Minutes of Westlinton Parish A.G.M. and Open Meeting held in Blackford School on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 7pm.

1. Apologies: John Wharton, Helen Forrester and Tim Pickstone.
2. Present: David Coulthard, Fiona Kay, Ian Hewson, Stephen Nicholson, Alex Forbes and the clerk.
3. Election of Office Bearers: David was re-elected Chairman. Proposed by Alex and seconded by Fiona. John had indicated he was willing to remain vice-chair and he was duly re-elected. Proposed by Ian and seconded by Stephen.
4. Declarations of interest: There were none.
5. Minutes of last meeting: Read and agreed.
6. Matters arising: A committee had organized a BBQ and celebration for the coronation of King Charles on Sunday 7th May at the school. It had been well attended and everyone enjoyed themselves in good weather. A small charge had been levied and this totally covered the costs with some leftover. The committee of ladies had suggested that a tree be purchased and planted in the churchyard to mark the coronation with the money. The PC thought that was a good idea. The clerk had distributed the forms for elections to all the councillors but as the number of proposals was less than places available an election did not need to take place. The completed acceptance of office and other forms were given to the clerk who said she would hand them in.
7. Accounts: All the councillors had copies of the accounts and accepted the accounts that had been internally audited by a qualified accountant. The AGAR forms and certificate of exemption were duly filled in and signed. The clerk/RFO will see that they are displayed on the website. At a wind farm meeting, Cumbria Community foundation had recommended that those parishes/councils involved should have a Financial Safeguarding policy. The clerk had brought a copy of the one we use for all to look at and it was deemed fit for purpose still and was adopted again. The clerk asked that cheques could be authorised for Calc. Subscription £160-52 and for Zurich Ins premium £196-00. These were authorized.
8. Wind Farm Grants: As we still have money left from our parish allocation, CCF had said that although £2,000 was limit for any 1 application more could be used for costlier projects in consultation with them. It was suggested that we ask if money could be spent on the Headstone for the Garden of Rememberance planned for the churchyard. The clerk will liaise with the grants officer.
9. Planning: There have been no new planning applications for consideration but several people in the parish and on the council have expressed growing concerns over the Greenmeadow’s development. The size of the park and the light pollution and increase in traffic is having an impact on the village. The clerk had been sent pictures by some of the residents on the park showing raw sewerage bubbling up through the manholes. She recommended the residents to send these to environmental health as the parish council has no power to intervene in these matters. The PC had raised objections to the planning when the conditions for screening of the site and installing a fit for purpose sewerage system were removed. The new councillor, Tim Pickstone, had made a visit to the planning department to look into the matter. It was felt that advice was needed on how to tackle the growing concerns of locals and the clerk was asked to contact CALC on this matter. Perhaps an open meeting for parish residents could be held.
10. Highways: The clerk had been asked about the poor state of the white lines and general conditions of the A7. It is believed that Balfour Beatty have the contract for the trunk road and they should be asked when improvements will take place.
11. A.O.B. It was asked who had the key for the Parish Noticeboards. The clerk has several keys and is willing to put any notices in if asked to do so. Our website is a simple one and it was asked if we should spend some of the wind farm pot on an upgrade to the site so that it could be more interactive. This will be looked into.

Meeting closed at 8pm. The next meeting will be arranged at a later date.