

WINSTON PARISH COUNCIL

**NOTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WINSTON PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2019 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), Race, Cook, Fenwick, Smith and Clark.

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings held 11th January 2019:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th January 2019 were proposed by Cllr Race as being a true record and seconded by Cllr Cook. They were then duly signed by the Chair.

The following matters arising from the previous minutes were given:

In accordance with the Council's wishes the Clerk had written to Mr Lough of DCC to determine who owned the water rescue equipment on the side of the bridge near to the layby recently refurbished by DCC. Mr Lough had replied that he understood this public rescue equipment was the responsibility of Winston Bridge caravan park and that DCC had written to the owners on two occasions in 2017 providing advice and detailing options available to the landowner. Cllrs felt that they were unable to take this matter any further but at least had made DCC aware of their concerns.

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to HMRC requesting that interest is paid on the 2017/18 VAT reimbursement as a result of the excessive time taken to receive payment. A response is now awaited. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

The Clerk confirmed that all necessary documentation has been submitted to DCC in relation to the Parish Council's 2019/20 precept request and the recent article submitted by the Parish Council to the Parish Magazine explaining the forthcoming precept increase has been published.

The Clerk reported that to date no response has been received from Ms Clair Haigh of Meikles to the Parish Council's request for clarification as to whether or not the Parish Council would be automatically notified by the Land Registry if there was any attempt by anyone to obtain the piece of land upon which the rosebed in the village is located. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter. In relation to the removal of the fence around this field, Cllr Cook reiterated his concern that this area of land is

now entirely open and could be abused when travellers go through the village on their way to and from the Appleby Horse Fair in the Spring. Cllr Cook said the Parish Council had a duty on behalf of residents to be proactive in this matter to try to protect this area. **It was AGREED that Cllrs Taylor and Smith would take this matter to the Teesdale Residents and Travellers Forum.**

ACTION: Cllr Taylor to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

A small token of appreciation had been given to the residents who had supplied the village's Christmas tree in 2018. On behalf of those residents, Cllr Clark conveyed thanks.

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting she had duly informed DCC's Electoral Services of Cllr Pattison's resignation. Cllr Pattison's details have been removed from the Parish magazine and Parish Council website. This matter will be further considered under agenda item 7.

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. It was noted that the latest edition of the Teesdale Mercury had referenced a planning application for a wind turbine at Moss Moor, Winston, however, this has not yet appeared on the official DCC list. Cllr Taylor confirmed that Moss Moor is towards Caldwell.

5. Consideration of County Durham Plan Pre-submission Document:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Mr Stuart Timmiss of DCC dated 24th January 2019 detailing the latest consultation exercise relating to the County Durham Plan Pre-submission document. **Cllrs AGREED they had considered this prior to the meeting and did not have any comments to make on the pre-submission document.**

6. Proposal for HGV Ban in Barnard Castle:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Ros Evans dated 7th February 2019 in which she stated that the HGV Group were writing to all parish councils in the TAP area plus West Auckland Parish Council about their proposals for an HGV ban in Barnard Castle. Ms Evans asked the Parish Council whether it had any views or comments on such a proposal. This matter was discussed and **it was AGREED that support could not be given as banning HGVs from travelling through Barnard Castle would mean that this problem was moved to another locality. It was felt that it would be more beneficial to look at this from a wider area than just Barnard Castle and finding ways of ensuring that HGV drivers adhered to the already prescribed alternative routes which are clearly signed to and from the A66 and surrounding area.**

ACTION: The Clerk to reply to Ms Evans on behalf of the Parish Council.

7. Consideration of Councillor Co-option:

The Clerk reported that following Cllr Pattison's resignation at the end of the last Parish Council meeting she had duly informed Ms Gillian West, Senior Electoral Officer at DCC and a subsequent Notice of Vacancy of in the Office of Councillor had been displayed in the Parish and on the Parish Council's website from 15th January – 4th February 2019. Ms West had confirmed that as the requisite number of signatories to call an election for the recently advertised vacancy had not been received by the Monitoring Officer that the Parish Council could now seek to fill this vacancy by co-option.

ACTION: The Clerk to prepare a poster for display in the Parish and on the Parish Council's website in order to seek a willing volunteer(s).

Cllr Cook informed the Council that he had left the Playing Fields Committee. **It was AGREED that Cllr Taylor would liaise with Mr Alan Richford, Chair of the Playing Fields Committee, to put in place an appropriate communication link between the Committee and the Parish** **ACTION: Cllr Taylor to speak to Mr Richford and keep the Parish Council updated.**

ACTION: The Clerk to update Cllr Cook's entry on the Parish Council website accordingly.
Council for future use.

8. Teesdale Residents and Travellers Forum Update:

Cllr Taylor reported that he and Cllr Smith had attended the latest meeting of the Teesdale Residents and Travellers Forum. It was confirmed that all arrangements are now in place for the 2019 migration period to and from the Appleby Horse Fair. The Police have been allocated extra resources and DCC's Clean and Green teams have undertaken necessary repairs to existing Travellers sites and will perform a final check nearer to the time of the Fair's preparations. Arrangements are in hand with suppliers of water bowsers and portable toilets. This year it has been agreed that Winston Parish Council can directly contact the portable toilets provider and request they provide such facilities as soon as travellers arrive at the temporary stop over site. It was agreed this should overcome the problems experienced in 2018. It has also been agreed that should travellers arrive earlier than permitted, or stay later than permitted, that DCC will be more forceful and take necessary action. Unfortunately the owners of Harmire Industrial Estate have not responded to any of the Forum's requests to enter into discussions to try to alleviate problems at this location during the traveller migration periods. Finally, it was noted that some additional restrictions are going to be imposed in and around Kirkby Stephen which could lead to problems in the Teesdale area, however, all the necessary agencies are going to monitor this.

ACTION: Cllr Taylor to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

Cllr Taylor reported that he had also attended the latest South West Durham Travellers Forum meeting. Targetted hardstanding work along the West Auckland bypass has now been identified and work agreed. In addition, work has also been agreed in order to make an official site near

to the football club site. Whilst DCC, local Parish Councils and local County Cllrs have agreed this work and to fund it, it has now been confirmed that it will take 6-8 weeks for the TAP to process any funding requests which may mean that work is not completed in time for this year's migration periods.

ACTION: Cllr Taylor to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

8. Public Attendance:

No members of the public were in attendance.

9. Approval of Payment of Accounts:

The Clerk reported the following accounts required payment:

- Design365 (website updates) £31.52

AGREED: Cllrs Taylor and Cook signed the cheque.

ACTION: The Clerk to issue cheque.

10. Date and Time of Next Two Meetings:

AGREED as Thursday 14th March 2019 and Thursday 11th April 2019.

Meeting closed at 7.45p.m.

Dr Jane Ayre (Parish Clerk)