

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 13th November, 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, E.Todd

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

Apologies: T. Parkinson

Declaration of interest: None

107/17 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 9th October, 2017.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

108/17 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Nothing to report at this time.

2. Church path

There is still a dispute about the ownership of the land outside the gates of Witton Hall.

3. Cricket Club

Chairman has given the Cricket Club all the information they may need in order to apply for a small grant from Weardale Area Action Partnership.

4. Electric Car Charging point

Nothing to report at this time.

5. Youth Club

It was agreed to try and resurrect the Youth Club. This has been left in the hands of Lynn Docherty who used to run the Youth Club. Lynn is awaiting feedback from Angelina Maddison from the Weardale AAP.

6. Witton Word – Editor's Letter

Chairman has spoken to John Wheeler the Editor of the Witton Word and informed him of the Parish Council's decision that anonymous letters cannot be printed within the Witton Word as the Parish Council can only respond to comments from named residents.

He has also asked that individual community groups should be limited to one side of A4 to report their news and upcoming events.

7. Hanging Baskets

Hanging baskets have now been collected and are being stored by Thinford Nurseries. Planters to be refilled with winter plants.

8. Leaf Clearance

Chairman has managed to get Durham County Council to do some leaf clearance within the village. A lot of leaves were removed from the area around the Black Path.

9. Land between Railway Platform and Level Crossing.

Chairman and Councillor Swift have visited the land between the railway platform and the Level Crossing and met with Scott Ellwood from SE Landscaping to clarify the work needed to tidy it up. The area was found to contain tree stumps, blocks of concrete, electric cable etc. The area next to it has already been cleared by volunteers but the remaining section still looks shabby.

It was resolved:

A quote has been received from SE Landscaping Ltd for this work but it was agreed to try and get more than one quote for this work. Chairman to contact Weardale Railway Trust and notify them of the work we would like to carry out as it is their land and we cannot act without their consent.

10. Pathway 156

Lynda Bentley from the Parish Paths Partnership has notified the Parish Council that she is trying to get funding to install a bridge on Pathway 156. There is to be no third strim of the Parish Paths therefore this money could possibly be used to carry out future pathway clearance work.

11. Ideas for future projects

During last month’s meeting Councillors were asked to think about idea’s for future projects to improve the village:-

Councillor Todd suggested possible revamping of the Children’s Play Area and installation of a welcome to Witton Le Wear sign at the entrance to the village. He also suggested looking into the cost of installing solar powered Christmas lights. He agreed to get a quote for these lights and signs and inform Councillors of his findings. A number of Councillors thought solar powered Christmas lights were a good idea.

Councillor Wilson asked about the possibility of hiring traffic speed warning signs. She also suggested putting some money to one side to fund next year’s village fayre. We could have a re-enactment group. Parish Clerk suggested the formation of a subcommittee to organise next years village fayre.

The Chairman and Councillor M Henderson suggested timber welcome to Witton Le Wear signs.

Councillor Swift suggested repairs to the retaining walls at the bottom of the village green. There are also a number of trees on the village green that need to be pruned.

109/17 Representation by Residents
None

110/17 Financial Statement and report
Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £13515.13 as at 31st October, 2017.

A Receipt and Payments Account is attached to these minutes. Councillors agreed payment of invoices 180 to 182 as follows:

180 – Mr A. Dixon (Clerk – November Salary)	£142.05
181 – Mr A. Dixon (Clerk – December Salary)	£118.50
182 – Tony Monkhouse – Straw for Village Fair	<u>£ 60.00</u>
Total	£320.55

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct

111/17 Planning Matters
There has been a request for a TPO at Brown Ridges.

112/17 Clerks/Correspondence
Clerk went to a recent Data Protection training seminar regarding the new GDPR which will come into force in May next year. Parish Council's are waiting to here from the County Durham Association of Local Council's regarding who will be able to undertake the role of Data Protection Officer and how GDPR will affect them.

Councillors agreed to accept the quote from Zurich Insurance for the Parish Council Insurance on a 3 year basis.

113/17 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.
Nothing to report at this time.

114/17 Members Reports
Nothing to report at this time

115/17 Chairman's Report

Change of street names

A resident has approached the Chairman with the idea of changing certain street names as some of them are quite boring. Councillors agreed that this could cause major problems if it was implemented.

116/17 Any other business
None

117/17

Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 8th January, **2018** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6.15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:31 p.m.