

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 12th November, 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), D. Ellwood (NALC), Lynn Docherty

Apologies: E. Swift,

Declaration of interest: None

100/18 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 8th October, 2018.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

101/18 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Councillor Todd agreed to put Speed Awareness signs on telegraph poles on the outskirts of the village.

2. Youth Club

Chairman has been notified that the Youth Club should start again towards the end of January, 2019.

3. Repair to the notice board at Wear Valley Junction

It is hoped that the noticeboard will be repaired by the end of November.

4. New village signs

The new sign is almost ready. Councillor B Henderson is awaiting completion of the hardwood section of the sign with "Witton Le Wear" on it but it should be ready by the end of the month.

5. Fence on the Village Green

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.

6. Provision of dog waste bag dispenser

The new dog waste bag dispenser has been installed by Councillor B. Henderson. Unfortunately the bags bought with the dispenser are of a poor quality. He has therefore been in contact with the representative from Glasdon's who we bought the dispenser from. He agreed to monitor the dispenser. It was agreed to put an article in the Witton Word informing residents that a dog waste bag dispenser had been installed on the path near the railway line.

7. Subsidised transport

Councillor Cowan to speak to Anne Yuill about this matter.

8. Gates on public footpath near Little Marshall Green Farm

Clerk has contacted Mike Ogden, the Access and Rights of Way Team Leader and has been given permission use some of the P3 funding to repair the gate on footpath 129 near Marshall Green Farm. Councillors still awaiting quotes before this work can be carried out. One of the gates has already been repaired by the farmer although Councillor Todd said he was unsure whether this was a long term repair.

It was resolved:

Parish Council are awaiting a quote from SE Landscaping Ltd but it was agreed another quote is still needed. Councillors and Clerk to try and get another quote.

9. Hedge at the rear of High Street

Councillor Parkinson has spoken to Mr McGregor and explained the situation about his hedge sticking out into the pathway and asked him to trim it back. He informed members that he walked the pathway before this evenings meeting and it would seem that he has trimmed the hedge back.

10. Tree grant

Clerk has been informed by Durham County Council that a grant of £150 is available to plant a tree within the village. Clerk has spoken to the Supervisor of the Clean and Green Team who notified the Clerk that he was happy for a tree to be planted on the village green. Councillors agreed to plant a Cherry Blossom Tree over the road from the Methodist Church. Councillor Parkinson said he would choose an exact spot tomorrow morning and email a photo to the Clerk so that it can be included with the application.

11. Lights for the Village Green

Chairman has spoken to Darren Hubbard at Durham County Council who is in charge of Street Lighting about getting an electricity supply for getting lights on the village green. He informed her that such a project would be extremely expensive. There are currently underground cables running under the village green which would need to be attached to a feeder box. The price would include the cost of Christmas lights. There may be a possibility of getting funding from Weardale AAP.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to put an article in the Witton Word stating that the Parish Council are investigating the cost of putting Christmas lights on the village green and given that it could be expensive Councillors felt that they required feedback from residents.

12. Projects for 2018/19

Councillor B. Henderson proposed the purchase of a loudspeaker system which could be used during village events.

13. Church Path

Chairman has spoken to Tim Atkins to express residents concerns about how slippery the church path is when it is wet. The contractor has informed him that it has been installed correctly and the next step would be to put sand on the path. Councillor Parkinson said that the path was put in to help older people but in actual fact it is worse for them as they are now more likely to slip. Councillor B. Henderson said he felt it was an unsafe surface.

102/18 Representation by Residents

David Ellwood, the NALC representative for the Weardale Area attended the meeting to introduce himself and give Councillors a brief summary of what the role of the NALC is and what they can do for Parish Councils in the Durham Area. Chairman said it was nice to have another point of contact when the Parish Council needs advice.

Lynn Docherty notified the Parish Council that she is planning to raise funds to buy a defibrillator for children and adults which will be attached on an outside wall of the school, for use by residents and the children within the school. A number of different fundraising events are planned. She asked about the possibility of the Parish Council making a donation towards the cost of the defibrillator if she is unable to raise sufficient funds. Councillors agreed that an advert should be put in the Witton Word nearer to the time that the fundraising is to start.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to make a donation towards the cost of the defibrillator.

103/18 Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £12,310.40 as at 31st October, 2018. Clerk made Councillors aware that in January he needs to prepare the budget for the next financial year. The budget requirements are the basis for the Precept application which also needs to be applied for in January. He asked Councillors to think about projects they would like to propose for the next financial year.

As previously requested the Clerk informed members that he had kept a record of time worked on behalf of the Parish Council during October and this amounted to 15.5 hours when he was only paid for 10 hours. Councillors voted and unanimously agreed to increase the Clerks paid hours from 10 hours to 17.5 hours per month.

It was resolved:

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 223 – 228 as follows:

223 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary November)	£189. 00
224 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary December)	£192. 50
225 –	Tim McKellar (Noticeboard)	£100. 00
226 –	Wel Medical (Defibrillator)	£ 79. 02
227 –	Witton Le Wear Comm Assoc (Room hire)	£180. 00
228 –	Deco Trophies (Village sign)	<u>£216. 00</u>
	Total	<u>£956. 52</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

104/18 Planning Matters

The following planning applications were discussed:

Planning list dated 25th October, 2018

DM/18/03207/FPA	Mr Andrew Smith	5 Castle View Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0DH	Single storey rear extension
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Planning list dated 5th November, 2018

DM/18/03201/FPA	Professor E. Meins	Inveresk 2 West End Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0BL	Single storey and two storey extensions to the north
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Approved Planning Applications 26th October, 2018

DM/18/02364/FPA Mr Jim Cokill	Visitor Centre Low Barns Nature Reserve Low Lane Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0AJ	Upgrades and alterations to existing fenestration and re-organisation of existing car parking and vehicular routes on site.
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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.

105/18

Clerks/Correspondence

Clerk informed Councillors that he is to attend Budget/Finance Training on 13th November at County Hall.

106/18

Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Nothing to report at this time.

It was resolved:

Councillor Cowan to put an article in the Witton Word making residents aware of the proposed work on the Neighbourhood / Parish Plan and asking them to attend a meeting to discuss this project.

107/18

Members Reports

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

Defibrillator

Councillors were informed that the pads on the Defibrillator need replacing as both sets are near to their expiry date.

It was resolved:

It was agreed that 2 sets of pads should be ordered from Wel Medical. It was also agreed to accept the offer of a free 2 hour defibrillator familiarisation session offered by Wel Medical for residents.

Horticultural Grant

A grant of £500 is available from Durham County Council for a Community Horticultural Project. There are 15 grants of up to £500 available.

It was resolved:

It was agreed to apply for the grant and use the money to plant bulbs throughout the village. This could include down each side of the new church path.

108/18

Chairman’s Report

Chairman informed Councillors that the Community Association have asked what they wish to do with records that are in filing cabinets in Community Association office. There are plans for that room.

It was resolved:

It was agreed to contact the Archive Department at Durham County Council to find out how to get the records safely stored by them.

109/18

Any other business

None

110/18

Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 14th January, **2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 8:07 p.m.