

WINSTON PARISH COUNCIL

**NOTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WINSTON PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL
Notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with the Local
Government Act 1972**

Present: Cllrs Taylor (Chair), Pattison, Fenwick, Cook, Race, Smith and Clark.

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Fenwick declared an interest in the proposed large-scale planning application on the field adjacent to the Bridgewater Arms. No other Cllrs made any declarations.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings held 9th August 2018:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th August 2018 were proposed by Cllr Pattison as being a true record and seconded by Cllr Fenwick. They were then duly signed by the Chair.

The following matters of information were reported relating to the minutes of the previous meeting:

The Clerk reported that as previously requested she had reported to Mr Jonathan Cardy of DCC the Council's concerns regarding the new tarmac recently laid by DCC on the footpath adjoining the newly installed footpath at the West end of the village which was starting to lift up with grass growing through. Mr Cardy has now forwarded this issue to his Highways Operations Team who will undertake remedial works. The Clerk had also asked Mr Cardy to inspect the state of the footpath adjacent to the Bridgewater Arms which connects to the footpath next to the A67. Mr Cardy had confirmed this area had been inspected by his colleagues who did not believe that any repair work was required. Cllrs expressed their disappointment at this decision.

Cllr Taylor reported that he had attended the recent South West Durham Travellers Forum meeting which had been to review the 2018 Appleby Horse Fair migration periods. This had been a positive meeting and it was reported that all new stop-over sites had been used to varying scales with all who attended those sites saying they would recommend others attended them in 2019. Only one area of concern was identified which was the stop-over site near to Wilson Close at West Auckland which was near to properties owned by Durham County Housing Association where several residents had expressed their concerns to the close proximity of the site. This will be considered prior to next year. In addition, and on behalf of Winston Parish Council, Cllr Taylor had voiced concern at the

meeting that it was not beneficial to erect Temporary Stop-over signage once travellers had already arrived. It had been agreed that for 2019 such signage would be in place 2-3 weeks prior to the sites being opened.

The Clerk reported that the Council's updated Standing Orders have now been placed on the Council's website for public information.

4. Consideration of Current Planning Applications:

The Clerk reported that since the Council's last meeting DCC there had been no planning applications published within the Parish of Winston.

The Clerk reported that as requested at the last meeting she had written to Mr Tim Burnham, DCC Planning Officer in relation to planning application DM/17/03751/OUT requesting clarification regarding the proposed acoustic barriers relating to this proposed application, i.e. what is the barrier, what is the height and location of any proposed fencing, are existing trees to be retained or cut down, is the barrier to be located in front of the trees or behind the trees adjacent to the A67. The Clerk also asked if there are any diagrams relating to proposed acoustic barriers which could be sent to the Parish Council for consideration. The Clerk reported that Mr Burnham had replied on 23rd August 2018 and stated the noise report for this proposed application recommends a 2.3m solid barrier along the North of the site. Although it didn't specify specific materials, these are often constructed in 2.3m high close boarded timber fencing. The report indicated this would need to be placed along the blue line (shown in figure 1 of the report) but it was not overly clear how this barrier would interact with the trees on the boundary. Mr Burnham also reported that due to a change in DCC's 5 year housing land supply position, the cumulative negative impacts that have emerged as a result of this further information (need for fence to Northern boundary/required loss of tree) and outstanding drainage/flooding/heritage issues that remain unresolved he has advised the applicant that DCC are not currently in a position to support this application. Cllr Fenwick reported that she had recently discussed this application with Mr Burnham who believed that it would be considered by DCC Planning Committee in October 2018. The Clerk confirmed that as soon as details are received they will be shared with Cllrs and reminded all that it had been previously agreed that Cllr Cook, and in his absence Cllr Clark, would represent the Parish Council at any such Committee meeting. Cllrs Smith and Fenwick expressed their concern regarding activity which had recently taken place on the field whereby the boundary fence has been removed leaving the culvert exposed and pipework fully accessible to anyone/animal. Such exposure means that the culvert has been weakened and this has heightened the potential for flood impact in this area as the culvert is no longer as robust and resilient as previously. This has now made the entire area very unsightly. In addition, it was noted that the fence around the rosebed area has been removed making this area open into the field. **It was AGREED that the Clerk write to Mr Burnham of DCC to make him aware of this latest development.**

ACTION: Cllr Race to take photographs of the area and forward to the Clerk to accompany correspondence to Mr Burnham.

5. Noticeboard at Top of Village:

Cllr Taylor reported that the noticeboard located at the top of the village, which is only used to display Parish Council information, requires some maintenance work. The lock as seized, some wood appears to be rotten and the left hand hinge has come loose.

ACTION: Cllr Clark to look at the noticeboard and keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

6. World War One Commemoration:

Cllr Taylor reported that he had been approached by members of the Church asking if the Parish Council would consider making a donation of between £60-70 for the purchase of a 3D Perspex silhouette Tommy which would be placed on the seat in the grounds of the churchyard for Remembrance Sunday to mark the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War One. Following Remembrance Sunday this would be moved to inside the church to be placed alongside other silhouettes. **It was AGREED to make a donation.**

ACTION: Cllr Taylor to liaise with Mrs Chris Barnett in order to determine exact funding required.

7. Public Attendance:

No members of the public were in attendance.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Clark reported to the Clerk his concerns regarding the ongoing damage being caused to the new road surface on both humpback bridges on the road from Winston to Staindrop. The surface is being scraped away in strips in a consistent manner over the last 6 weeks or so, possibly due to farm vehicles or low load wagons. The Clerk reported that she had made the Clerk of Staindrop Parish Council aware of this matter as well as reporting this directly to DCC's Highways via the Do It Online system. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

8. VAT Reclaim Update 2017/18:

The Clerk reported as agreed at the last meeting she had written to HMRC requesting an update on the Parish Council's unpaid VAT reclaim for 2017/18 totalling £647.66. To date there has been no correspondence from HMRC. Cllrs expressed the hope that due to the time being taken to receive this reimbursement that interest would also be paid by HMRC.

ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Mr Steve Ragg of CDALC to determine if there is any advice that can be received from NALC regarding this matter or if there are any other Parish Councils within the area who have experienced/are experiencing a similar problem.

9. Approval of Payment of Accounts:

The Clerk reported the following accounts required payment:

- Design365 (website updates) £78.78

- Mr C A Stamp (grass cutting) £174.00

AGREED: Cllr Taylor and Pattison signed the cheques.

ACTION: The Clerk to post cheques.

10. Date and Time of Next Two Meetings:

AGREED as Thursday 4th October 2018 and Thursday 8th November 2018.

Meeting closed at 7.35p.m.

Dr Jane Ayre (Parish Clerk)