

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 9th October, 2017** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

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

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), L. Bentley (P3)

Apologies: A. Heathcote

Declaration of interest: None

97/17 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 11th September, 2017.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

98/17 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Councillor Quigley made members aware that Ramshaw Village now have a 20mph speed restriction outside their school due to an accident that took place around School time. Some villages operate a Speedwatch initiative to monitor the speed of traffic using equipment available from Crook Police Station. This equipment cannot be used when it is dark and Councillors discussed the possibility of using it next Spring.

2. Cricket Club

Chairman has given the Cricket Club the contact details for the Weardale AAP so that they can apply for a grant for improvements.

3. Church path

There has been a hold up with the creation of the Church path due to the proposed path crossing a resident's land without their permission. This has led to a change in the positioning of part of the path which could incur extra costs.

4. Hanging baskets

Councillors agreed to discuss where to place hanging baskets next year due to the difficulty in finding volunteers to water them.

5. Witton Castle tree felling

Due to the inability to tell the difference between live and dead trees a large number of trees have been felled within the castle grounds, which will now have to be replanted.

6. Children's Skate Park

Chairman has visited Howden-Le-Wear and Crook researching the possibility of children from Witton Le Wear using the facilities in these

villages but felt there may be problems with transport. Within Witton Le Wear it is felt that there is no spare land and a lack of available funds for such a large project which may take some time to complete.

7. Youth Club

Chairman has spoken to Lynn Docherty regarding the reinstatement of the Youth Club. He has also spoken to Angelina Maddison from the Weardale AAP to see if they are willing to help.

8. Electric Car Charging points

Chairman has spoken to Steve Ragg about this government initiative. Funding may be available from Weardale AAP.

9. Leaf Clearance

Chairman to speak to Durham County Council about getting leaves collected. Volunteers may be needed if D.C.C are unable to help.

10. Witton Word – Editor’s Letter

Councillors were unhappy about the Editor of the Witton Word asking for views from “anonymous” residents as they are unable to act on them. Councillors are happy to be approached by residents to discuss their views.

Councillors thought it would be a good idea to have a letter to the Editor page within the Witton Word. This could be used by residents to air their views on what is going on within the village so long as it was not anonymous.

It was felt that there may be too much information about the village church within the Witton Word. This might have better placed in the Church magazine.

It was resolved:

Chairman to Speak to John Wheeler about a “Letter to the Editor” page.

99/17

Representation by Residents

Lynda Bentley from the Parish Paths Partnership spoke to Councillors regarding path 156 which is a public right of way. This path is currently in a poor state and is currently impassable for walkers. P3 have done some work to help clear it. Councillors once again discussed the need to clear the area around the railway platform. Clerk asked that he be allowed to put a map showing the Public Rights of Way within Witton Le Wear on the website.

It was resolved:

Chairman suggested that 2 Councillors could visit, Mr Williams, the landowner to ask him to make this right of way passable.

100/17 Financial Statement and report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £14,047.28 as at 30th September, 2017. Parish Council received the grant for 2 lots of grass cutting. Clerk unsure whether the third cut has been done as he has not yet received an invoice. John Wheeler trying to get paid for adverts in the Witton Word.

Clerk asked Councillors to consider whether the Parish Council should ask for a smaller Precept for the next financial year as this year's precept has currently not been fully used.

A Receipt and Payments Account is attached to these minutes. Councillors agreed payment of invoices 176 to 179 as follows:

176 – Mr A. Dixon (Clerk – September Salary)	£118.50
177 – Donation RBL (Poppy Appeal)	£ 25.00
178 – BDO (External Audit)	£120.00
179 – Eli Press	<u>£241.65</u>
Total	<u>£505.15</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct. Councillors agreed to bring ideas of future projects that could be carried out within the village to the next meeting so that they could be discussed. It was felt that helping the Youth Club would be a good idea once it is up and running again.

Councillor Swift agreed to lay the wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

101/17 Planning Matters

There has been an application for a two-storey extension with balcony at 18 School Street. There has also been an application to remove an ash tree at Broken Banks

102/17 Clerks/Correspondence

Nothing to report at this time.

103/17 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Nothing to report at this time.

104/17 Members Reports

Nothing to report at this time

105/17 Chairman's Report

New bins

Chairman made Councillors aware of 2 new bins, one in St James Gardens and one on the railway platform.

106/17 Any other business

None

107/17

Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 13th November, **2017** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6.15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:31 p.m.