

WINSTON PARISH COUNCIL

**NOTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WINSTON PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 14th MARCH 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

Cllr Fenwick declared an interest in agenda item 6 relating to the planning appeal for the planning application on land next to the Bridgewater Arms. No other Cllrs made any declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings held 14th February 2019:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th February 2019 were proposed by Cllr Fenwick as being a true record and seconded by Cllr Smith. They were then duly signed by the Chair.

The following matters arising from the previous minutes were given:

VAT Return 2017/18 - The Clerk reported that as yet there has been no response from HMRC regarding the Parish Council's request for interest on the 2017/18 VAT reimbursement as a result of the excessive time taken to receive payment. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

Land Ownership Change - The Clerk reported that to date there has still not been a response 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. Cllrs were disappointed at this lack of response and requested the Clerk to chase this matter as it was of growing urgency due to the recently lodged appeal with the Planning Inspectorate (to be considered under agenda item 6). The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

HGV Ban in Barnard Castle - The Clerk confirmed that she had replied to Ms Ros Evans of the HGV Group informing her that the Parish Council's approval for their plans 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. Ms Evans had confirmed receipt of the Parish Council's response.

Playing Fields Committee - In relation to the Playing Fields Committee, Cllr Taylor confirmed that he had spoken to Mr Richford of the Committee and they had agreed that instead of the Parish Council appointing a representative to sit on the Committee that Mr Richford would contact Cllr Taylor directly if there were any issues/concerns which Cllr Taylor would then bring to the Parish Council's attention. The Clerk confirmed that the Council's website had been updated to reflect Cllr Cook's recent resignation from the Playing Fields Committee.

4. Consideration of Councillor Co-option:

The Clerk confirmed that since the last Parish Council meeting a notice advertising the current Councillor vacancy has been produced and is displayed on the village noticeboard and on the Council's website. To date there have been no expressions of interest.

ACTION: The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated regarding this matter.

5. Consideration of Current Planning Applications:

The Clerk reported that since the Council's last meeting DCC had published one planning application within the Parish of Winston. This was discussed as follows:

- DM/19/00539/VOC – variation of condition no 2 in relation to previous planning application DM/18/00127/FPA regarding roof materials, Low Barford, Wether Hill, Winston (published week commencing 4th March 2019) – **Cllrs AGREED they did not have any objections to this planning application.**

6. Consideration of Planning Appeal Lodged With Planning Inspectorate Relating to Field Next to Bridgewater Arms:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email with attached letter from Mr Stuart Timmiss of DCC dated 22nd February 2019 informing the Town Council that Messrs Hendriksen and Forrest have submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to their previously refused planning application to build 16 dwellings on land to the West of the Bridgewater Arms in Winston. The appeal is to be dealt with by written representations which must be submitted by no later than 27th March 2019. Cllr Fenwick informed fellow Cllrs that a 7 page appeal document has also now been posted on DCC's website. **Cllrs noted that the latest plans for the site included dramatic change to the access and AGREED it was essential that any further correspondence to the Planning Inspectorate clearly highlighted that the owners of the field do not own the entire access shown in their plans and therefore the development is not feasible without such an access, i.e. the field's owners do not own the entire access area nor have rights it and are therefore making assumptions about access on land which they do not own. In addition, Cllrs Fenwick and Smith reported that a barbed wire fence has been erected around the field which takes up more than half of the rosebed area (i.e. land identified in plans to be considered by the Planning Inspectorate as part of the access but which is land for which no owner can be found) and denies access to the culvert in this area. It was AGREED that a summary of the**

Parish Council's objections to this planning application be sent to the Planning Inspectorate along with copies of all submissions previously submitted to DCC by the Parish Council. In addition it was also AGREED that the covering letter must reiterate the current state of the fence erected over half the rosebed area which appears to obscure the land ownership issue by not being in the original line of the previous fence which was removed by the field's owners very recently.

ACTION: The Clerk and Cllr Taylor to write in accordance with the Parish Council's wishes to the Planning Inspectorate.

Cllr Clark said he had unofficially heard that the temporary TPO made in November 2018 on land to the South of the Bridgewater Arms had now been made permanent. If this was correct it would have implications upon the planning appeal now to be considered.

ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Mr Simon McGinney, DCC's Tree Officer to find out the exact status regarding the temporary TPO and to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

Cllr Cook suggested that the Parish Council liaise with Ordnance Survey to try to obtain a copy of a map showing Winston Village in 1947, i.e. bring to the bypass, at a scale of 6 inches to the mile as this could potentially include the rosebed area.

ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Ordnance Survey.

7. Smaller Local Council Forum Meeting Report:

Cllr Taylor reported that he had attended the last Smaller Local Council Forum Meeting held on 21st February 2019. The meeting had been taken up exclusively by three presentations from DCC covering the County Durham Plan, Risk Assessment training for Parish Councils and Safeguarding of Children.

8. CDALC Executive Committee Report:

Cllr Taylor reported that unfortunately due to a family bereavement he had not been able to attend the Smaller Councils at the recent CDALC Executive Committee meeting.

9. Consideration of The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018:

The Clerk reported that she had recently received information from Mr Steve Ragg of CDALC regarding The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018. She had forwarded this to the Council's website provider and asked them to consider and advise if any changes were required to the Council's website in order to ensure full compliance. The majority of the website had been found to be accessibility friendly. Minor revision work had been required to a couple of things such as navigating the site via keyboard, i.e. better highlighting when navigating and a some alt tags required for images. The only thing which could not be changes were the PDFS/documents on the site which can be read by screen readers or downloaded, both of

which is entirely justifiable and accessible. The required changes have now been made and an invoice for payment will be presented under agenda item 11.

10. Public Attendance:

No members of the public were in attendance.

Cllr Taylor read out a note which he had received from Ms Susan Clarke who wished to inform the Parish Council that ivy/brambles have now been cleared away from the mile stone situation on the grass verge near to her paddock gate. The mile stone is now visible but requires attention and Ms Clarke was liaising directly with DCC's Traffic Assets in order to progress this matter.

11. Approval of Payment of Accounts:

The Clerk reported the Council's insurance policy is due for renewal on 12th April 2019. Renewal documentation has now been received and both the cover and premium staying with the existing insurer will remain the same as for 2018/19. **It was AGREED to renew the Council's insurance policy with Zurich Municipal.**

The Clerk reported the following accounts required payment:

- Design365 (website updates) £52.52
- Design365 (website changes as per agenda item 9) £66.00
- Zurich Municipal (insurance renewal) £257.60

AGREED: Cllrs Taylor and Cook signed the cheques.

ACTION: The Clerk to issue cheques.

12. Date and Time of Next Two Meetings:

AGREED as Thursday 11th April 2019 and Thursday 9th May 2019 (Note: The May meeting will also be the date for the Parish Meeting and AGM).

Meeting closed at 7.45p.m.

Dr Jane Ayre (Parish Clerk)