**Woolsington Parish Council**

Minutes of a meeting of Woolsington Parish Council

held in The Gala Field on Wednesday 11th March 2020

Present: Councillor G. Pattison (Chairman)

 Councillors J. Couchman, B. Hunter, L. Kennedy, J. Littleton and

 L. McGuinness,

In attendance: I Humphries - Clerk

 A Richardson – Clerk elect

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| **53.****54.****55.****56.****57.****58.****59.****60.****61.****62.****63.** | **Apologies for absence**Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Pattison, Pendleton, Robinson, Sabarre, Thomas and Wright.**Minutes**The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 29 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.**Replacement of Clerk**Member welcomed Andrew Richardson to the meeting and confirmed the decision of the interview panel that Andrew be appointed as Clerk to the Council on NJC pay scale point 23 commencing 1st April 2020**Grant Application – School Book Scheme**As the representative of the school was unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.**Newcastle International Airport**Members were aware of the invitation to the Airport to attend the meeting to discuss the Airport’s Master Plan proposals, and as yet Mr Mason had been unable to attend.However, moving forward, the Airport has agreed that at future meetings of Newcastle International Airport Consultative Committee, the Chair will ask representatives of all Parish Councillors in attendance, and if the need arises, to pass on information to their own Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council would then consider if it would like a representative of the Airport to come and discuss these matters in more detail, and make a request accordingly.**Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan**Members congratulated councillors Littleton and Couchman on a successful year, noting the photographs that had been circulated. It was suggested these be uploaded to the website.Councillor Littleton outlined the plans for the next year suggesting that the finances for the Bio Plan be identified separately within the Council accounts. Members also discussed the benefits of electronic banking and the advantage to purchasing bulbs etc. by a card payment process and asked the Clerk to introduce a suitable financial process.A discussion ensued regarding the siting of the three remaining bird boxes with members agreeing that local schools would benefit most. Councillor Littleton agreed to contact the schools.It was reported that the Head Gardner at Sovereign Lodge had agreed to plant and maintain the area outside the Lodge grounds a cost of £337. Members welcomed this working partnership.The Chair undertook to highlight the work undertaken by the Parish Council in promoting bio-diversity with the City Council in the hope that the City Council would also undertake and promote similar activity elsewhere within the city. **Neighbourhood Plan**In the absence of councillor Sabarre, it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.**Planning Matters**The Chair and councillor Hunter declared a non-pecuniary interest and took no part in the discussions about the following planning item.Councillor Kennedy, Vice Chair took the chair for this item.2020/0004/01/DET Willow Stream, Main Road, Woolsington. Members considered the objection submitted by the ward councillors for Woolsington and Bankfoot and endorsed the objection.Further consideration was given to the planning consultation process adopted by the Parish Council and concern was expressed about the lack of applications for consultation being received by the Clerk for circulation to members. Councillor Couchman informed the meeting that she had received a copy of 11 Planning Applications since the last meeting held on the 29th January 2020. The clerk confirmed that none had been posted to the WPC email address Woolsingtonpc@gmail.com. The Clerk undertook to check the email account before offering Planners an alternative method of communication.Councillor Littleton informed the meeting that discussions had been held with representatives of the Planning Department and that Kath Lawless has offered to hold a special `one-off course` half a day for WPC members to help them in understanding the planning system, the expectations re responses, and the rules for seeking extensions. It was agreed that communications between Planning Control and Woolsington Parish Council would also be discussed at this meeting**Website**The Clerk identified a problem with items failing to be uploaded to the website. The Chair undertook to contact councillor Sabarre, who had undertaken to administer the website on the Parish Council’s behalf.**Accounts for Payment**Approval was given to the purchase of a new laptop for use by the incoming Clerk prior to the next meeting and the following payment – £Clerk Salary Feb/March 522.94**Date of next meeting**The next meeting, the Annual meeting of the Parish followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish council was scheduled for Wednesday 13 May 2020 at the Gala Field Community Centre at 7.00pm. Chairman …………………….Date ……………………. |