KY) 9 Members of the Public were also in attendance.	ACTION
62/23-24	Apologies Councillor Derek Cattell (DC)	
63/23-24	Declarations of Interest No Declarations of Interest were received.	
64/23-24	Minutes Members agreed to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Windlestone Parish Council held 5 th March 2024.	
65/23-24	Co-option of Councillor to fill Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council Members agreed to co-opt David Oliver onto the Parish Council to fill the casual vacancy position of Councillor, which had arisen following Geoff Makepeace's resignation.	
66/23-24	Matters Arising from the Minutes KY reported that County Councillor Cairns had agreed to chase up the earlier request by the Parish Council for a Grit Bin to be installed at the bottom of the lane leading to Windlestone Park. If the Local Authority refuses the request, then the Parish Council would need to consider funding the bin from its own budget or secure grant funding to pay for it. Councillor Cairns had offered to source a copy of the definitive map showing the public footpaths in the Parish. As Julie was not present at the meeting, KY agreed to chase this up.	JC/KY KY
67/23-24	Public Participation Nine Members of the public were present at the meeting. It was agreed to bring members of the public into discussions under the relevant Agenda Items i.e. Proposed Changes to Rushyford Roundabout and the Eden Arms.	

<p>One resident reported the overgrown condition of the footpaths leading from Rushyford Roundabout along the Coundon Bypass, and the footpath leading from the small roundabout leading along the C35 Middridge Road towards Aycliffe. KY confirmed that she had reported these using DCC's Do It Online System. An officer from the Local Authority had been in touch to clarify the location of the paths so that they could proceed to tidy them up.</p>	
<p>68/23-24 Finance</p> <p>There was no expenditure to approve.</p>	
<p>69/23-24 Planning</p> <p>There were no planning matters to report.</p>	
<p>70/23-24 Correspondence</p> <p>Several letters had been received from residents regarding concerns relating to the proposed changes to Rushyford Roundabout. These would be discussed under the relevant item on the agenda.</p>	
<p>71/23-24 Update on The Eden Arms</p> <p>Residents reported that there was general debris and litter including broken glass building up around the exterior of the Eden Arms. Unfortunately, as the land was in private ownership very little could be done to alleviate the issue.</p>	
<p>72/23-24 Update on Windlestone Hall</p> <p>As the last meeting of the Parish Council had only been held a few weeks ago, no further updates had been sought or received regarding Windlestone Hall.</p>	
<p>73/23-24 Proposed Changes to Rushyford Roundabout</p> <p>Councillor Woods and KY reported on a meeting they and County Councillor Cairns had attended with representatives from the Highways Department at DCC (on 28th March). At the meeting KY had passed a copy of residents' letters detailing individual concerns regarding the proposed changes to Rushyford Roundabout to the Officers, who had promised to provide a response asap.</p> <p>DCC Officers had explained that due to the approved housing development of 1400 houses next to the Secure Centre at Aycliffe, the local authority had secured external grant funding to upgrade the road infrastructure to facilitate the increased volume of traffic that the development was expected to create, including changes to Rushyford Roundabout. Officers clarified that the proposed changes at Rushyford</p>	

<p>were classified as permitted development and therefore no consultation was required with residents. DCC had planned to organise community engagement in the area to ensure that residents affected by the development at Rushyford were kept informed, unfortunately due to delays in securing funding and finalising plans for the roundabout there had been no time to do this. Officers apologised for this, and for the lack of responses provided to the Parish Council's repeated requests since February 2023 for pedestrian crossings and speed calming measures to be installed at Rushyford.</p> <p>DCC Officers explained that a Worldwide Modelling system called Paramicks had been used to help design the changes proposed at Rushford. The changes would involve taking land from the existing roundabout (effectively shrinking the roundabout) so that the approaches to Rushyford would be increased from two lanes to three, with the inclusion of splitter islands, to help residents cross the roads.</p> <p>Councillor Cairns, Councillor Woods and KY had suggested to DCC that although the plans would inevitably improve the road network for vehicle users, the changes were likely to have a major impact on the adjacent smaller roundabout that turns off onto the C35 Middridge Road, and that the lack of inclusion of pedestrian crossings and speed calming measures, which Windlestone Parish Council had been campaigning for, for over a year were of significant concern to local residents, who already struggled on a daily basis, at certain times of the day, to be able to cross the busy road to access essential services in Chilton. DCC Officers suggested that they would continue to monitor the situation at Rushyford for a period of time, to observe how well the changes were working once fully operational. Works it was confirmed were due to commence at the end of April and run right through until Autumn.</p> <p>After lengthy discussions with residents present at the meeting, it was agreed that a letter be sent to Paul Howell MP expressing residents' concerns and asking for support from the MP in liaising with the Local Authority.</p>	<p>KY</p>
<p>74/23-24 Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>KY agreed to book Hutton House (Chilton Town Hall) for the next meeting(s) of the Parish Council, which would include the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Parish Council and the Parishioners Meeting as follows:</p> <p>AGM of the Parish Council – 6.00pm Tuesday, 14th May 2024</p> <p>Annual Parishioners Meeting – 6.15pm Tuesday, 14th May 2024</p> <p>Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – To follow Parishioners Meeting on Tuesday, 14th May 2024</p>	<p>KY</p>

With no further business to discuss the Chair declared the meeting officially closed at 7.30pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: