

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 3rd August 2020** via Zoom commencing at **6.00pm**

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

**Also Present:** A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), Mr R. Holden M.P.

**Apologies:** E. Todd, P. Cowan

**Declaration of interest:** None

**45/20 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**46/20 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic**

Richard Holden M.P. promised to help the Parish Council with the Speeding Traffic problem. He also mentioned a move towards the implementation of walking and cycling routes within County Durham.

**2. Lights for the Village Green**

Meter to be installed in the feeder box by E-On on 20<sup>th</sup> August. It is hoped to get funding to run the electricity cables under the road, to light the trees on the village green, from Weardale AAP. The Parish Council have been promised that all the necessary work will be done so that we will have lighting on the village green in time for Christmas.

**3. Website**

Clerk made Councillors aware of website accessibility regulations that come into force in September.

**It was resolved:**

Council agreed to ask Entwine Solutions to check the website to see if it meets the relevant standards and upgrade it if necessary.

**4. Parking outside Low Barns Nature Reserve.**

Chairman to speak to the manager of Low Barns Nature Reserve to discuss these parking problems.

**5. Church path**

Nothing further to report at this time.

**6. Trees, bird boxes and bee hotels**

Chairman to speak to the manager of Low Barns Nature Reserve to ask for some advice. Councillor M Henderson made Councillors aware of her concerns regarding bird poo if bird boxes were put on the village green trees.

**7. Seats and notice boards**

Councillor Brabban has started to repaint the notice boards.

**8. Village clean up**

SE Landscaping has started to carry out the village clean up.

**9. Councillors Code of Conduct**

Councillors are happy with the new Code of Conduct.

**10. Witton Word Grant**

Councillor Shuttleworth has promised to give the Parish Council a grant of £1000 to help with the Witton Word running costs.

**47/20 Representation by Residents**

There were none.

**48/20 Financial Statement and Report**

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £10,964.17 as of 31st July 2020. The internal audit on the accounts up to the 31st March 2020 has been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Certificate of Exemption, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement were signed by the Chairman and Clerk and will be posted on the Parish Council website. A notice of the period for the exercise of public rights to be put on the Parish Council notice boards and website.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 306 – 309 as follows:

306 –	Thinford Nurseries	£ 409. 20
307 –	Zoom	£ 28. 78
308 –	Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary July 2020)	£ 345. 00
309 –	HMRC PAYE	<u>£ 77. 00</u>
	Total	<u>£ 859. 98</u>

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

**49/20 Planning Matters**

Reference	DM/20/01625/FPA
Address	Dun Cow Inn 19 High Street Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0AY
Proposal	Demolition of building attached to pub, creation of new access and rear parking area and enclosed front beer garden
Decision	Application Withdrawn

A number of residents were unhappy with this application as the barns connected to the Dun Cow Inn have historical significance within the village.

- 50/20 Clerks Correspondence**  
Clerk proposed getting quotes next year for the supply of plants for the hanging baskets and planters.
- 51/20 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**  
Councillors agreed to think about targets they would like to be put on the Parish Council Action Plan.
- 52/20 Members Reports**  
Councillors have been asked by residents to report on the following matters :-
- Dog bins**  
A resident has asked whether it would be possible to get a dog bin installed near Castle View / The Paddock. Durham County Council have previously stated that there are more than enough dog bins within Witton Le Wear.
- It was resolved:**  
Clerk to order dog bags for the dog bag dispenser.
- 53/20 Chairman's Report**  
Nothing to report
- 54/20 Any other business**  
None
- 55/20 Date and Time of the next Meeting**  
The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September **2020** via Zoom commencing at 6:00pm.

The meeting finished at 7:02 p.m.