

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 9th March 2020** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

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

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

Apologies: E. Todd

Declaration of interest: None

23/20 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 10th February, 2020.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

24/20 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Clerk informed Councillors of consultation being carried out by Durham County Council. The consultation is statistics based. The SLOW signs on the roads within Witton le Wear are due to be reinstated sometime during the next financial year.

It was resolved:

Clerk to send comments to Durham County Council.

2. Lights for the Village Green

Electricity feeder box is due to be installed on the 11th March.

3. Parking on the road outside Low Barns Nature Reserve

Clerk informed Councillors that a photograph of cars parked in the layby outside Low Barns Nature Reserve have been sent to Durham County Council and he is awaiting a response.

4. Website

Nothing to report at this time.

5. Witton Park Bridge

Nothing to report at this time.

6. Church path

The stretch of Church Path that residents are feel is dangerous is a Public Right of Way. Clerk has contacted Durham County Council to ask if someone from the Public Rights of Way Department will inspect the path.

7. Untaxed van

This van has been removed.

8. Trees, bird boxes and bee hotels

Councillors E. Swift and B. Henderson are due to meet someone from Low Barns Nature Reserve to get advice.

25/20

Representation by Residents

Anne Yuill asked the Parish Council on behalf of the Heritage Group, if they would be willing to give a £50 grant to buy prizes with regard to V.E. Day celebrations.

She also asked about the possibility of getting a seat installed on the multi user path near Wear Valley Junction.

26/20

Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £5,044.68 as at 29th February, 2020.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 292 - 295 as follows:

292 –	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary March 2020)	£ 213. 20
293 –	HMRC PAYE	£ 45. 20
294 –	SE Landscaping Ltd	£ 564. 00
295 –	123 - Reg	<u>£ 28. 78</u>
	Total	<u>£ 384. 20</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

27/20

Planning Matters

Councillors discussed the following planning applications:

DM/20?00368/FPA

Mr & Mrs Gibbs

Land to the north of Dun Cow Inn, 19 High Street, Witton le Wear DL14 0AY

Erection of 2 no. dwellings

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed that although they did not agree or disagree with the planning application there were concerns regarding traffic, parking or access issues while the building work was being carried out.

28/20

Clerks Correspondence

The Clerk informed Councillors he had attended a Council Planning training event at County Hall. He suggested forming a planning committee to discuss any planning matters that occur during August and December when there are no Parish Council meetings.

The Clerk informed Councillors he had spoken to Steve Ragg asking about Councillors have a separate Parish Council email address. Steve said that this is a very good idea especially with regards to possible Freedom of Information requests from residents etc.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to creating individual Parish Council email addresses.

29/20

Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Councillors agreed not to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to create an action plan to be included with the Chairman's Report detailing the proposed work to be carried during this financial year.

30/20

Members Reports

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

Potholes

There is concern about the number of potholes appearing on the village roads.

It was resolved:

Potholes to be reported to Durham County Council online

Scarecrow Competition

Scarecrow competition to go ahead in conjunction with the village show.

Village clean up

Councillors agreed to ask SE Landscaping to carry out a village clean up at least once a year.

Erosion of the river bank.

There has been severe erosion of some of the river bank paths.

Repair of notice boards

Councillor Brabban agreed to paint the Parish Council notice boards.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to check the village seats and noticeboards to see if any need replacing.

31/20

Chairman's Report

Nothing to report

32/20

Any other business

None

33/20

Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 20th April 2020 in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:20 p.m.