

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 9th September 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), A. Yuill

Apologies: E. Swift,

Declaration of interest: None

78/19 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 8th July 2019.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

79/19 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Clerk emailed Brian Buckley of Durham County Council regarding the increase in traffic through Witton le Wear some of which is heavy goods vehicles caused by the closure of Witton Park Bridge. He received an email from the Traffic Assets Senior Engineer who explained that traffic calming measures cannot always be provided due to limited funding and resources which have to be directed to those locations with the greatest requirement. Councillors felt that the reply was unprofessional, made assumptions and was harsh in its tone.

Councillors agreed to ask the County Council to reinstate the **SLOW** road signs that have been worn away on the village roads.

It was resolved:

Clerk to email the Traffic Assets Senior engineer asking that the **SLOW** signs be reinstated.

2. Parking on cemetery bank

Nothing further to report currently.

3. Gate on public footpath near Little Marshall Green Farm

There have been no complaints about the stile that is currently in place.

It was resolved:

Councillor Todd to speak to Colin Longstaff about the gate.

4. It's Your Neighbourhood grant.

Councillor Cowan has been in contact with Durham County Council who have informed him it is the right time to order the bulbs. The estimated cost for the planting of the bulbs is £1000 which will include the cost of hiring machinery. The Parish Council received a grant from DCC of £500 which needed to be match funded. The Brownies have offered to help plant bulbs but more volunteers are needed.

It was resolved:

Councillor Cowan to purchase the bulbs from Durham County Council. An article is to be put in the Witton Word requesting volunteers.

5. Operation London Bridge

Councillors agreed to purchase a book of condolence from Amazon to meet the requirements of Operation London Bridge being the event of the death of the Queen or Prince Philip.

It was resolved:

Clerk to purchase a book of condolence.

6. Lights for the Village Green

The quote for the installation of the electricity supply for lights on the village green has gone up to £3,295 plus VAT. The extra cost being for the metered service connection to Northern Grid and the traffic management required during installation. VAT can be reclaimed.

7. Website

Anne Yuill said she might be able to provide some historical photographs of Witton le Wear for the Parish Council website.

8. Sponsorship of plant tubs

Councillors agreed to put off getting the signs for the plant tubs until early next year. The defibrillator signs for the telephone box have been installed.

9. 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.

- **Broken gate to the footpath by the level crossing**
Gate has now been repaired.

- **Debris on the upstream side of the old bridge.**
Environment Agency replied to Clerks email stating that the root ball washed up against the bridge abutment is not a cause for concern due to a low risk of blockage and flood risk to properties in the area. We have confidence that this vegetation will be washed downstream during the next high rainfall.

10. Witton Park Bridge

Chairman informed members the plans for work to be carried out on Witton Park Bridge are to go to Cabinet in February next year for consideration.

11. Parking on the road outside Low Barns Nature Reserve

Clerk received an email from Jim Cokill from Durham Wildlife Trust regarding traffic parked on Low Lane outside the Nature Reserve. They have raised the issue with Durham County Council and were informed that DCC do not consider the parking on Low Lane a problem. The Trust cannot stop people parking on the road if they do not want to use their car park.

It was resolved:

Clerk to contact Durham County Council to raise this problem of cars parked on Low Lane.

80/19

Representation by Residents

Anne Yuill – Witton le Wear Heritage Group

Anne informed the Parish Council that the Heritage Group is being awarded a grant of £3,700 from Northern Heartlands Community Initiative Fund which is to be used for several creative projects including: -

1. Village voices £500.
2. £1500 for the provision of story boards for the village. These will show historical information about the village. This project will be run by Paul Parsons with the help of residents.
3. Creative arts project which may possibly be a collage or map which represents the Parish but this is a blank canvas at the moment.
4. £1500 has been allocated to work with young people and more information will be forthcoming as there are some exciting ideas circulating

All projects to be completed by March 2020.

81/19

Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £14,002.29 as at 31st August 2019.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 265 – 270 as follows:

265 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary September)	£ 172. 40
266 –	HMRC PAYE	£ 38. 60
267 –	Eli Press	£ 133. 20
268 –	SE Landscaping Ltd	£ 612. 00
269 –	Derwent Vinyls Ltd	£ 36. 00
270 –	Amazon – Book of condolence	<u>£ 29. 99</u>
	Total	<u>£1022. 19</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

82/19

Planning Matters

Please find below relevant planning application: -

DM/19/01832/FPA

Mr Allan Binks

3 The Paddock
Witton-le-Wear
Bishop Auckland
DL14 0GA

The Parish Council neither agrees with or objects to this planning application.

83/19 Clerks Correspondence

Black path between the rear entrance of the School and the Church

A resident has emailed the Clerk concerned that this path is in dire need of attention due to a build-up of leaves and overhanging vegetation.

It was resolved:

Clerk to contact the PROW Department of Durham County Council asking whether this path could be strimmed.

84/19 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

There is an open day at the Community Centre to showcase the events that happen in the Community Centre on the 12 and 13 October. The Community Association are happy for the Parish Council to use this event to get feedback from residents about Parish Plan issues.

It was resolved:

Councillor Cowan to put an article in the Witton Word about the next Parish Plan meeting.

85/19 Members Reports

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

Defibrillator for School

Councillor Cowan asked that we contact Lynne Doherty to find out how the fundraising is going to purchase a defibrillator for the School. Lynne is aware that the Parish Council have offered to make a contribution towards the required amount.

It was resolved:

Chairman to contact Lynne to find out whether any help with funding is required.

Dog Bin bags

Councillor B Henderson requested that the Parish Council purchase more dog waste bags for the dog waste bag dispenser.

It was resolved:

Clerk to purchase more dog waste bags from Glasdon Uk.

86/19 Chairman's Report

Cars parked on either side of the opening opposite the Dun Cow.

Residents have complained about cars parked on either side of this opening making access difficult. Chairman has reported this problem to Durham County Council requesting that no parking signs be installed.

Resignation of Trevor Parkinson as Councillor

Chairman informed Councillors that Trevor Parkinson has resigned as a Parish Councillor. He felt that he no longer had enough free time to carry his duties.

It was resolved:

Councillor Quigley to take over the monthly defibrillator checks.

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 11th November **2019** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:30 p.m.