

beDraft minutes of Westlinton Parish Council Meeting held online through Teams on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies; Robert Murray
2. Present: Fiona Kay, John Wharton, Helen Forester, Hudson Gray, David Coulthard, Stephen Nicholson, Karen Wood (a parish resident) and the clerk.
3. Declarations of Interest: DC declared an interest in item 7 planning applications.
4. Minutes of last meeting: Accepted.
5. Matters arising; Council's views on Green Meadows seem to have been ignored. Val Tarbitt had suggested we contact our city councillor, David Shepherd, He was very supportive and voted against the application but it was passed. He has taken matters up with Trading Standards and has involved the Council Tax people. He has met with the head of planning and will follow up issues with the sewerage system and surface water flowing over the A7. New entrance to The Hill not the same as the plans the council were shown but the case officer sent the clerk plans showing as it is now.
6. Accounts: A cheque was authorized for the clerk's wages of £550. There were no other expenses as we only used the school once and have agreed with the school that we will roll that over to the next financial year. The council agreed that John Collier would be asked to do the internal audit of the accounts. An application was received by the clerk from a resident in Newtown to help combat the litter programme. He asked if some of the wind farm money could be used to purchase 2 litter bins-one at the school and one in Newtown. He would get them trade (he is a builder). He would fit them and would empty them. He has been in touch with the school to get their approval. He thought they would be about £150 each. The council approved this and the clerk will contact Mr. Addison to go ahead. As some schemes that had been approved have not been able to go ahead due to Covid 19 restrictions there is plenty of money left.
7. Planning applications: Firbank, Westlinton. DC had declared an interest in this application and therefore took no part in the discussion that followed. As no plans are sent out at the moment the councillors had been asked to look at the plans online. A discussion followed and the clerk was asked to forward their views to the case officer. It was felt the development was more of a commercial development rather than a domestic extension. Would this involve change of use from domestic to business use. A new access and the size of the development was not justified and there was very little actual detail.
Another notification had come in about a field between Newtown and Blackdyke. The clerk will notify councillors when plans have been released.

8. A.O.B.: The footpath between the church and Blackford Bridge is very overgrown and the width of the footpath is almost half of what it should be. The clerk was asked to contact Highways and our councillor to see if this can be addressed. There are weeds right along the footpath past the school and the church. 2 of the councillors(who have spraying licences) said they would spray the weeds during the Easter break. Complaints had been received about the new bus shelter obscuring the vision for getting out onto A7 at the church. The clerk said that it complies with all the regulations and had in fact been set further back than the previous one. There is water lying on the road from Barrockstown to Westlinton and seems to be coming from the substation. The clerk was asked to report it to Highways.

Robert is not well and the clerk had taken part in the Zoom Hallburn Wind Farm meeting in his place. There will be a Beckburn meeting coming soon and the clerk wondered if one of the other councillors would like to take Robert's place if he is not well by then. DC said he would be willing to.

The AGM should take place in May and hopefully restrictions may be lifted by then so the council can meet in person. A date will be chosen nearer the end of May.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm. HF was thanked for setting the Teams meeting up.