

WINDLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 27th November 2024 at Hutton House, Chilton

Present:	<p>Councillor Dave Willshaw (DW) (Chair) Councillor Phil Woods (PAW) Councillor Allison Morris (AM) Councillor David Oliver (DO) County Councillor Jullie Cairns (JC) Karen Younghusband, Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer (KY) 7 Members of the Public were also in attendance.</p>	ACTION
34/24-25	<p>Apologies Councillor Derek Cattell</p>	
35/24-25	<p>Declarations of Interest No declarations of Interest were made.</p>	
36/24-25	<p>Minutes Members agreed to approve the following Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordinary Meeting of Windlestone Parish Council held 13th August 2024 	
37/24-25	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes Mr Mason confirmed that the Anti-Social Behaviour Team (ASB Team) had not yet been in touch with him regarding the cut at the end of the lane past the Cottages being used as a shortcut by motorbikes. KY/JC agreed to continue chasing this up with Kate Ward and Rachel Tyndall from the ASB Team.</p> <p>Kate Ward had been in touch with Mrs Porter regarding the ongoing problems with the concrete bollards at the end of Eden Gardens, but it was understood that no progress had yet been made to replace the bollards with a crash barrier. It was understood that if the Parish Council were to agree to install this type of barrier, that permission would be required by Durham County Council's Highways Department.</p>	
38/24-25	<p>Public Participation Seven Members of the public were present at the meeting. It was agreed to permit members of the public to join in discussions under individual Agenda Items as appropriate.</p> <p>Mrs Porter questioned whether it would be ok for her to carry out litter picking in the area and whether or not this was something that was already happening. JC confirmed that litter picking was something that many residents engaged with throughout the County and suggested KY speak to the Civic Pride Team at Durham County Council to see if they would be able to provide litter pickers for anyone interested in carrying out litter picks in the Parish to use. KY agreed to contact Lauren Icceton in the Civic Pride Team.</p> <p>Mrs Porter reported ongoing issues with broadband and mobile phone signals in the area and confirmed that she had been trying to speak to BT about the problems encountered. JC/KY would report the problems to Durham County Council to make them aware of the situation.</p> <p>Members of the public reported several attempted break-ins in the Parish in recent months. JC reinforced the importance of reporting all incidents to the Police. It was</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JC/KY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KY</p>

	<p>suggested that Sgt Peter Newman and Insp Barry Evans be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council. KY agreed to contact them accordingly.</p> <p>KY reported that a Member of the Public had been in touch to demonstrate interest in the Parish Council. KY had given the individual information about the make-up of the Council and its remit and had invited them to attend the Meetings.</p>	
39/24-25	<p>Correspondence KY informed Members of the various correspondence items received:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CDALC had circulated confirmation from the National Joint Council for Local Government (NJC) that the 2024 pay rise settlement had been agreed. The Clerk's salary had been amended accordingly. 2. Confirmation had been received from the Pension Regulator that the Parish Council were compliant in their duties in relation to Pension Regulations. 3. The Annual Invitation to nominate a Councillor to attend the Royal Garden Party in 2025 had been received. No Members eligible were interested in attending, therefore no nominations would be submitted this year. 4. An estimate of costs for the forthcoming Elections in May 2025 had been received. Should an election be called in Windlestone Parish then the cost to the Parish Council was likely to be £2,851.41. 	
40/24-25	<p>Finance – Agree Precept for 2025-2026 Members considered the Income and Expenditure Forecast for the current year and after much discussion agreed to increase the Precept for the 2025-2026 financial year, for the Parish of Windlestone to £8,250. The Chair and Clerk signed the necessary paperwork accordingly, which KY agreed to submit to the Local Authority.</p>	KY
41/24-25	<p>Planning There were no planning matters to discuss.</p>	
42/24-25	<p>Update on Parish Council Website KY reported that she was still working on adding information to the new website and asked for people's thoughts.</p> <p>Cllr Oliver suggested adding the Parish Boundary Map to the website. KY would look into this with Digital Edge and ascertain if there would be any costs involved in adding the map to the website. Members also discussed the potential of asking someone local who owned a drone, to take some aerial footage of the Parish.</p> <p>Councillor Woods offered to provide historical stories for the website, which would be of interest to local residents.</p>	KY PAW
43/24-25	<p>Update on Windlestone Hall KY had received an email from the Estates Manager, Steven Robertson, confirming that all was progressing well with renovation works at Windlestone Hall, and reporting that work was continuing across the estate in line with the broader restoration plan for the entire site.</p>	
44/24-25	<p>Update on The Eden Arms KY reported that DCC Building Control had conducted a recent Inspection of the premises and confirmed that there had been no planning contraventions. It was understood that, as the Hotel had previously offered restaurant services, that this could be done again without the need for planning permission. Residents reported that they had spoken to the lessee of the property, and in some cases viewed the inside of the building. It was understood that the Hotel would become an OYO style budget hotel offering rooms only, with no other services.</p>	

45/24-25	Update on Changes to Rushyford Roundabout	DW/DO/ KY/JC
	<p>Works were now complete at Rushyford Roundabout. The Chair informed residents that an Officer Meeting had been arranged for 13th January, between representatives of the Parish Council, County Councillor Cairns, and Officers from DCC Highways Department, to discuss ongoing concerns relating to the Roundabout. Members would report back to residents after the meeting with the Local Authority had taken place. KY agreed to organise a pre-meeting for those attending the meeting on 13th January to consider the main discussion points to be raised with the Local Authority.</p>	
	<p>Residents' main concerns included the speed of approaching traffic to the roundabout and the lack of pedestrian crossings in the area. Residents also raised concerns regarding the lack of remedial works taking place on the road outside the Cottages/Eden Arms, which had been used as a compound for construction vehicles for the duration of the works, and as such was now in a dreadful condition. For years, the Parish Council had been informed that the road was not adopted by DCC, but an Officer from the Local Authority (Cara Thompson) had now informed residents that the road was indeed adopted. Members were also interested in having sight of the Impact Assessment report that should have been carried out as part of the planning process.</p>	
	<p>Despite writing to the new MP Alan Strickland requesting support in addressing residents' concerns about the roundabout with the Local Authority, no response had yet been received by residents or the Parish Council.</p>	
	<p>Councillor Woods reported that the Public Footpath sign had still not been re-instated since the roundabout works were complete, but confirmed that he had reported it, and understood that it would be replaced asap.</p>	
46/24-25	Proposal to Install an additional Noticeboard in the vicinity of Eden Gardens	KY
	<p>County Councillor Julie Cairns offered to contribute £2,000 to the installation of a noticeboard, in the vicinity of Eden Gardens, through her Neighborhood Budget Allocation. Members thanked Councillor Cairns, and KY agreed to submit a funding application to the AAP for the noticeboard, as soon as a location site had been agreed with DCC and landowner permission granted by the Local Authority to install it on their land.</p>	
47/24-25	Community Bulb Planting	
	<p>Members reported that the community bulb planting session had gone really well and suggested that it be revisited again next year, perhaps using a wider range of plant species and potentially incorporating a wildflower mix.</p>	
48/24-25	Outstanding Issues / Reports	KY
	<p>KY gave an update on outstanding issues in the Parish that had previously been reported to Durham County Council. JC/KY emphasized the importance of being very specific when reporting issues through the 'Do It Online' system, especially in providing an accurate location, so that DCC Officers could easily identify and locate any issues/faults reported.</p>	
49/24-25	Date and Time of Next Meeting	KY
	<p>KY agreed 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 Tuesday, 18th February 2025</p>	

With no further business to discuss the Chair declared the meeting officially closed at 8.00pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: