

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

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

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

**Apologies:** E. Swift,

**Declaration of interest:** None

**78/19 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**79/19 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic**

Community Speed watch signs have been put back by Councillor Todd. Clerk informed Councillors he had received an email from David Battensby, Traffic Assets Senior Engineer at Durham County Council stating that he was happy to add the recovery of road markings i.e. SLOW signs to the maintenance programme. Although this will be held over until the next financial year as this work is normally carried out during the Spring / Summer months.

**2. Parking on cemetery bank**

A vehicle that is parked on Cemetery Bank is still causing problems. The Police have been active in Frosterley putting notices on illegally parked cars. If this problem persists contacting the Police may be an option.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to the owner of the vehicle asking him to park on the other side of the road.

**3. Gate on public footpath near Little Marshall Green Farm**

The stile has still not yet been removed.

**4. It's Your Neighbourhood grant.**

Councillor Cowan has received a price of £130 per 1000 bulbs from Lanchester Garden Centre through Durham County Council. He has also received further offers from possible volunteers. It may be possible to plant bulbs at the west end of the village and the area around the railway platform. It is hoped to plant the bulbs at the beginning of November.

**5. Lights for the Village Green**

Chairman has now received an invoice from Durham County Council for the electrical connection on the village green to be able to supply Christmas lights. The final price was £4745.27

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to go ahead with this project.

## 6. Website

Anne Yuill kindly provided the Clerk with historical photographs of Witton le Wear for the website. All that is needed now is up to date photographs. The Clerk asked whether the children who attend the Youth Club could provide photographs. This could be done as a photography competition on a seasonal basis.

## 7. Problems reported to Durham County Council and Environment Agency

Clerk updated Councillors about 3 problems reported to the Parish Council by residents.

- **Narrow bridge on road just off A68.** Still awaiting signage to be installed. Problem originally reported November 2018.
- **Black path between the rear entrance of the School and the Church**  
Clerk asked the public rights of way department at Durham County Council to inspect this path, but it seems it had been cleared by residents when they got there.
- **Cars parked on either side of the opening opposite the Dun Cow.**  
Chairman contacted Durham County Council and asked that signage be installed as a matter of urgency as there are a lot of elderly people live in that area. Signs have now been installed.

## 8. Parking on the road outside Low Barns Nature Reserve

At least 12 tyres have been dumped on council land opposite the entrance to Low Barns Nature Reserve. Durham County Council have asked for photographic evidence of cars parked on the road opposite the Nature Reserve before they are able to do anything.

### It was resolved:

Councillor Todd to speak to the manager of the Nature Reserve to see if they have reported the dumped tyres to Durham County Council and to see if they have any photographic evidence of cars parked on Low Road.

## 9. Defibrillator for School

Councillor B Henderson informed Councillors that the defibrillator has been installed. It seems that no help with funding was required.

## 80/19 Representation by Residents

None.

## 81/19 Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £13,490.10 as at 30th September 2019.

Councillors agreed to transfer the money to pay for the electrical installation from the Deposit Account into the Current Account. The Parish Council can reclaim the VAT of £790.88 from this transaction but will not receive it until April 2020.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 271 – 274 as follows:

|       |  |                  |
|-------|--|------------------|
| 271 – | Glasdon UK Ltd                             | £ 37. 87         |
| 272 – | Durham County Council (Electricity Supply) | £4745. 27        |
| 273 – | Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary September)       | £ 230. 30        |
| 274 – | HMRC PAYE                                  | <u>£ 47. 20</u>  |
|       | Total                                      | <u>£5060. 64</u> |

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

**82/19**

**Planning Matters**

No relevant planning applications.

**83/19**

**Clerks Correspondence**

**Remembrance Sunday**

Clerk reminded Councillors of the need to order the wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to order a wreath from the Royal British Legion and donate £25.

**VAT Training session**

Clerk informed Councillors that he attended a VAT training event at Shotton Hall. Clerk notified Councillors that all invoices must be made out in the name of the Parish Council in order that any VAT can be reclaimed.

**84/19**

**Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**

Councillor Cowan has spoken to Durham County Council to ask what support they would give and to see if there is any funding available. Their response was useful in that he was told that there is currently no need for Parish Councils to have Parish Plans anymore and they prefer Neighbourhood Plans which is a detailed, planning focused, community engaged plan.

**It was resolved:**

There is a meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October to further discuss the preparation of a Parish / Neighbourhood Plan.

**85/19**

**Members Reports**

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

**Hanging Baskets**

Councillor M Henderson to telephone Thinford Nurseries to ask them to remove and store the hanging baskets.

**Defibrillator**

Councillor Quigley felt there are too many books in the telephone box where the defibrillator is stored. He was also concerned that the defibrillator was not working properly and should be checked.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed that the books stored in the Telephone Box make it difficult to access the defibrillator and should therefore be moved to the Community Centre. Clerk

to contact Paul Brolly at the North East Ambulance Service and ask him to confirm that the defibrillator is working properly.

**Christmas Banners**

Clerk reminded members of the need to set a date to hang the Christmas Banners.

**It was resolved**

Councillor Todd offered the use of his scissor lift to hang the Christmas Banners.

**86/19 Chairman's Report**

**Building work carried out at the west end of the village**

Chairman has been made aware of work to clear land at the west end of the village. This has been done without planning permission. A planning enforcement officer from Durham County Council attended the area and now no further work can be carried out until planning permission is given.

**New Councillor**

Chairman has received two letters from residents who have expressed interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

**It was resolved**

Chairman to arrange a date with other Councillors to interview these residents

**87/19 Any other business**

None

**88/19 Date and Time of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January **2020** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:05 p.m.