

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 11th November 2019** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

Present: Councillors O. Wilson (Chair), M. Henderson, B. Henderson, K. Quigley, P. Cowan, E. Todd

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk)

Apologies: E. Swift,

Declaration of interest: None

89/19 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 14th October 2019.

Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

90/19 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

The speed watch sign has been removed from Cemetery Bank without the knowledge of Councillors.

2. Parking on cemetery bank

The problem vehicle seems to have moved and hopefully will not be returning.

3. Gate on public footpath near Little Marshall Green Farm

The stile has still not yet been removed.

4. It's Your Neighbourhood grant.

Bulbs have been ordered from Durham County Council and hopefully they will be planted before the end of November.

5. Lights for the Village Green

Chairman has been informed by Durham County Council the electricity feeder box can no longer be installed on the village green. It will need to be situated on the footpath on the top road. There will possibly be some difficulty with the Christmas lights, but it is hoped they will be put up before Christmas. If funding can be found the electricity supply could in the future be used to power a traffic speed sign. The Youth Club are going to put bowls with lights in around the bottom of the trees on the village green, during the lead up to Christmas.

6. Christmas Banners

Banners to be put up on 30th November.

7. Problems reported to Durham County Council and Environment Agency

Clerk updated Councillors about 1 problem reported to the Parish Council by residents.

- **Narrow bridge on road just off A68.** Still awaiting signage to be installed. Problem originally reported November 2018.

8. Parking on the road outside Low Barns Nature Reserve

Cars are still parking illegally on the road outside Low Barns Nature Reserve. This could be because visitors are not willing to pay to park in the Nature Reserve car park. Clerk asked Councillors to get photographic evidence of cars parked illegally so this can be sent to Durham County Council.

9. Defibrillator

The defibrillator in the telephone box has been checked and is working properly. The books still need removing. Councillors K Quigley and P Cowan agreed to check the defibrillator on a weekly basis.

It was resolved:

Clerk to prepare a laminated sign to inform anyone needing to use the defibrillator that they should telephone 999 to get access to it.

10. Remembrance Sunday

Councillor B Henderson laid the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

11. Website

Chairman to contact Derek Bradley who runs the Youth Club to ask if the children will take some photographs of the village as previously discussed.

91/19 Representation by Residents

None.

92/19 Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £8,464.46 as at 31st October 2019. Clerk informed Councillors that the Parish Council needs to apply for the Precept by the end of January, 2020. He asked Councillors to think about projects they would like to see undertaken in the next financial year. A budget needs to be prepared so that Councillors are aware of expected income and expenses. Clerk asked Councillors to put their ideas on an action plan so that it can be updated.

Councillors agreed to transfer the cradle swing that is on our asset list and is in the play area to the Witton le Wear Community Association.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 275 – 284 as follows:

275 –	Thinford Nurseries (Enviro)	£ 228. 00
276 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary November)	£ 172. 40
277 –	HMRC PAYE	£ 38. 60
278 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary December)	£ 172. 60
279 –	HMRC PAYE	£ 38. 40
280 –	Zurich Municipal	£ 505. 49
281 –	Eli Press (Witton Word)	£ 166. 50
282 –	Mr J. Wheeler (Witton Word)	£ 17. 62
283 –	Witton le Wear Community Association	£ 100. 00
284 –	Durham County Council (Enviro)	<u>£1197. 00</u>
	Total	<u>£2636. 61</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

93/19 Planning Matters

Application Number: DM/19/02407/FPA
Applicant: Mr Ian Simon
Location Land To The East Of Spru-Scot Cemetery Road
Witton-le-Wear
DL14 0BB
Proposal Construction of dwelling and detached garage (and removal of the existing stone retaining wall to rear)

Durham County Council have rejected the above planning application

94/19 Clerks Correspondence

Planning Training Session

Councillors Cowan and Todd agreed to attend this training session.

95/19 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Councillors have been advised by Durham County Council that there is now no need for a Parish Plan and there would be no funding to produce a Parish Plan. It would be possible to produce a Neighbourhood Plan which has more of a planning Focus.

It was resolved:

Councillor Cowan to contact Durham County Council to ask if it would be possible for someone to attend a Parish Council meeting to further discuss how to move forward with the production of a Neighbourhood Plan.

96/19 Members Reports

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

Play area

Councillors have some concerns about the maintenance of the play area.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to contact the Community Association and ask whether there are any plans to tidy it up.

97/19 Chairman's Report

New Councillor

After interviewing three candidates Councillors agreed to co-opt Mrs Sarah Brabban who will take office on 13th January 2020.

98/19 Any other business

None

99/19 Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 13th January **2020** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 7:00pm.

The meeting finished at 7:00 p.m.