

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2019** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

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

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

**Apologies:** T. Parkinson, K. Quigley

**Declaration of interest:** None

**23/19 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**24/19 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**  
**1. Speeding traffic**

The car parking near the blind bend at the bottom of Cemetery Bank has started to park a little bit further up the road but is still causing a problem for traffic. The orange Community Speedwatch signs have been taken down by Councillor Todd and will be put back up at a later date.

There has been a Police presence within the village looking out for speeding traffic which hopefully will make some motorists think twice before driving fast through the village.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed that we should speak to the Police to see if the car can be moved.

**2. New village signs**

Councillor B. Henderson is still waiting for the new sign to be completed as he has had problems with the supplier. John Simons has offered to help install the sign. It is hoped to have the sign installed before Easter.

**3. Subsidised transport**

It was hoped to get subsidised transport for young people within the village so they could travel to Bishop Auckland on the train. The Weardale Railway Trust have been in touch with Councillor Cowan to say if a resident is a member of the Trust (Membership £10 for a child, £18 for an adult) then they will get a half price ticket throughout the year. A return ticket to Bishop Auckland is normally £3.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to put an article in the Witton Word advertising this concession.

**4. Gates on public footpath near Little Marshall Green Farm**

SE Landscaping Ltd, the contractor who are going to install the gates are waiting for the gate to be delivered by the supplier. The gate should be fitted by the end of March. A complaint has been made that the Parish Council is not replacing both damaged gates. One gate has already been repaired by the landowner and they are able to claim a percentage of the cost of the repair from Durham County Council. Replacing one of the gates has been done as a goodwill gesture.

**5. It's Your Neighbourhood grant.**

Durham County Council have been informed of where the Parish Council wish to plant bulbs and they investigating to see if we need to contact any landowners.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to buy the bulbs from Durham County Council who have their own nursery, and are cheaper than anywhere else in the area.

**6. Tree grant**

A Cherry Blossom tree will be planted on the 28<sup>th</sup> March in conjunction with the Brownies who meet on a Thursday evening.

**It was resolved:**

Councillor B Henderson agreed to meet the contractor who is providing the tree to show him where it is to be planted.

**7. Lights for the Village Green**

Chairman still waiting to be contacted by the relevant organisations responsible for putting in the electricity feeder box and providing the lights.

**8. Website**

Clerk has been in touch with Chris Parkinson, a wedding photographer who lives in the village and he has offered to provide photographs for the website. Entwine Solutions have made improvements to the website.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to attend an SLCC training day on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Part of the training is to do with Parish Council websites.

**9. Bins at North Lodge**

The overflowing bins outside North Lodge still have not been emptied despite the problem being reported on a number of occasions to Durham County Council. It is possible that the Council will only empty the bins once they are requested to do so by the owner of the property.

**25/19 Representation by Residents**  
None

**26/19 Financial Statement and Report**

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £8,886.88 as at 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019. Clerk asked whether the Parish Council would reinstate the use of online banking. At times there is a need to agree to and make payments to contractors etc between meetings. Online banking would enable these payments to be made safely and securely without the need for getting a cheque signed.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 241 – 243 as follows:

241 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary January)	£ 172. 40
242 –	HMRC PAYE	£ 38. 60
243 –	ITS Ltd (Check on Defibrillator)	£ 60. 00
	Total	<u>£ 271. 00</u>

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct. Councillors O. Wilson and E. Swift agreed to act as acceptors for online banking.

**27/19 Planning Matters**

DM/19/00438/OUT Mr Trevor Parkinson

Pennywell  
Cemetery Road  
Witton-le-Wear  
Bishop Auckland  
DL14 0AR

Outline application for 2 dwellings with access to be considered.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors had no objection to the possible building of 2 dwellings although they did have concerns about the limited access. There are problems with cars parking on Cemetery Bank.

DM/19/00689/FPA Witton Castle and Country Park  
Witton-le-Wear  
Bishop Auckland  
DL14 0DE

Extension to fishing lodge, erection of bird hides, associated infrastructure, lakeside platforms and the change of use of fishing lakes (sui generis) for fishing, nature conservation (sui generis) and/or outdoor sports (Use class D2)

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Although this application is not within the Witton Le Wear Parish boundary Councillor B Henderson felt that it may have some impact on the Low Barns Nature Reserve.

**28/19 Clerks Correspondence**

Clerk made members aware of a plan by Durham County Council to introduce cycling and walking routes throughout County Durham over the next 10 years. There are electric bikes available at St. Johns Chapel which were partly funded by Weardale AAP.

Clerk has received an email from Anne Gladwin Grants Officer at Durham Wildlife Trust notifying the Parish Council that Low Barns Nature Reserve has been successful in obtaining a grant from North Pennines Leader to refurbish their visitor centre. Work will commence this month.

Clerk informed members about "Wheels to Work" a 6 month, moped loan for students and young people having difficulty getting to work or college. Contact Durham County Council if you are interested.

Clerk will be attending a training course on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, at County Hall which relates to Parish Council end of year returns. He will also be attending an SLCC training course at Helmsley on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Glasdon's will be sending us a free box of dog waste bags for the dog waste bag dispenser as the previous bags were of a poor quality.

**29/19 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**

Councillor Cowan has found a template to aid in the production of the Parish Plan. Councillors and residents to meet on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. There seems to be a number of volunteers willing to help with the preparation of the Parish Plan.

**30/19**

**Members Reports**

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

**Plants around the Railway Platform**

Councillors agreed to spend £200 on bulbs for the area around the railway platform. £220 has already been earmarked to spend on wildflower seed.

**31/19**

**Chairman's Report**

Nothing to report at this time.

**32/19**

**Any other business**

None

**33/19**

**Date and Time of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April, **2019** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:12 p.m.