

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 12th February, 2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

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

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), Mr J. Wheeler (Editor Witton Word), A. Adamson, P. Cowan, L. Shotton

Apologies: None

Declaration of interest: None

12/18 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 8th January, 2018.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

13/18 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Councillor Quigley informed members that the responsibility for reducing speeding traffic within villages is being taken on by volunteers. These volunteers attend PACT meetings and are given a uniform.

2. Church path

Work will begin on the Church Path at Easter.

3. Electric Car Charging point

Nothing to report at this time.

It was resolved:

As there is no information available regarding this point it was agreed to remove it from the agenda.

4. Youth Club

Councillor Wilson informed Councillors that funding for the Youth Club needs to be applied for quickly as there is very little left in the kitty. The skate park is going ahead at Wolsingham.

5. Witton Word – Editor's Letter

John Wheeler, Editor of the Witton Word spoke about his vision for the future of the Witton Word. He started by telling members about the background to the Witton Word. He then moved on to say that he had managed to reduce the cost of printing the Witton Word during his time as Editor. His main aim is for the Witton Word to be self-funding and for it to be used by residents to get their views across and for them to be kept up to date about village events. An increase in content from residents and advertisers has meant the need for extra pages which has led to a higher printing cost per copy. Trying to secure funding for the Witton Word is extremely difficult. The Parish Clerk should be receiving £200 from Anita

Savoury. The Editor tried to get help from Durham Community Funding but this was not possible due to the involvement of the Parish Council.

Ideas to reduce the printing costs are:-

1. Reduce the size of the Witton Word but this could result in the print size being too small.
2. Reduce number of editions, currently 6 editions per year but there is still the same editorial content.

Mr Wheeler asked whether the Witton Word's name could be changed and that the Parish Council relinquish overall control of the magazine. This would allow him to apply for funding from other sources. He asked for ideas on how to raise funds for the Witton Word. Chairman and Councillors said they appreciated all the work that he puts in publishing the Witton Word.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to discuss this matter later and report back.

6. Land between Railway Platform and Level Crossing.

This land has now been tidied up. The area needs to be sprayed with weed killer. Low maintenance plants need to be bought for the area.

7. Pathway 156

Parish Council is awaiting a quote for the work to clear this overgrown pathway together with repairing 2 bridges and replacing another.

8. Ideas for future projects

Village signs

The Parish Council have tried for years to get "Welcome to Witton Le Wear signs." The Chairman informed Councillors that signs could be put at either end of the village and also next to the railway platform. These signs could be made from timber showing 3 separate designs, at a fraction of the cost of those supplied by Durham County Council. Before a sign can be erected planning consent is required. The Parish Council would also need to find out who owns the land where we would want to erect them. Chairman has contacted Durham County Council and Weardale Railways but as yet had no response. He has therefore written to HM Land Registry to identify who owns the land. The signs should cost £1000 for two.

Youth club

Councillors agreed to give a minimum of £500 to the Youth club once funding was obtained from Weardale AAP. This could count as match funding.

Emergency flotation devices next to the river

Clerk asked whether it would be possible to get a quote for the installation of emergency flotation devices next to the river. Chairman felt it was the responsibility of Durham County Council.

Repairs to the fence next to the village green.

Councillor Swift reminded members about the need to repaint the fence next to the village green.

9. Village fayre

Chairman has finally heard back from the Community Association that the Parish Council can go ahead and run the village fayre. He stated that there is an enormous amount of work to do at this late date. He felt that a prize draw would bring in the same amount of money as was received from running the village fayre last year. Chairman said he was unwilling to manage the village fayre again this year. Councillors Wilson and Todd said they felt that there should be a village fayre this year.

It was resolved:

It was agreed to inform the Community Association that the Parish Council will not be managing the village fayre this year. Councillors would be willing to provide help if they were needed.

10. Christmas lights for the village green

It was felt that it is now too late to try and get Christmas lights on the village green as regulations have changed and it is now far too expensive to get transformers installed.

11. New Councillor

An advertisement to fill the vacant Parish Councillor post has been put in the Witton Word and there has been a small amount of interest.

14/18 Representation by Residents

None

15/18 Financial Statement and report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £11,735.36 as at 31st January, 2018.

A Receipt and Payments Account is attached to these minutes. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 190 as follows:

190 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk – February Salary)	£118.50
-------	---------------------------------------	---------

Clerk has applied for the annual Precept and this should be paid into our bank account at the beginning of April.

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

16/18 Planning Matters

There has been a planning application submitted to Durham County Council Planning Department by the owners of Tyvonnay, West End, Witton Le Wear. The proposal is a two storey extension to the north and east, further single storey extension to north, render with stone cladding to south.

Signed by the Chairman.....

Lynette Shotton who lives next door to Tyvonnay told Councillors of her concerns regarding this extension. It will affect light coming into her house as the side of the house will literally become a tunnel. Anybody passing the front of her house will be unable to see her Rottweiler dogs when they are behind the gate at the front of her house. The roof of her car was damaged when render was removed from the original structure.

It was resolved:

It was agreed the Parish Council should object on the grounds that residents wish to keep the look of the village the way it is. The streetscape will change, the extension would be better on the rear (south) of the property, the proposed rendering on the north side is inappropriate and it is opposite a listed building. Chairman will lodge the objection on behalf of the Parish Council.

17/18 Clerks/Correspondence

Nothing to report at this time.

18/18 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Nothing to report at this time.

19/18 Members Reports

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

Due to crime reports within the Witton Word a Councillor had received a telephone call asking whether it was safe to allow her children out to play.

Councillor Wilson attended the recent Weardale Area Action Partnership meeting. Durham County Council are planning to buy Mount Oswald Manor to make it a history centre. They are hoping to get 40 million pounds from the Heritage Lottery fund.

20/18 Chairman's Report

Chairman told Councillors about a letter that John Wheeler and the Clerk received about parking within Castle View. Councillors agreed that common sense needs to be used by residents and visitors when parking within the village. It was also agreed that there should be a right of reply for letters to the Editor of the Witton Word.

21/18 Any other business

None

22/18 Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 12th March, **2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6.15pm.

The meeting finished at 8:00 p.m.