

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Councillors B. Henderson (Chair), M. Henderson, K. Quigley, E. Todd, E. Swift

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

**Apologies:** A. Heathcote, O Wilson, T. Parkinson

**Declaration of interest:** None

**75/17 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**76/17 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic**

Crook Police have contacted Councillor Quigley to inform him that there are to be speed checks carried out in the local area, throughout the summer. Councillor Quigley asked about what could be done about traffic around the school entrance and was informed over a million pounds has been spent to reduce the speed of traffic outside schools in County Durham and that Witton Le Wear School may be included in future plans.

**2. Black Path**

No further correspondence at this time.

**It was resolved:**

Await further correspondence from Hewitts Solicitors.

**3. Cricket Club**

We have had no contact from the Cricket Club but the Chairman said he would contact them during the recess with regard to using their facilities during next year's village fayre and also the possibility of having a running track around the cricket ground. This would mean the facilities would be used more often and could become an asset to the village.

**4. Telephone Box/ Valuation**

Parish Council Clerk Informed Councillors that he had taken advice regarding this matter and the value of the Telephone Box should continue to be recorded on the Parish Councils Asset Register at the transfer value of £1.

**5. Village Fayre**

Chairman wished to clarify the First Aid arrangements reported in the June 2017 minutes. He had looked into getting nurses to meet the necessary need for First Aiders but these posts were kindly filled by school teachers, the school caretaker and Councillor Todd.

The Chairman informed members that the fayre made over £1000 pounds which will be handed to David Smith the Treasurer for the Community Association. There were some unexpected problems such as the accordion player requiring electric and therefore had to stay in the tea room rather than being able to walk around the village green and the sale of raffle tickets may have come to an end too soon but everyone who attended seemed to have enjoyed themselves. Prizes were given for the scarecrow competition and the children enjoyed the assault course. The winning numbers for the raffle are on the notice board outside the Community Centre.

#### **6. County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) Executive Committee**

Chairman has spoken to Steve Ragg regarding this matter. He has not received details of anyone wishing to come to a meeting. Chairman has asked for more information about this matter and whether it could be dealt with via email instead of a meeting.

#### **7. Village green**

Councillor Todd showed Councillors photos of the village green in 1907, 1910 and 1919. These photos showed a path going through the middle of the green. He asked whether any work done to the pathway would be a good use of the Parish Council funds.

The Chairman's opinion was that just because the pathway has always been there was not a good enough reason for it to remain. The path is becoming dangerous and it is not used on a regular basis. He agreed that village residents should be given time to give their opinion on whether this pathway should be repaired / changed.

#### **It was resolved:**

An article to be put in the Witton Word which will be out from the 24<sup>th</sup> July and that residents should have until 1<sup>st</sup> September to notify Councillors of their opinion of whether any changes should be made.

#### **77/17 Representation by Residents**

None

#### **78/17 Financial Statement and report**

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £14,817.76 as at 30th June, 2017. During June, the Parish Council received 2 payments from businesses within the village for advertising in the Witton Word. A grant of £395 was also received from Durham County Council to cover the cost of printing the circular walking maps. The Annual report has been sent to the external auditors. Councillors O. Wilson, B Henderson and E. Swift have been to the Yorkshire Bank branch at Darlington to sign the forms to enable them to become cheque signatories. Councillor Todd asked whether advertisers should be given the option to pay for advertising by bank transfer as cheques could be phased out in the future.

A Receipt and Payments Account is attached to these minutes. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 166 to 168 as follows:

166 – B. Henderson, village fayre	£150.00
167 - SE Landscapes Limited (1 <sup>st</sup> cut)	£612.00
168 – Mr A. Dixon (Clerk – July Salary)	£118.50
169 – Thinford Nurseries	£387.60
170 - Mr A. Dixon (Clerk – August Salary)	£118.50
171 – Mr J Wheeler (Witton Word)	£ 10.10
172 – Eli Press (Witton Word)	£289.99
173 - SE Landscapes Limited (2nd cut)	<u>£612.00</u>
Total	<u>£2298.69</u>

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

**79/17 Planning Matters**  
None to report at this time.

**80/17 Clerks/Correspondence**  
At the AGM there was a discussion about creating a class for village residents to learn the basics of how to use a computer. Unfortunately, there were only 2 interested residents which means it is not financially viable for the class to go ahead.

Clerk has submitted the forms for Councillor training to be held at Barnard Castle.

**81/17 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**  
A number of drains in the village have now been cleaned which means the road at the bottom of cemetery bank did not flood during the recent rain storms.

**82/17 Members Reports**  
Councillors have been asked by residents to report on the following matters:-

Nothing to report at this time.

**83/17 Chairman's report**

Nothing to report at this time.

**84/17 Any other business**  
None

**85/17 Date and Time of the next Meeting**  
The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, **2017** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6.15pm.

The meeting finished at 6:50 p.m.