

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 10th April, 2017** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

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

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk)

Apologies: Andrew Heathcote, E. Todd

Declaration of interest: None

40/17 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 13th March, 2017.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

41/17 Matters arising from the previous minutes.
1. Speeding traffic

Councillor Quigley has been in touch with the Traffic Management Office at County Hall. He also informed Councillors that the Police have done speed checks within the village.

The Clerk and Councillor Quigley have received correspondence from Mr K Jameson, Traffic Asset Manager at Durham County Council stating

“The Council are currently midway through a programme of works funded from a Public Health Grant which will see the introduction of part-time 20mph speed limits outside of some 66 school locations within the County. Prioritisation has been based upon Risk Assessment methodologies with all schools having been individually assessed. Unfortunately, we have been unable to prioritise Witton le Wear Primary School within this works programme.

As to your specific enquiry concerning Witton le Wear, the Council have no highways funding available for the introduction of 20mph schemes and therefore as per the Council’s Policy, all 20mph speed limits or zones must be financed from other sources i.e. Housing Developers, the Area Action Partnership (AAPs), Town / Parish Councils, etc.

Notwithstanding the above, the main C18A road would be unsuitable for a 20mph speed limit/zone due to average speeds being greater than 24mph. Additionally, we would be unable to satisfy design standards because of physical constraints with the current road layout such as steep gradients, use of the road by HGV’s and buses and the proximity of side road junctions and private accesses.

Having checked the accident recording database shared with Durham Constabulary, I can report one ‘personal injury’ accidents in Witton le Wear in the past 4 years being our standard search criteria. The causation factor was typical of a junction related accident involving failure to give way at a side road junction and was not attributable to ‘excess speed’. Whilst we would wish to see no accidents on the road network, compared to many other locations within the County, this is typical of accident trends on many similar roads across the County.

As part of our partnership approach to improving road safety, joint working with Durham Constabulary, has enabled us to introduce an initiative known as 'Community Speed Watch'. This initiative has been very successful elsewhere in the County and nationally.

Under the Community Speed Watch initiative, all speeding complaints are directed towards Durham Constabulary and their Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings to enable the appropriate level of intervention and action to be considered."

Clerk notified members that he had been in touch with the Clerk at Etherley Parish Council who have a permanent radar speed sign. Their Clerk was able to provide the name of a company who supply and fit these signs and quotes for this equipment have been received. Clerk has also been in touch with Angelina Maddison from Weardale AAP to ask about funding and was informed that before one of these signs can be fitted the Parish Council must show evidence of need. The Highways Department estimate the cost for the equipment is £3000 and maintenance costs of £3000.

It was resolved:

Councillor Quigley agreed to follow up this matter. Councillor Wilson agreed to bring this matter up at the next AAP meeting on 16th May.

2. Black Path

No further correspondence at this time.

It was resolved:

Await further correspondence from Hewitts Solicitors.

3. Public Right of Way between Witton Le Wear & Howden Le Wear

There is to be a public meeting on Wednesday 12th April at 10a.m. at Crook Civic Centre to decide whether it is going to be a complete Right of Way or not.

It was resolved:

Councillors Parkinson & Quigley agreed to attend this meeting.

4. Dog Fouling

There was an article in the Witton Word about a village clean up by residents and the Chairman thanked all the residents involved.

5. Telephone Box

Chairman informed members that the glazing work has been done and he was waiting for the putty to dry before the telephone box can be painted.

6. Grass Cutting / Parish Walk Maps

Clerk has received the Parish Walk Maps and is awaiting the invoice. Lynda Bentley has asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to pay for a clear cabinet to store the maps.

It was resolved:

Clerk awaiting quotes from Lynda Bentley regarding grass cutting.

42/17 Representation by Residents

None

43/17 Financial Statement and report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £10,396.91 as at 31st March, 2017. Receipt and Payments Account attached to these minutes.

Councillors agreed payment of invoice 154 to 157 as follows:

154 - CDALC	£17.60
155 – Eli Press	£241.66
156 – Materials for Telephone Box	£202.84
157 – A. Dixon Salary + Travel Costs	<u>£201.00</u>
Total	<u>£663.10</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

44/17 Planning Matters

Philip Wilks garage have applied to be open 24Hrs a day. There has been a planning application for a double garage at Witton House.

45/17 PC Web Site

Nothing to report at this time.

46/17 Commemoration of Great War 1914 to 1918

Nothing to report at this time

47/17 Clerks/Correspondence

Clerk asked members whether they would like to do Councillor training which would take place during July / August this year. Clerk gave Councillors a copy of the Good Councillors Guide.

48/17 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Nothing to report at this time.

49/17 Members Reports

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

Councillor M Henderson has been asked whether we can find out what happened to the pew cushions that were to be made for the Chapel. She also asked whether we could find out what happened to assets that were bought from the Heritage Lottery Grant such as a laminator and ironing boards. The laminator could be used in the work required for the village fayre.

It was resolved:

Councillor M Henderson to contact Anne Yuill to find out where these assets are stored and why no pew cushions were provided for the Chapel.

50/17 Chairman's report

Waste bins

No further feedback from the department that deal with waste bins although they have previously stated we already have a lot of bins.

40's Evening / Village Fayre

Chairman asked for help in running in this event, the aim of which is to raise money for the community centre.

Village Choir

Village Choir now in the process of forming a committee and also drawing up a constitution although it is still being called the Church Choir by some people when it is actually the Village Choir.

Village Seats

Chairman asked for help with the village seats even if someone was willing to wash them before they are painted. Paint has been bought for the seats.

Councillor Wilson agreed to act as Chair for next month's AGM as Councillor B Henderson is on holiday at that time. Chairman asked whether any of the members wished to take over the role of Chairman.

51/17 Any other business

None

52/17 Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 8th May, 2017 in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6.15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:35 p.m.