

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2019** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

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

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

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

**Declaration of interest:** None

**1/19 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**2/19 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic**

There has been a complaint about a car parked on the blind bend at the bottom of cemetery bank. This means traffic have to move over onto the wrong side of the road to get past the car and there are fears this may cause a head on collision with an unsighted car coming in the opposite direction.

Howden le Wear residents have had access to the speed camera gun available from Crook Police Station. Anyone caught speeding is sent a letter reminding them that they should not be driving over 30mph within the village. There has been a request to move the speeding traffic sign near the railway platform to the beginning of the 30mph limit zone.

**2. Youth Club**

No further information at this time. It is still hoped that the Youth Club will recommence some-time this month.

**3. New village signs**

The new village sign is still being made and should be completed soon.

**4. Church Path**

The Church Path is becoming less slippery the more it is being used.

**5. Subsidised transport**

Anne Yuill advised Councillors that this matter is on the agenda of the Weardale Railway Trust meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

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

We are still awaiting quotes for this work. Councillor Parkinson informed Councillors that the gate is still in a workable condition.

**7. It's your neighbourhood grant.**

Councillor Cowan informed Councillors that the Parish Council had been successful in their application for this match funded grant. Councillors agreed the grant could be used to plant spring bulbs in a number of locations within the village.

The grant will be paid on condition that the Parish Council are able to provide a list of volunteers who are willing to plant the bulbs by mid-March.

**It was resolved:**

Councillor Cowan to put an article in the Witton Word requesting volunteers to plant bulbs within the village.

**8. Tree grant**

Clerk informed Councillors that he had been notified by Durham County Council that the Parish Council would receive the grant if the tree was not planted in January. He had found someone to purchase and plant the tree but once again due to the time of year it is difficult to get this work carried out. Councillor Cowan had been asked whether the Brownies could help plant the tree which would help with one of their badges.

**It was resolved:**

It was agreed to plant the tree at a later date.

**9. Archiving of Parish Council records.**

Clerk to Contact Durham County Council to request an Archivist have a look at the records we hold and let us know what records they are willing to take.

**10. Lights for the Village Green**

Chairman has been in contact with Darren Hubbard from Durham County Council street lighting department. He informed Chairman that he has to speak to Northern Grid to make sure the underground power lines do run where he thinks they are. He will then do an inspection of the area. The Parish Council has earmarked funds for this project although it is also hoped that funding may be available from Weardale AAP. It is hoped that once this electricity supply becomes available it could be used for other purposes.

**3/19 Representation by Residents**

Anne Yuill asked Councillors when they were going to purchase the wildflower seed for around the railway platform area.

**It was resolved:**

Councillor Swift to speak to the contractor who is going to carry out this work to clarify when the seed needs to be purchased ready to be sown in April of this year.

**4/19 Financial Statement and Report**

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £11,806.46 as at 31st December, 2018.

Clerk explained to Councillors how the annual Precept request calculation is worked out. He showed members the approximate expected annual expenditure for 2018/19. Proposed spending of earmarked funds during 2019/20 will dramatically reduce reserves.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 229 – 234 as follows:

229 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary January)	£ 190. 90
230 –	HMRC PAYE	£ 38. 60
231 –	Mr J. Wheeler (Witton Word)	£ 23. 94
232 –	Eli Press (Witton Word)	£ 261. 03

233 –	Zurich Municipal	£ 488. 44
234 –	Thinford Nurseries	£ 228. 00
235 –	CDALC Training	<u>£ 27. 00</u>
	Total	<u>£1257. 91</u>

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct. Councillors agreed to raise the Precept for 2019/20 to £6,600 an overall net increase of £916.00. This increase is required to cover the cost of the necessary increase in the Parish Council Clerks monthly hours, proposed donations for village events, donation towards the purchase of a defibrillator located at the school and to maintain a small reserve, if all proposed spending takes place.

**5/19 Planning Matters**

The following planning applications were discussed:

**Week Ending: 9 December 2018**

DM/18/03689/FPA	GCJ Holdings	The Victoria School Street Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0AS	Change of use to the first floor of the Victoria Inn to 6 No. bed and breakfast rooms with alterations to the rear car park.
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**Week Ending: 16 December 2018**

DM/18/03735/FPA	Mr Graham Hall	The Victoria School Street Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0AS	Detached dwelling.
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**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.

**6/19 Clerks/Correspondence**

Nothing to report at this time.

**7/19 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**

Councillors discussed the proposal to produce a Parish / Neighbour Plan and the different problems within the village such as dog fouling, parking and speeding traffic that the Plan would need to address. It was felt that the Parish Council need to engage with residents to be able to produce a Parish Plan.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to use the questionnaire that was prepared 2 years ago to prepare this plan. An article to be put in the Witton Word about producing the Parish Plan and asking if anyone would like to volunteer. A display could be prepared to be used at the Village Fayre.

8/19

**Members Reports**

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

**Defibrillator**

Councillor B Henderson informed members that there is legislation going through parliament requiring all schools to have a defibrillator. Councillor Parkinson told Councillors that a free defibrillator refresher course is available.

**It was resolved:**

It was agreed to wait until spring time to hold this training course. An article should be put in the Witton Word nearer the time to notify residents this training course is to take place.

**Banners**

Councillors discussed using banners that the Parish Council already owns.

**Village Fayre**

A request was made for a donation to pay for Stanhope Band who have agreed to perform on the day of the Village Fayre.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to pay for the cost of this band.

**Bins at North Lodge**

It has been brought to the attention of Councillors that bins at North Lodge have been used for dog waste bags and have not been emptied for some time. The bins belong to the Lodge. There is no dog waste bin nearby.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to contact Durham County Council to request these be emptied as soon as possible.

9/19

**Chairman's Report**

Nothing to report at this time.

10/19

**Any other business**

None

11/19

**Date and Time of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:35 p.m.