

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 11th September, 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

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), Mr S. McKnight, Mr J. Adamson, Mr A Adamson

Apologies: A. Heathcote, E. Todd

Declaration of interest: None

86/17 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 10th July, 2017.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

87/17 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Councillor Wilson informed members that at the last AAP meeting she spoke to Inspector Tock who told her that Councillors could borrow equipment from Crook Police station to monitor the speed of traffic in the village. Councillor Quigley said we are unable to get speeding alert signs as the traffic problem with the village is not deemed to be bad enough and there have been no fatalities

2. Black Path

No correspondence received for at least 6 months.

It was resolved:

It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

3. Cricket Club

Chairman told Councillors that he had visited the Cricket Club to discuss having a running track around the playing area. There was no interest in this idea. The Cricket Club are considering a ground share with King James which will increase revenue but this may lead to access problems. Councillor Parkinson read a letter from the Cricket Club giving ideas of how to raise their revenue and asking the Parish Council for help to resolve access problems if they were to arise. This could mean requesting access via another path.

It was resolved:

It was agreed that the Cricket Club should exhaust all avenues before the Parish Council could get involved. Chairman agreed to contact the Cricket Club.

4. Village Fayre

Chairman informed members that the village fayre raised £1406.58 which will be given to the Community Association.

5. Village Green

Dealt with in Representation by Residents

88/17

Representation by Residents

Mr McKnight presented the Parish Council with a petition signed by 120 residents and village visitors stating they are against any change to the track across the Village Green. After discussion Councillors voted not to change the Village Green as this is the wish of the village. Councillor Parkinson stated that he was pleased that residents had come to a meeting to show how they felt about the village. Too many times we have no residents attending the Parish Council meetings.

89/17

Financial Statement and report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £13,096.78 as at 31st August, 2017. During the first few days we have received a grant from Durham County Council to cover the cost of strimming the Public Rights of Way within the Parish boundary.

A Receipt and Payments Account is attached to these minutes. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 174 to 175 as follows:

174 – Mr A. Dixon (Clerk – September Salary)	£118.50
175 – CDALC (Councillor Training)	£ 27.00
Total	<u>£145.50</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

90/17

Planning Matters

None to report at this time.

91/17

Clerks/Correspondence

Clerk gave Councillor Swift her certificate for attending Councillor training held at Barnard Castle. Clerk informed Councillors of a grant available to install electric charging points for electric cars.

92/17

Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Nothing to report at this time.

93/17

Members Reports

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

Councillor Wilson informed members of a youth fund that is available from the Weardale Area Action Partnership for youth projects or community based organisations to deliver opportunities to young people 11-19. Matched funding is encouraged. Maximum grant amount is £3000. Councillor Parkinson told Councillors that the village Youth Club has ceased due to the loss of funding from Durham County Council, could the fund be used to help reinstate the youth club.

Seeds and leaves are now falling on paths and covering drains. Is there any way to employ someone to clean the leaves up before they block the drains.

A resident has asked about getting the white wooden railings at the bottom of the village green repainted.

A resident has asked whether the area around the train level crossing could be tidied up.

There have been further problems about dog owners allowing their dogs to poo outside resident's houses and not picking it up. This problem seems to have reduced on the walkway near Little Marshall Green Farm because of the installation of cctv.

A number of residents have asked why in the Witton Word is there no Letter to the Editor page.

It was resolved:

Chairman told Councillors about a new resident in the village who works for the Prison Service. She may be able to organise people who are doing their Community Service to do this work. Chairman to look into getting this work done. It was agreed to get the railings painted in Spring of 2018. Councillors agreed to having a Letter to the Editor page in the Witton Word. Clerk to ask SE Landscaping who currently do the strimming of the Public Rights of Way for a quote to tidy the area around the train level crossing.

94/17

Chairman's report

Church path

During the Summer recess the Chairman received a letter from Rev. Tim Atkins confirming the Church pathway was to go ahead shortly and could the Church have the £1500 that they were promised to go towards the payment for this work.

It was resolved:

It was agreed that the £1500 should be given to the Church once the work has been completed and an invoice has been received from the Contractor.

Hanging baskets

Chairman was unhappy that some of the hanging baskets were not watered which lead to the plants dying before they should have done.

Witton Castle tree felling programme.

Chairman has received a response from Witton Castle stating that the trees were planted at different times but will be felled at the same time and then new trees replanted. Chairman had expressed his concerns about the visual impact from the A68 of the trees being felled.

Request from children in the village for a skate park.

Older children within the village have spoken to the Chairman asking whether it would be possible to have a skate park where the tennis courts are now. This would keep children off the roads and paths within the village. The Community Association will not allow the area where the tennis courts are as some people do play tennis and basketball. There is a major problem in

finding land and the funding for such a project. If the village had a Youth Club then children could have access to the Weardale Hub Minibus.

It was resolved:

Chairman to look into whether the children could use the facilities in Howden Le Wear. Chairman to speak to parents saying that we are looking into possible sites for a skate park.

95/17 Any other business
None

96/17 Date and Time of the next Meeting
The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 9th October, **2017** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6.15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:23 p.m.