

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 12th June, 2017** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

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

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk)

Apologies: Andrew Heathcote

Declaration of interest: None

64/17 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 8th May, 2017.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

65/17 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Councillor Quigley has been in contact with Mr K Jameson, Traffic Asset Manager at Durham County Council and was told that Witton Le Wear has not been included in a scheme to have 20mph outside schools but if we could get funding for 20mph at school times then Durham County Council would not object to this.

2. Black Path

No further correspondence at this time.

It was resolved:

Await further correspondence from Hewitts Solicitors.

3. Cricket Club

Parish Council has been approached by the local Cricket Club but we are still waiting for one of the members to attend a Parish Council meeting. Chairman felt that given the recent investment into the running club at Crook, it may be possible to get funding for a running track around the cricket field.

4. Telephone Box

Refurbishment of the telephone box is nearly complete apart from the defibrillator decals. Councillor Swift questioned the value of the telephone box on the Parish Councils asset register. The Parish Clerk told members that he believed that we could not increase the value of the telephone box but would take advice from Steve Ragg (National Association of Local Councils) at County Hall.

5. Dog fouling

Public space protection order came into force from 1st June.

6. Grass Cutting

The first cut by the new contractor has been done.

66/17 Representation by Residents

None

67/17 Financial Statement and report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £14,868.03 as at 31st May, 2017. The Council have received a grant of £395 from Durham County Council to pay for the circular walk maps. The internal auditor has checked the Parish Council Accounts up to 31st March, 2017 and has signed the Annual Return. Chairman to sign the Annual Return which is to be submitted to External Auditors by the Parish Clerk. Councillor M. Henderson asked that a laminator be added to the Parish Council Asset list before the Annual Return is sent to the External Auditors. Receipt and Payments Account attached to these minutes. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 161 to 165 as follows:

161 – B. Henderson, telephone box repair	£101.78
162 - Eli Press (Witton Word)	£289.99
163 - John Wheeler (Witton Word)	£ 12.72
164 - Miss Y Jabari	£ 50.00
165 – Mr A. Dixon (Parish Clerk)	<u>£118.50</u>
Total	<u>£572.99</u>

Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2016 Members approved the following:-

1. Accounting statement for 2016/17

Members acknowledged formal approval of 2016/2017 accounts.

2. Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

Members agreed to answer Yes to question 1-8 and n/a to question 9

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

68/17 Planning Matters

One planning application, 8, The Paddock – enlargement and fitting of new windows.

69/17 Clerks/Correspondence

Clerk received correspondence from Durham County Council, P.R.O W. Department regarding the Public Right of Way between Witton Le Wear and Howden Le Wear.

70/17 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Problems with drains within the village was mentioned in the recent village questionnaire. Councillor Swift reported this problem online and the County Council have been out working on the drains at the bottom of Cemetery Bank and on Station Road, although this work was impeded due to the number of parked cars in that area. This work will be added to the Councils maintenance list for the next 12 months.

71/17 Members Reports

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

Christmas lights

Councillors discussed the possibility of putting up Christmas lights but it seems it is far too expensive. Christmas lights have previously been transferred to the Community Association.

72/17

Chairman's report

Village Fayre

Chairman asked members to agree to the purchase of 6 high viz vests to be used by event marshalls at a cost of £24. These vests could be used again for litter picking etc. Chairman has asked for volunteer nurses to act as First Aiders to try and keep event costs down. There will be 4 first aid stations. A Punch and Judy show has been provided by Sherwood Leisure. Chairman has found a local re-enactment group who are willing to attend free of charge. There have been difficulties due to the lack of flat areas on the village green.

It was resolved:

Members agreed the purchase of the high viz vests.

County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) Executive Committee

An email had been sent to the Clerks of the Parish Councils of Muggleswick, Stanhope, Wolsingham and Witton-le-Wear inviting each Council to send up to three councillors to a meeting to choose one councillor to represent these four councils on the CDALC Executive Committee.

It was resolved:

Parish Clerk to re-send the email from Steve Ragg regarding this matter. Chairman to try and get more information about what this committee has been set up to do.

Fly tipping

Fly tipping has been seen where the disabled ramp is leading down to the river path. This has been reported to Durham County Council.

Village green

Chairman told members that he was unhappy about builders carrying out work on the residents' houses parking on the village green. Chairman proposed putting bollards at the top and bottom of the pathway and reconstituting the damaged area. The cost of this work would be £880. Parish Clerk asked about the use of a By Law to stop people parking on the village green. Chairman said it can only be used by vehicles with a high ground clearance. Councillors agreed that residents should be asked about their feelings on this matter and an article should be put into the Witton Word. Chairman asked members to think about this matter so that it can be discussed at the next meeting.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to put an article in the Witton Word asking villagers about their thoughts on this proposal.

73/17 **Any other business**
None

74/17 **Date and Time of the next Meeting**
The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 10th July, **2017** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6.15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:31 p.m.