

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 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, T. Parkinson,

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

**Apologies:** K. Quigley, E. Todd,

**Declaration of interest:** None

**34/19 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**35/19 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic**

Clerk informed Councillors that he had been able to get a contact for the Community Speed Watch training. There have been complaints about a campervan parked on Cemetery Bank.

**It was resolved:**

It was agreed to put an article in the Witton Word asking if anyone would be interested in doing the Community Speed Watch training to enable them to monitor the traffic within the village.

**2. New village signs**

The new village sign has now been installed. There has been a complaint that the train on the sign is an American train not a train more in keeping with the area such as The Rocket. The company who run the train are an American company. The bottom half of the sign could be used for a sign saying "Thank you for driving carefully."

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

The Clerk informed Councillors that a new metal gate has been installed by SE Landscaping.

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

Parish Council has received the grant. Bulbs will be planted during the coming Autumn months. Durham County Council will contact Councillor Cowan nearer the time.

**5. Tree grant**

The tree has now been planted with the help of Councillor B. Henderson. A photograph was taken by Brian Jones showing the village Brownies pack planting the tree.

**6. Lights for the Village Green**

D Hubbard from Durham County Council attended the meeting to explain how the initial electricity connection would be carried out and also showed Councillors which trees could have lights put on them. The proposal was that one tree could

be lit from top to bottom and another two trees could be lit halfway up their trunks. The estimated cost for the initial connection is £2000. Any upheaval on the village green would be kept to a minimum.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to wait until they have a better idea of how much the electricity connection and the dressing of the trees will cost.

**7. Website**

Unfortunately we still don't have any photographs for the website. After getting ideas from SLCC training the Clerk has updated the Events Calendar and also added a page allowing residents to report problems such as blocked drains, potholes etc. The reported problems are then automatically emailed to the Clerk.

**36/19 Representation by Residents**

None

**37/19 Financial Statement and Report**

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £9,859.41 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 244 – 248 as follows:

244 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary April)	£ 198. 50
245 –	HMRC PAYE	£ 38. 40
246 –	Lawn Hero	£ 260. 00
247 –	SE Landscaping Ltd (Gate Repair)	£ 420. 00
248 –	Lukasz Beben (Village Sign)	<u>£ 250. 00</u>
	Total	<u>£1166. 90</u>

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct. Clerk informed Councillors that he will be reclaiming VAT for the 2018/19 tax year

**38/19 Planning Matters**

Nothing to report at this time.

**39/19 Clerks Correspondence**

The Clerk informed members that he had received an email from Councillor Todd regarding the Parish Council Facebook page showing comments about the new village sign. A resident had asked whether there had been any consultation with residents about the village sign. An article was put in the Witton Word about the proposed village sign but there was no feedback from residents to the Parish Council.

Next month is the AGM or Annual meeting of Councillors.

**40/19 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**

After the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March Councillor Cowan has come up with four action points. A resident of the village has offered to try and convert the current plan into a digital format so it can be used as an outline for the new plan. Councillor Cowan is to speak to Anne Yuill and try and get her help with the history section of the plan. Steve Ragg may be able to advise on what help and guidance is available. It is

hoped to have a stall at the village fayre to advertise that the Parish Council are wanting to produce a new Parish Plan.

**41/19**

**Members Reports**

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

The plants for the tubs need to be ordered. Clerk informed members that during his recent training day it was mentioned that some villages have sponsors names on the tubs.

**It was resolved:**

Councillor Wilson agreed to ask local businesses if they would be interested in sponsoring the plant tubs.

Durham County Council have done some work to the trees on the village green.

A resident has complained about the height of the hedge at Adamton House.

**It was resolved:**

It was agreed to speak to Mr McGregor about the height of the hedge.

The owners of Hill House Farm have a culvert that goes under the path adjacent to the railway line. This is blocked and when it rains heavily water comes over the top of the path.

**It was resolved:**

It was agreed to write to the owners to make them aware of this problem.

A defibrillator refresher course is planned for some time before the village fayre. Lynn Docherty is starting to raise funds for the school defibrillator

**It was resolved:**

It was agreed to put an article in the Witton Word to advertise this training. Clerk to contact Lynn Docherty to ask if they will still need a donation from the Parish Council to fund the purchase of a defibrillator.

**42/19**

**Chairman's Report**

**Operation London Bridge**

There is currently an initiative in the event of the Queen or Prince Philip dying to make a place of worship available so residents can lay flowers and sign a book of condolence.

**It was resolved:**

It was agreed to put an article in the Witton Word informing residents.

**Youth Club**

The youth club is doing well and is being well attended.

**43/19**

**Any other business**

None

**44/19**

**Date and Time of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:10 p.m.