

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

**Present:** Councillors B. Henderson (Chair), M. Henderson, T. Parkinson, E. Swift, E. Todd, K. Quigley, P. Cowan, O. Wilson

**Also Present:** A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), Anne Yuill, Victoria Gibson

**Apologies:**

**Declaration of interest:** None

**34/18 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**35/18 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic**

Councillor Quigley to attend the next PACT meeting. Following the purchase of speed check signs speed checks are to be carried out within the village.

**2. Youth Club**

No further information at this time regarding the re-establishment of the Youth Club.

**3. Pathway 156**

Pathway has now been cleared and Councillors are happy with the work that has been done.

**4. Ideas for future projects**

**Village signs**

Ownership of the land where Parish Council wish to erect the new village signs has been established. Someone from Weardale Railways will visit when the sign next to the railway platform is erected to make sure it does not block the view of the railway warning lights. Hence the need for the removal of the old salt bin. The new signs are to be classed as advertising therefore there is a planning application cost of £462 for both signs. There is a waiting time of 8 to 12 weeks for the application to go through the planning process.

Councillor Cowan asked after consulting the Parish Plan will the signs be best positioned for all the village residents thinking about the West End and Engineman's Terrace. Chairman showed Councillors drawings of the proposed signs. Councillor Cowan suggested that an agreement should be

drawn up stating that the Parish Council has permission to erect signs so that the landowners cannot withdraw permission in the future.

**It was resolved:**

It was felt that there should be public consultation with regard to the positioning of these signs. Drawings of the signs and details about their positioning to be put in the Witton Word.

**Lights on the village green for Christmas**

Councillor Wilson made Councillors aware of an organisation called Lighting up the Dale. She said she would like to attend their next meeting to get ideas on how we could get Christmas lights on the village green.

**Work to trees on the village green**

Councillor Swift asked whether we could bring in a contractor to look at the trees on the village. They are in need of some maintenance. Clerk made members aware that as the village green belongs to the County Council therefore they should be contacted and made aware of the work that needs doing.

**It was resolved:**

Councillor Swift to contact Durham County Council and ask whether they would be willing to carry out this work.

**Repairs to the white fence at the bottom of the village green**

Chairman informed Councillors that Durham County Council were not willing to paint this fence but did agree to supply the paint.

**It was resolved:**

Chairman to source someone to paint this fence.

Councillor Cowan suggested that ideas for future village projects should be mention during next months AGM this would give residents a chance to put their ideas across.

**5. Village fayre / Afternoon Tea**

As this event is not going to be organised by the Parish Council then it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

**6. Village Tidy**

The annual village tidy was carried out on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

36/18

**Representation by Residents**

None

**37/18 Financial Statement and report**

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £10488.06 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. Clerk made Councillors aware that as the Receipt and Payment account up to 3<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 will be used in next months annual report he has shown earmarked reserves for future projects

A Receipt and Payments Account is attached to these minutes. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 195 – 194 as follows:

195 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk – April Salary)	£118.50
196 –	Eli Press (Witton Word)	£158.08
197 –	Eli Press (Witton at War)	£ 97.42
198 -	SE Landscaping Ltd (Enviro)	£648.00
	Total	£1022.00

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

**38/18 Planning Matters**

Victoria Gibson the new owner of Tyvonnay gave Councillors an overview of the current planning application and how the original application was required to be changed.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed not to send in any further objections and to leave the final decision in the hands of Durham County Council Planning Department.

**39/18 Clerks/Correspondence**

Clerk informed Councillors that he needs to attend a training session about the new General Data Protection Regulations.

**40/18 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**

Nothing to report at this time.

**41/18 Members Reports**

Councillors have been asked by residents to report on the following matters:-

Councillors agreed to send Mr & Mrs Jones a Thank You card for organising the Annual Village Tidy. There will also be an article in the Witton Word thanking them.

A villager mentioned that the grassed area around the bottoms of lamp posts or the base of a tree has been sprayed causing the grass to die which now looks untidy. They asked whether these areas could be reseeded. Chairman said it is done by the County Council so that these areas do not have to be trimmed.

The village Junior School are keen to put an article in the Witton Word.

There have been a number of complaints about the drain at the bottom of Cemetery bank which is constantly blocked causing severe flooding every time it rains heavily.

The village Junior School is to provide 8 Nursery places for a total of thirty hours per week.

**42/18 Chairman's Report**

**Road Repairs**

Several potholes on village roads have repaired but some have been washed out within days.

**Tree in Cemetery**

Chairman to contact Durham County about a tree in the cemetery that needs trimming back.

**Land between the railway platform and the level crossing**

This area will be sprayed with weedkiller and as the soil is so bad it was suggested that wildflower seeds be spread over the area.

**Clerk Salary**

Chairman received an email from the National Association of Local Councils showing a proposed pay rise for Parish Council Clerks. Chairman proposed a pay rise to £11 per hour and this was agreed.

**43/18 Any other business**

None

**44/18 Date and Time of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May, **2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:52 p.m.