

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), A Gladwin (Durham Wildlife Trust)

Apologies: K. Quigley

Declaration of interest: None

67/18 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 11th June, 2018.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

68/18 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Nothing to report at this time.

2. Tidying of the land around the level crossing.

After taking advice from the contractor it was felt that the area needs spraying with weed killer again. There are plans to plant daffodil bulbs along the edge of the area in late summer time and sow wildflower seeds next Spring.

3. Youth Club

The Parish Council have received a letter from the Weardale Area Action Partnership regarding a request to provide Youth provision within Witton Le Wear. The AAP work with an external body as they no longer fund provision from Durham County Council. The letter asked whether the Parish Council would provide some matched funding to help finance this project. As previously agreed the Parish Clerk notified the AAP that the Parish Council would fund up to £1,500 to enable the provision of a Youth Club.

4. Repair of the notice board at Wear Valley Junction.

Councillor Cowan approached Tim McKellar about repairing this notice board and was told that he could repair it for £100.

It was resolved:

Councillors felt this was good value for money and also meant that other quotes were not needed. It was decided to ask Tim McKellar to carry out this repair.

5. Village signs

In accordance with Financial Regulations the Parish Council now has 3 quotes for the installation of new village signs. The proposed timber signs would cost £250 each.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to purchase the sign to be installed near to the Railway Platform. This sign will act as advertising for the Weardale Railway. Councillors will then be able to receive feedback from residents and then a decision can be made whether to go ahead with the other sign at the next meeting.

6. Support your local Primary School

The new Nursery within the village Primary School are fundraising to purchase furniture and equipment and have written to the Parish Council asking for funding. Councillor Parkinson informed members that there may be furniture available through Durham County Council as furniture previously used within Sure Start centres is now being put into storage.

It was resolved:

Councillor Todd to contact the Nursery to inform them of the availability of this furniture.

7. Trees on the Village Green

Councillor Swift has been in contact with Mr Gillette from Durham County Council to discuss maintenance work required for trees on the Village Green. There is maintenance work planned but because of lack of resources a time scale could not be given for when the work was to be carried out. The Village Green is a conservation area.

Councillor Swift proposed that a report should be done on the health of the trees on the Village Green. She has obtained three quotes.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to get a report prepared. Councillor Cowan to speak to Anne Yuill about the planting of a tree to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War.

8. Grass at the bottom of the Village Green

Durham County Council have sprayed areas around manhole covers, the bottom of trees and lampposts to kill off grass to reduce strimming costs. As the Village Green is on a bank this has caused an erosion of the soil at the bottom of the bank. It was felt that chippings or wood bark may not work.

It was resolved:

Councillors to try and find a solution to this problem during the summer recess.

9. Pathway 156

Clerk informed Councillors that he has received the invoice for the first of three strims. Pathway 156 has been added to the list of paths within the Parish to be strimmed and will be done at no extra cost for the current year.

It was resolved:

It was agreed to wait until the beginning of the next financial year before obtaining new quotes for the Parish Paths strimming work.

10. Planning Sub Committee

Councillors Cowan and Parkinson agreed to monitor the DCC planning portal for new and existing planning applications.

11. Website

Clerk informed Councillors that the website is up and running again and also has a link on it to the Parish Council Facebook page. He stated that he had done a lot of the website design himself just to keep costs down and stated that he was happy to receive ideas on how to improve the website.

It was resolved:

Councillors to review the website over the summer break.

69/18

Representation by Residents

Anne Gladwin from Durham Wildlife Trust gave Councillors details of plans to improve the Visitor Centre at Low Barns Nature Reserve and to ask the Parish Council for their backing to support this project.

The Trust are working on a funding application to North Pennines Leader in order to refurbish and improve the Visitor Centre at Low Barns. If successful, this will include redesigning and redecorating the internal layout of the building to create more flexible space for community use, improving the café and kitchen facilities, changing the car park and traffic flow around the building and improving signage and information across the reserve. We hope that this will improve the community space available for local groups and visitors making Low Barns a more attractive venue for people to visit so they can discover and enjoy seeing wildlife. The Trust is also hoping to get funding from Weardale Area Action Partnership.

Councillors recommended contacting Sherwood Leisure (Witton Castle), David Bellamy and Witton Le Wear Community Association to ask for support.

It was resolved:

Members agreed to support this project. Clerk to write to Anne Gladwin to state that the Parish Council support this project.

70/18

Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £15,874.93 as at 30th June, 2018.

It was resolved:

A Receipt and Payments Account is attached to these minutes. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 208 – 214 as follows:

208 –	Entwine Solutions	£ 160. 00
209 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk – July Salary)	£ 183. 50
210 -	SE Landscaping	£ 612. 00
211 -	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk – August Salary)	£ 128. 50
212 -	Thinford Nurseries	£ 387. 60
213 -	CDALC	£ 27. 00
214 -	Church Path	<u>£1500. 00</u>
	Total	<u>£2998. 60</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct. The £1,500 payable towards the cost of the church path is now due. Clerk to contact Tim Atkins to find out who the cheque should be made payable to.

71/18

Planning Matters

Councillors discussed plans regarding 7 School Street.

It was resolved:

It was agreed to make a comment on the planning portal stating that the Parish Council neither objects to or supports this planning application.

Councillors agreed to discuss planning matters where there can be no influence from interested parties.

72/18

Clerks/Correspondence

Nothing at this time.

73/18

Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Councillor Cowan to have a look at Parish Plans prepared by other local Parish Councils to enable the preparation of a framework.

It was resolved:

Councillor Cowan to present his findings at the next meeting.

74/18

Members Reports

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

Weeds in the village

There are a lot of weeds around village footpaths and gutters. This matter to be reported using the DCC portal.

Witton Word

Closing date for articles in the Witton Word is 20th July.

Fenced off land

A resident has reported land being fenced off that does not belong to the person who has fenced it off. Councillors felt that they did not have the power to stop this happening. Parish Council to contact the Weardale Railway to ask if they were aware of this matter as the land originally belonged to them.

Provision of Dog Poo bags near Railway Platform

As the footpath in this area is a problem area for dog fouling a resident has asked whether the Parish Council would consider providing dog poo bags. Councillor Cowan to get a quote for bags and a dispenser.

Subsidised Transport

A resident has asked whether the Parish Council could help improve transport links within the village. Parish Council to speak to Weardale Railway about possible subsidies for young residents during the school holidays.

Hanging Baskets

A resident made Councillors aware that the Hanging Baskets were not the same standard as in previous years. Councillors felt the plants could be grown by the Allotments Association.

75/18 Chairman's Report
Nothing to report at this time.

76/18 Any other business
None

77/18 Date and Time of the next Meeting
The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 10th September, **2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 8:13 p.m.