

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 10th September, 2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

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

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

Apologies: K. Quigley, E. Todd, O. Wilson

Declaration of interest: None

78/18 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 9th July, 2018.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

79/18 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

There have been further complaints from residents regarding speeding traffic going along School Street and High Street. There have also been parking problems on Station Road which has cause difficulty for wagons going to the slaughterhouse.

Councillors discussed the smell coming from the abattoir wagons.

It was resolved:

Councillor Cowan agreed to speak to the manager at the abattoir to notify him about complaints from residents and ask if anything can be done about the smell.

2. Tidying of the land around the level crossing.

Another weed killing spray will be carried sometime in the next few weeks. The contractor is trying to keep some of the grass. There will be another spray early next year before the wildflower seeds are sown.

3. Battles Over

Nothing to report at this time.

4. Youth Club

The Parish are waiting to hear from Angelina Maddison from Weardale AAP.

5. Repair to the notice board at Wear Valley Junction

Parish Council is waiting for the repair to be carried out.

6. New village signs

Installation of the new village sign has been put on hold until the format of the wording on the sign is agreed. It might be possible to include a notice board underneath the main sign. New sign will have very low maintenance costs.

7. Trees on the Village Green

A report showing the health of the trees on the village green has been prepared during the Summer recess and has been forwarded to the relevant interested parties by Councillor Swift.

8. Website

The Parish Council website is up and running again and is working satisfactorily.

9. Provision of dog poo bags

Councillor Cowan has obtained quotes for a dog poo bag dispenser and bags, for the path next to the railway line. The dispenser has a sign asking dog owners to pick up after their dogs.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to purchase a dispenser and bags. Someone may take more bags than necessary or take out bags and leave them on the floor but it was felt that it was worth doing this to try and stop the dog fouling problem on this footpath.

10. Fenced off land near the Cricket Field

A resident has approached a Councillor about land that has been fenced off near the Cricket Field. It is unclear who owns the land and whether the person had the right to fence off this land. Some of this land be owned by Weardale Railway.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to do a title search to find out who owns this land.

11. Subsidised Transport

There may be a possibility of Weardale Railway offering reduced fares to young people during the school summer holidays.

It was resolved:

Councillor Cowan agreed to speak to Anne Yuill and ask her to broach this topic at the next Weardale Railway board meeting.

12. Hanging Baskets

Councillors were happy with the hanging baskets this year. They have been watered regularly by residents.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to continue using Thinford Nurseries for the hanging baskets and troughs.

13. Bridleway near Engineman's Terrace

The residents responsible for causing the problems on the bridleway have moved. Clerk informed Councillors that he has not received any communication from Durham County Council regarding this matter.

It was resolved:

Councillor Cowan to contact Durham County Council to find out the outcome of the meeting in August.

80/18 Representation by Residents

None

81/18 Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £12,911.33 as at 31st August, 2018.

It was resolved:

A Receipt and Payments Account is attached to these minutes. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 215 – 219 as follows:

215 –	Olivers Tree Services	£ 234. 00
216 –	Eli Press (Witton at War)	£ 97. 42
217 -	Eli Press (Witton Word)	£ 189. 70
218 -	SE Landscaping	£ 612. 00
219 -	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary)	<u>£ 128. 50</u>
	Total	<u>£1261. 62</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct. Clerk informed Councillors that he had received £1,020.00 from Durham County Council being the refund of strimming costs excluding VAT paid to SE Landscaping. The third strim to the parish paths may not be necessary this year.

82/18 Planning Matters

No new planning applications this month.

Bracken Edge revised plans

New plans are completely different to the original proposals that the council objected to. The new plans show the garage as just an extension from the front of the house

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed that they had no objections to the revised plans.

Low Barns Visitor Centre

Councillors agreed to write to the planners stating the Parish Council supports the redevelopment of the visitor centre as it is of benefit to the community.

83/18 Clerks/Correspondence

Nothing at this time.

84/18 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Councillor Cowan explained to Councillors that he had looked at Parish Plans carried out by neighbouring Parish Councils to see what needs to be included in a Parish Plan.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to put an article in the Witton Word advertising that the Parish Council are to go ahead with creating a new Parish Plan in the coming months and would like to know if residents have any issues they think should be included. The article could also ask if any residents would like to help compile the Parish Plan. The article to be put on the website and also on the Parish Council Facebook page.

85/18

Members Reports

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

Community Payback Team

Councillor B Henderson has asked this team to paint the fence on the village green. The paint was supplied by Durham County Council. They have also cut the grass outside the Methodist Chapel.

Church Path

There have been two incidents of people falling on the new Church Path. The path becomes slippery when it rains.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to contact the Church to inform them of problems with the path and ask if there is a non-slip covering to be applied to the path.

Gates on public footpath near Little Marshall Green Farm

A resident has asked whether gates on a public footpath could be repaired by the Parish Council.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to wait and see if a third strim of the public footpaths needs to be done to see if there is any grant left to spend

86/18

Chairman's Report

Chairman proposed the Parish Council write to Durham County Council asking that they stop spraying the bottom of the village green with weed killer as it is killing off the grass and causing erosion to the bankside.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed.

87/18

Any other business

None

88/18

Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 8th October, **2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:46 p.m.