**WINDLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

7 Front Street, Bishop Middleham, County Durham. DL17 9AJ

<Tel:01740> 652626 / Mob: 07808062525 /Email: [kyounghusband@ferryhill.gov.uk](mailto:kyounghusband@ferryhill.gov.uk)

**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 4th December 2019**

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| **Present:**  Councillor Dave Willshaw (DW)  Councillor Phil Woods (PAW) ACTION  Councillor Derek Cattell (DW)  Councillor Geoff Makepeace (GM)  County Councillor Christine Potts (CP)  Karen Younghusband, Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer (KY) | **ACTION** |
| **252/19-20 Apologies**  Councillor David Hall (DH)  Councillor Woods indicated that due to ill health Councillor Hall  would inevitably be submitting his resignation from the Parish Council. |  |
| **253/19-20 Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish**  **Council held on 4th September 2019**  The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record with the following amendment:  Minute Number 249/19-20 to read as follows:  PW reported that the situation had now been resolved. Councillor Woods and David Flook had met with 2 representatives from Northumbrian Water to discuss the plans for the works. A more acceptable proposal had been suggested, which would enable traffic to be able to flow through Rookery Gardens using tunneling and traffic lights. |  |
| **254/19-20 Matters Arising from the Minutes**    PW reported that sadly Mr Arnold Stewart from Mill Farm had passed away. It would now be Mr Stewart’s son who would be dealing with any repair work required on his land.  PW had already mentioned the problems regarding Footpath No. 5 incuding the missing footbridge and overgrown trees, to Peter Crinion at DCC. Councillor Potts offered to chase this up with Peter to try and get the issue resolved.  Councillor Potts reported that Durham County Council had spent £2k on strategically placing boulders near the by-pass towards the railway line. Mr Stewart had expressed concerns that youths were riding roughshod in the area. The boulders would inevitably prevent access by bikes in the future.  Councillor Potts suggested that she may be able to help to cover the cost of signage to advertise public footpaths in the Parish, and also potentially for the manufacture and installation of an Information Board, as discussed at the last meeting, from her Neighbourhood Budget Monies. | **CP** |
| **255/19-20 To Receive Comments from Members of the Public as Appropriate**  No Members of the Public were present. |  |
| **256/19-20 Finance**    **256.1/19-20 Agree Precept for 2020-2021**  Members agreed to set the Precept for the Parish at £5,000 for  2020-2021.  DW and KY signed the Precept request form accordingly. |  |
| **257/19-20 Planning**  Members discussed a Planning Application which had been submitted to DCC by the Castle Group, for a Residential Home for Children aged between 8 and 18 years, suffering from a range of emotional and behavioural issues in the Parish. The Application had now been withdrawn. Windlestone was not considered the best location for such a facility. |  |
| **258/19-20 Correspondence**  No correspondence had been received. |  |
| **259/19-20 Traffic Issues in the Parish**  Members discussed several traffic related issues that had been raised at previous meetings of the Parish Council, and specifically at the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that Lee Mowbray from DCC Transport Section be invited to attend a meeting of the Parish Council in February, to discuss residents and Councillors concerns. KY asked Members to email her by no later than 6th January 2020 with a list of their concerns, so that an email could be compiled and sent to Lee explaining exactly what residents were worried about. The main concerns noted were:   1. What upgrading, if any, has been applied to the C35 over the past 50 years, so as to accommodate the increased usage consequent to the housing expansion at Woodham and Cobblers Hall ? 2. Given that the road in question (C35) is classified in the "C" category,  and that it is used by in excess of 1000 vehicles per hour at peak times; that it has blind summits, no kerbs, no pavements and no lighting;  is it fit for purpose? And if so, by what criteria? 3. What is the safest pedestrian route between:    1. The C35 and the A167 (Chilton by-pass) ? (Residents have expressed real concern that they have no way of crossing the busy road to get to Chilton where all the main services for the Parish are located i.e. Doctors, shops etc.    2. The A 689 and Woodham? 4. Current Speed Limits for roads approaching Rushyford Roundabout is   60mph could this be reduced? | **ALL** |
| **260/19-20 Date and Time of Next Meeting**  It was agreed that the next Meeting of Windlestone Parish Council take place at the **Eden Arms Hotel, Rushyford** as follows:  **Ordinary Meeting - 6.00pm Thursday, 13th February 2020**  Councillor Woods agreed to book the room for the meeting. | **PAW** |

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

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