Westlinton Parish Council A.G.M. and Open meeting held in Blackford School on3rd May 2022 at 7pm.

Present: David Coulthard, Helen Forrester, Ian Hewson, Fiona Kay, Alex Forbes, Stephen Nicholson and the clerk. There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies: John Wharton.
2. Election of Office Bearers: DC was re-elected Chairman and JW was re-elected as vice-chair in his absence. Alan Harty has expressed a wish to join the council but as he works for the City Council he felt he should make sure there would be no conflict of interests before attending a meeting.
3. Declaration of Interests: There were none.
4. Minutes of last meeting: Read and approved.
5. Matters arising: JW was to give an update on the Jubilee celebrations but as he is stuck in traffic this wont happen. The clerk has had no feedback from John Mallinson about Greenmeadows Country Park.
6. Accounts: Everyone was given a copy of the balance sheet for last year’s accounts and shown the internal Audit form completed by John Collier. The Agar and Exemption Certificate were filled in and signed in the appropriate boxes by the RFO and the chairman. The current Financial Regulations and the Financial Risk assessment policy were re-adopted as fit for purpose. DC said he felt that the clerk’s salary should be increased and the council agreed. This will rise to £600 this year. Cheques were authorized for CALC membership £147.26 and Zurich Insurance renewal £196.00.
7. Wind Farm Grants: The clerk had attended the recent Beck Burn Panel meeting as DC was unable to attend. The awards were granted in accordance with the recommendations made by the grants officer for Cumbria Community Foundation who manage the fund. Questions were asked about the kind of things that could be funded and DC gave a brief explanations and electronically sent members copies of the last round of applications. We currently have a large amount of money sat in our parish pot because Covid restrictions meant many of the planned awards were unable to go ahead. A new poster outlining what can be awarded has been sent and will go in the noticeboards and on the facebook page. Something like a tennis court would be an asset for the school and the community and enquiries will be made into this.
8. Planning Applications: There was only one. Appn 22/0326 for Lynegarth, Westlinton. The council were quite happy with this. Clerk to respond to the case officer.
9. Highways: Questions were asked about the concrete blocks at Blackford Bridge. This is a temporary repair till the stone masons can repair the sandstone bridge even though it was 2 and a half years since it was hit by a car. The clerk has reported the poor state of the road at the junction opposite the church. HF asked about the cast iron sign post arm that was hit at the Barrockstown junction. The previous chairman had handed it into to the highways but it was never replaced until recently when an out of character fresh arm has been put up. Ring highways to see what happened to the original one. People in Newtown have asked about a footpath to the school and this was discussed at the last meeting. The city councillor had said that it was too expensive to consider and the PC would be in favour they do not have the funding to provide one.
10. Meeting Open: As no parishioners had attended, no comments were made.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm