

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 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. Todd,

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

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

**Declaration of interest:** P. Cowan (Large storage container at the Lido)

**56/19 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019.**

Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**57/19 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic**

Volunteers have been active in the village checking the speed of traffic.

**2. Parking on cemetery bank**

There are still problems with residents parking their cars on both sides of the road on cemetery bank.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to monitor this problem.

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

A notice has been put on the fence near the new stile asking people walking their dogs to put them on a lead. Councillor Todd felt that the new gate should be replaced with a spring on it so that the gate cannot be left open.

**It was resolved:**

Councillor Todd to speak to Colin Longstaff the tenant of the property to ask him to remove the stile and put the gate back on.

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

Currently nothing further to report.

**5. Operation London Bridge**

Clerk made Councillors aware of a training event held by Durham County Council on 16<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm that will cover this matter.

**It was resolved:**

Chairman and Clerk to attend this training event.

**6. Lights for the Village Green**

Chairman has received a quote for electricity to the village green. The cost would be £1500 to run the mains cables and £1000 for the kiosk. A total of £2500. An electricity supply on the village green could have many uses.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to go ahead with the installation of the electricity supply. Councillors will then discuss whether to have a Christmas Tree on the village green or dress a tree and two tree trunks with lights. Chairman to speak to Darren Hubbard. An article will be put in the Witton Word before any work starts explaining what is going to happen.

**7. Website**

Councillors agreed to put photographs from the village fayre onto the website.

**8. Defibrillator refresher course**

The defibrillator refresher course will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm in the Methodist Church.

**It was resolved:**

Councillor Todd to advertise this training course on the Parish Council Facebook page.

**9. Sponsorship of plant tubs**

As there has been no feedback from residents, Councillors E. Todd, O. Wilson, T. Parkinson and M Henderson all offered to sponsor the plant tubs. Each Councillor will donate £50 and this money will be used to pay for the plants that go in the tubs.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to get a quote for signs to go on the plant tubs. Clerk to get a quote for new defibrillator signs to go on the telephone box at the same time.

**10. Culvert near Hill House Farm**

Clerk to write to the landowner to notify them of the blocked culvert.

**11. Problems reported to Durham County Council**

Clerk updated Councillors about 3 problems reported to the Parish Council by residents.

- **Narrow bridge on road just off A68.** Still awaiting signage to be installed. Problem originally reported November 2018.
- **Long grass on the edge of the A68.**  
Clerk to speak to SE Landscaping to ask whether they would cut the grass to the right of the junction going into Witton le Wear up to the petrol station.
- **Waste bin in layby on A68 (from A68 to McNeil Farm).**  
Clerk has again contacted Durham County Council asking that a bin be installed in this layby.

**12. Large storage container at the Lido**

It seems the owners are trying to make it less prominent by painting it green and planting trees around it. Chairman said she felt it blended into the landscape.

**59/19 Financial Statement and Report**

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £15,429.40 as at 31st May 2019. The internal audit has been carried out on the accounts up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. Auditor has completed and signed the internal audit section of the 2018/19 Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The Return was signed by the Chairman and Clerk and will be posted on the Parish Council website. A notice of the period for the exercise of public rights to be put on the Parish Council notice boards and website.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 254 – 258 as follows:

254 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary April)	£ 172. 60
255 –	HMRC PAYE	£ 38. 40
256 –	SE Landscaping Ltd	£ 612. 00
257 –	Miss Y. Jabari (Internal Audit)	£ 50. 00
258 –	Stanhope Silver Band (Village Fayre)	<u>£ 150. 00</u>
	Total	<u>£1023. 00</u>

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

**60/19 Planning Matters**

Clerk to publish details of planning applications within Witton Le Wear on the Parish Council website.

**61/19 Clerks Correspondence**

Clerk informed Councillors that he had updated council policies for Equality and Diversity, Training and Development and the Grants Policy. He also showed Councillors a Training record form to be completed by Councillors and the Clerk to show the training they have completed. To help residents understand the aims of the Parish Council he has also prepared an Action / Development Plan. It is hoped that in future we will receive more ideas from residents of what they would like to see done within the village.

**It was resolved:**

Policies and Action / Development Plan adopted by the Parish Council and Clerk to put them on the Parish Council website.

**62/19 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**

The Parish Council will have a stand at the village fayre so that residents can see the old Parish Plans and offer suggestions of what should be in the new Parish Plan.

**52/19 Members Reports**

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

**Witton Park Bridge**

Councillors B. Henderson and Cowan attended the public meeting regarding Witton Park Bridge. Councillor Henderson informed members that Durham County Council are responsible for 320 bridges but only have a budget of approximately £2.5m. Residents felt that the bridge was needed over 100 years ago when it was built so it is just a necessary now when there is even more traffic.

Councillor Cowan informed members that a few residents attended from Witton le Wear including Engineman’s Terrace and Wear Terrace. Residents felt that using Witton le Wear as an alternative route was not a sensible option.

Chairman has emailed Brian Buckley from the Highways Department of Durham County Council asking that he attend a meeting at Witton le Wear. Residents of Witton le Wear need to be made aware of what plans are to be put in place if Witton le Wear is to be used as a diversion. There are safety concerns due to the increased traffic.

There is another meeting planned at Witton Park Village Hall on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 6:30pm.

**It was resolved:**

Chairman to email Brian Buckley again as she received no reply to her first email.

**53/19**

**Chairman's Report**

**The gate to the public footpath by the level crossing**

The top panel of this gate is broken.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to report this to Durham CC online.

**Debris on the upstream side of the old bridge**

There is a lot of debris on the upstream side of the old bridge.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to report this to the Environment Agency.

**54/19**

**Any other business**

None

**55/19**

**Date and Time of the next Meeting**

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

The meeting finished at 7:24 p.m.