**WINDLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting**

**held 1st March 2018**

**Present:** Councillor Phil Woods (Chair)

Councillor David Hall

Councillor Geoff Makepeace

Councillor David Willshaw

Karen Younghusband, Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

**189/17-18 Apologies**

No Apologies had been received

**190/17-18 Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on**

**7th December 2017**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**191/17-18 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on**

**7th December 2018**

Street Lighting Costs

Karen reported that she had requested a breakdown of the latest Street Lighting Repair bill received from Durham County Council. Karen circulated the breakdown that had been received. Members agreed that the charges levied seemed especially high. The whole bill had amounted to £248.68 with Administration charges alone coming in at £100. Members queried whether it was possible to use an alternative Company to repair the lights. Karen commented that it was unlikely put that she would certainly look into it.

**192/17-18 To Receive Comments from Members of the Public as Appropriate**

192.1/17-18 No members of the public were present however correspondence had been received from Mr Derek Cattell from Windlestone Park regarding the condition of the footpath along the A689 Coundon Bypass road, between the Gates of Windlestone Hall, and Windlestone Park, which provides the only pedestrian access to the Post Box. The footpath was covered in mud and looked as though it had received no attention in years. Karen had reported the matter to the Local Authority who had initially attended the wrong location. Karen would continue to chase the matter with Durham County Council.

192.2/17-18 Mr Cattell had also queried if it would be possible for a Salt Bin to be provided at Windlestone Park. Members discussed this but agreed with the County Council that Salt Bins could not be provided for private roads as it would open the floodgates to all residents with private roads.

**193/17-18 Finance**

**193.1/17-18 Approve and Sign Cheques for Expenditure Incurred**

All expenses had been approved and cheques signed up to 1st March 2018.

**194/17-18 Casual Vacancy**

Efforts would continue to be made to recruit a new Councillor for the Parish to replace Councillor Doran who had resigned his position.

Members agreed that there was a distinct lack of female Councillors and therefore it would be preferable if a female could be recruited to fill the vacancy. Geoff agreed to provide Karen with a copy of an advert that the Police regularly use to specifically attract female officers.

**195/17-18 Planning**

Phil queried if an application had been noticed on the planning lists in relation to 24 Rookery Gardens, as work had begun. Karen and Geoff confirmed that they were both still receiving regular lists of weekly Planning Applications from Durham County Council but had not noticed an application in relation to this property. Karen agreed to look into it. Members were concerned that there was still a problem with the planning lists.

**196/17-18 Correspondence**

196.1/17-18 Street Lighting Removal A167

Karen reported that a letter had been received from Durham County Council in response to the Parish Council’s concerns over burglaries that had occurred since the removal of street lights in the Parish. As expected the Local Authority refused to accept that the removal of street lights could be linked in any way to the burglaries, and had provided evidence to support their beliefs.

196.2/17-18 Modification to Public Footpath

Notification had been received from Durham County Council that a diversion was being proposed to Footpath No.5 in the Parish of Windlestone. The path ran alongside Rushyford Beck to the Footbridge near to Millwood Farm. Phil requested that the County Council be asked why the diversion was being proposed. Karen agreed to contact the Local Authority and let Members know the reason as soon as she received a response.

196.3/17-18 Barclays Bank – Closure of Spennymoor Branch

A letter had been received from Barclays Bank informing of its intention to close the Spennymoor Branch of Barclays. Members agreed that a letter should be sent to the Bank to express the Council’s objections to this. Karen agreed to send a letter to Barclays and copy Members in on it.

196.4/17-18 A poster/fliers had been received from Durham County Council advertising its ‘Do It On-line’ campaign. David H agreed to place a copy of the poster in the noticeboard at Rookery Gardens. Karen would place a poster in the Windlestone Park noticeboard.

**197/17-18 Any Other Business**

Data Protection Regulations

Karen agreed to let Members know as soon as any further information had been received regarding this matter.

**198/17-18 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meetings of the Council would include both the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parishioners Meeting, as well as the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

It was agreed that the next Meetings of Windlestone Parish Council be held as follows:

**Annual General Meeting of Windlestone Parish Council**

**6.00pm on Thursday, 3rd May 2018 at Chilton Community College.**

**Annual Parish Meeting for Residents of Windlestone**

**6.15pm on Thursday, 3rd May 2018 at Chilton Community College**

**Ordinary Meeting of Windlestone Parish Council**

**To Follow Annual Parish Meeting.**

These would be the last meetings to be held at Chilton Community College.

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

**SIGNED: ……………………………….. (Chair) DATE: …………………….**