

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 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

**Also Present:** A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), P. Cowan,

**Apologies:** O. Wilson

**Declaration of interest:** None

**23/18 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**24/18 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic**

Councillor Todd has purchased 3 orange Community Speed Watch signs similar to those used by Etherley Parish Council. Councillors agreed that we should refund the cost of these signs. These signs could be put up and then taken down after a short period of time on a regular basis.

**2. Youth Club**

Chairman has spoken to Lynne Docherty, who informed him that she has been in contact with Angelina Maddison from Weardale AAP. The time for obtaining funding is running out.

**3. Witton Word – Editor’s Letter**

John Wheeler has asked that a meeting between him and the Parish Council is held over until after the publication of the March Witton Word. Mr Wheeler had also notified the Chairman that there had been complaints that Letters in the January issue of the Witton Word had not been answered.

**It was resolved:**

Chairman said he would write to Mr Wheeler and remind him that the Parish Council must see the draft publication of the Witton Word at least 5 days before it is sent to be printed and that the Parish Council retains ownership of the village magazine.

**4. Land between Railway Platform and Level Crossing.**

Councillor Swift informed members that this area is to be sprayed with weedkiller in the Spring. No planting can begin until at least the first two weeks of May. Anne Yuill has extended a warm invitation to all Councillors who would like to help with the planting of flowers and shrubs.

There is some more creosoting to do. Councillor Swift has contacted Anne Yuill and asked her to do a costing for the plants they might require. Chairman told Councillors that the Weardale Railway Trust is going to complete the platform. There is a new timetable and trains will start running at the end of March. There are plans to re-establish the railway line to Bishop Auckland.

**It was resolved:**

The contractor has asked to meet the people who are going to plant the flowers in order to give them some advice. Councillors agreed to give the volunteers a budget of £500 for flowers and shrubs. Councillor Swift has contacted Anne Yuill and asked her to do a costing for the plants they might require.

**5. Pathway 156**

Clerk informed members that he had spoken to Scott Elwood from SE Landscaping Ltd asking for an update on the work to Pathway 156 and was informed that all the work should hopefully be completed by 16<sup>th</sup> March. Work had had to be put back due to the recent inclement weather. If the work is completed by the end of March then the funding we have available, that should have been used for the 3<sup>rd</sup> strim of the public rights of way, can be used for this work instead.

**6. Ideas for future projects**

**Village signs**

Chairman informed members that he has been to see the person responsible for the Weardale Railway about the siting of the village sign near the railway platform. He liked the sign but his only concern was that it did not impinge on the flashing lights. The Chairman suggested to members putting the sign on the flat part of the lay-by near the salt bin. As long as the sign is not 6ft high it would not be in the sight line of the flashing lights for motor vehicles.

He has also been in contact with Durham County Council Assets Dept. after finding out who owns the land where the other signs are to be placed. This was done with the help of Philip Cowan.

**Installation of Personal Rescue Equipment (PRE) next to the river**

Clerk informed Councillors that he had emailed the Public Rights of Way Dept at County Hall to ask advice about installing PRE next to the river. He had received a response to say that an assessment would need to be done to decide what, if any, equipment is appropriate at the required location. Durham County Council would charge £500 to conduct this assessment.

The message was that installing and maintaining such equipment was not something to be undertaken lightly.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed that the installation of such equipment should be left to Durham County Council.

**Repairs to the fence next to the village green**

The fence at the bottom of the village green needs filling and repainting.

**It was resolved:**

It was agreed to get quotes for this work once the weather improves.

**7. Village fayre**

The Chairman was to attend the Community Association meeting to discuss who was going to organise this year's village fayre but unfortunately the meeting was cancelled twice. Councillor Henderson therefore contacted Clarice Smith to say he felt that it is now too late to organise a village fayre but an afternoon tea could be held in the Community Centre with entertainment provided by the Village Voices. There are also plans for a raffle with some fantastic prizes.

**25/18 Representation by Residents**  
None

**26/18 Financial Statement and report**  
Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £11,845.36 as at 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. Clerk informed Councillors that the last day of the current financial year is 31<sup>st</sup> March. He will prepare an annual Receipts and Payments statement ready for the next meeting. A VAT Return can then be prepared to claim back the VAT paid during the year.

A Receipt and Payments Account is attached to these minutes. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 191 – 194 as follows:

191 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk – March Salary)	£118.50
192 -	Eli Press (Witton Word)	£193.32
193 -	CDALC GDPR Session	£ 27.00
194 -	Community speed watch signs	<u>£ 72.00</u>
	Total	£410.82

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

**27/18 Planning Matters**  
Chairman has been discussing the positioning of the proposed village signs with the District Planning Officer.

- 28/18 Clerks/Correspondence**  
Clerk has received the necessary form required to apply for funding to trim the paths within the Parish. Three cuts should cost approximately £1600. SE Landscaping have agreed to do this work in 2018-19 at the same price as the previous year.
- 29/18 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**  
Nothing to report at this time.
- 30/18 Members Reports**  
Nothing to report at this time.
- 31/18 Chairman's Report**  
Councillor Henderson told members he would be preparing the Annual Report ready for next month's meeting. Once complete he would email the report to members asking for feedback.
- Village Tidy**  
Chairman contacted Ursula and Brian Jones who do the annual village tidy after receiving an email from Steve Ragg. Clerk asked whether the village school could be involved in this year's village tidy as this is what happens in other Parishes. Chairman stated that the majority of pupils come from outside the village and therefore this would not happen.
- Councillor Todd stated that he felt the School should be more involved in village life and could possibly provide some content for the Witton Word.
- Witton Word**  
Chairman proposed getting quotes to print the Witton Word as an A5 booklet.
- 32/18 Any other business**  
None
- 33/18 Date and Time of the next Meeting**  
The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April, **2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 6:55 p.m.