

**WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

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

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

**Apologies:** E. Swift,

**Declaration of interest:** None

**89/18 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**90/18 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic**

Chairman received a call from PCSO Nathan Moore who informed her that there are 10 volunteers who carry out speed watch duties in the area and that it is difficult to use speed guns within the village as there a lot of parked cars on the side of the main roads and no footpaths. This is a safety concern for the volunteers carrying out the speed watch duties. Recently there has been a Police presence within the village, 2 cars were stopped and their drivers warned about their speed.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to install the Community Speed Watch signs that were bought earlier in the year

**2. Tidying of the land around the level crossing.**

No further work to be carried out until Spring next year.

**3. Battles Over**

Nothing to report at this time.

**4. Youth Club**

Chairman has spoken to Angelina Maddison regarding this matter. Weardale AAP are negotiating a fee with Witton Le Wear Community Association for the use of the hall for a 2.5-hour session. The Parish Council may be able to make a small donation towards the Youth Club each year, but it is hoped that it could become self-sustaining.

**5. Repair to the notice board at Wear Valley Junction**

Councillor Cowan has received the quote for this work but the Parish Council is still waiting for the repair to be carried out.

**6. New village signs**

Councillors discussed the format of the wording on the new village sign. The new sign should be ready for the end of October.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed that the lettering for the sign should be painted white so it will stand out.

**7. Fence on the Village Green**

The fence has been painted by the Community Payback Team. Councillor B. Henderson told Councillors that he is still waiting for cement from Durham County Council to fill in holes around some of the fence posts.

**8. Provision of dog poo bags**

Councillor Cowan has obtained quotes for the provision of a poo bag dispenser which comes with 800 bags.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the dispenser.

**9. Fenced off land near the Cricket Field**

Councillor Cowan has carried out a title search for this land. The person who has fenced off this land is the legal owner and any extra land he has fenced off has been done with the agreement of Weardale Railway.

**10. Church Path**

Tim Atkins has been informed that the new path is slippery when it is wet and that there have been incidents when people have fallen. He has promised to contact the contractors to find out what can be done.

**11. Bridleway near Engineman's Terrace**

Clerk informed Councillors that he received an email from Nick Howell, Rights of Way Officer at Durham County Council showing the outcome of the Public Inquiry. The Planning Inspector confirmed that the track through Victoria to Wear Valley Junction is a public bridleway by virtue of long usage by the public. The route will be signposted as a public bridleway.

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

Clerk informed Councillors that Lynda Bentley from the Public Paths Partnership had emailed him stating that she and the contractor believed that the third strim of the parish paths was not necessary. Councillors agreed that they did not want to lose the extra available funding from Durham County Council and would look at using this funding to do repair work on gates located on public rights of way within the Parish.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to contact Mike Ogden, the Access and Rights of Way Team Leader to ask if we can use some of the P3 funding to repair the gate on footpath 129 near Marshall Green Farm. Clerk to contact SE Landscaping our current grass strimming contractor to obtain a quote for this work. Another quote to be obtained by Councillor Todd.

91/18

**Representation by Residents**

None

**92/18 Financial Statement and Report**

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £13,284.19 as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. John Wheeler, Editor of the Witton Word has informed the Clerk that he has obtained a grant from Councillor Savory and also believes there may be a possibility of gaining funding from the Weardale AAP and a village resident. John is still struggling to get paid by advertisers and has asked the Clerk to write to the debtors on behalf of the Parish Council.

**It was resolved:**

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 220 – 222 as follows:

|       |                            |                 |
|-------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 220 – | Witton Word                | £130. 49        |
| 221 – | Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary) | £206. 30        |
| 222 - | RBL Poppy Appeal           | <u>£ 25. 00</u> |
|       | Total                      | <u>£361. 79</u> |

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

**93/18 Planning Matters**

The following planning applications were discussed:

|                 |                    |                               |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| DM/18/02576/FPA | Mrs Jill Routledge | 7 The Paddock                 | Replace timber doors with composite  |
| DM/18/02803/FPA | Mr Norman Wilson   | Hill House Farm Cemetery Road | Portal framed agricultural building. |
| DM/18/02834/FPA | Mr Jamie Adamson   | The Chines West End           | Detached garage                      |

**It was resolved:**

As there had been no objections from residents Councillors agreed that they should make comments on the Durham County Council portal stating that the Parish Council neither supports or objects to these planning applications.

**94/18 Clerks/Correspondence**

Clerk gave Councillors a summary of what he had learned while attending a CDALC training day on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

One of the topics discussed was the time spent per month on different parts of the job. Clerk mentioned that he was contracted for 10 hours per month and was told that 10 hours per month is below the 17.5 hours recommended by SLCC and NALC. Chairman told Councillors she had spoken to Steve Ragg from CDALC who strongly recommended the Parish Council consider this directive. Some Councillors were happy to increase the Clerks hours while others were concerned about whether the Parish Council could afford the extra monthly cost.

**It was resolved:**

After discussing this matter Councillors asked the Clerk to prepare a breakdown of time spent on his duties. This matter to be discussed and a decision made at next month's meeting after seeing the breakdown.

**95/18**

**Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**

Councillors discussed what needed to be done to get the production of a Parish Plan started. It was agreed that there should be a public meeting to explain to residents what the Parish Council wanted to do and to ask whether any resident would like to help. Councillor Cowan informed members that Anne Yuill had already offered her assistance.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed that an article should be put in the Witton Word advertising the date of the meeting.

**96/18**

**Members Reports**

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

**Village Fayre 2019**

There is now a group of 6 volunteers who will meet next week to allocate tasks for next year's Village Fayre.

There may also be the possibility of having a Christmas Fayre.

**Hedge at the rear of High Street**

A resident has complained about the height of a hedge at the rear of School Street.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to meet with the property owner to discuss the possibility of reducing the height of the hedge.

**97/18**

**Chairman's Report**

**Tree next to the Telephone Box**

A resident reported a branch hanging off the tree next to the Telephone Box which could fall onto the nearby road. The Clerk contacted Durham County Council and the branch was removed the same day. This tree is dead and needs removing.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to contact Durham County Council to ask if the tree can be removed and replaced with a tree provided by the Parish Council.

**Lights for the Village Green**

Chairman has spoken to D Hubbard from Strategic Highways Street Lighting at Durham County Council who informed her that there are underground electric cables running under the village green. A feeder box could be installed to provide electricity for Christmas lighting. Councillor B Henderson asked who would be responsible for paying for the electricity used. Chairman told Councillors that unfortunately it is too late to get this work done in time for this Christmas. If we contact Mr Hubbard at the beginning of the new year he will provide an idea of how much it would cost to get this work done.

**98/18**

**Any other business**

None

**99/18**

**Date and Time of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November, **2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:50 p.m.