

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020** via Zoom commencing at **6.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors P. Cowan (Chair), M. Henderson, B. Henderson, E. Swift, S. Brabban,

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

**Apologies:** E. Todd, K. Quigley, O. Wilson, S. Brabban,

**Declaration of interest:** None

**67/20 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**68/20 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic**

Clerk informed Councillors that he had received a reply from David Battensby, Traffic Assets Senior Engineer at Durham County Council informing him that the SLOW signs in Witton Le Wear will be reinstated within the next couple of weeks. There was no mention from him regarding the installation of speed bumps on the top road.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to email Richard Holden MP to ask if he would contact Durham County Council about the speeding traffic problem within Witton le Wear.

**2. Lights for the Village Green**

The work to run the wires under the top road has now been carried out. The grant to pay for this work has been received but no invoice has yet been received. The work to light the trunks of 2 trees will be carried out in time for Christmas.

**3. Website**

An Accessibility Statement can now be found on the Parish Council website.

**4. Church path**

Clerk has spoken to Owen Shaw from the Public Rights of Way Department at Durham County Council. Part of the path that goes around the Church is a public right of way. Mr Shaw informed the Clerk if there were any further problems with this path they should be reported to Durham County Council.

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

Councillors agreed to wait until Spring to see where bulbs have already been planted on the village green with the idea of planting bulbs at a later date.

**6. Seats and notice boards**

Councillors agreed to buy a new seat and place it at the entrance to Engineman's Terrace. The residents in that area have agreed to look after the seat.

**7. Vehicles parked on the pavement at the end of St James Gardens**

The BT van is still parked at the end of St James Gardens causing an obstruction to pushchairs and wheelchair users.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to telephone 101 and ask the Police to look into this matter.

**8. Work to trees on the village**

Clerk updated Councillors on this matter. The Clean and Green Team at Durham County Council are unwilling to carry out this work as they are stating that Durham County Council do not own the village green.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors to await feedback from Durham County Council.

**69/20**

**Representation by Residents**

Anne Yuill and Paul Parsons representatives from the Heritage Group updated Councillors on the plans to place an information board on the village green, in front of a bench next to High Street. Some Councillors had concerns about the positioning of the information board.

Councillor Cowan asked that the Heritage Group to share their risk assessment for the information board with the Parish Council. The Heritage Group also plan to conduct a poll about the information board using the Nextdoor website.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed that the project should go ahead subject to more engagement in the Witton Word and seeing the risk assessment.

**70/20**

**Financial Statement and Report**

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £19,201.04 as of 30th September 2020.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 322 – 326 as follows:

322 – E-On Energy	£ 65. 47
323 – Royal British Legion	£ 25. 00
324 – Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary - October)	£176. 65
325 – HMRC PAYE	£ 39. 60
326 – Eli Press	<u>£133. 20</u>
Total	<u>£439. 92</u>

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

**71/20**

**Planning Matters**

DM/20/02256/TPO

Mr John Wheeler  
1 The Towers  
Witton-le-Wear  
Bishop Auckland  
DL14 0AD

Removal of T8-11 and reduction of G1 tree.

Councillors discussed the above planning application and there were no objections.

**72/20 Clerks Correspondence**

**Remembrance Sunday**

Councillors agreed that due to the current uncertainty as to whether Remembrance Sunday services will go ahead that a donation should be made to the Royal British Legion without purchasing a wreath.

**Public Rights of Way work**

Lynda Bentley approached the Parish Council to ask if repair work can be done to paths within Witton Le Wear.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to email SE Landscaping to get a quote for this work.

**73/20 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**

Councillor Swift asked Councillors to consider another village tidy up to be carried out by SE Landscaping after the leaves have fallen. The land next to the railway platform also needs to be strimmed.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed that this work should be carried out and SE Landscaping to be asked for a quote for this work.

**74/20 Members Reports**

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

**Power outages**

There have been complaints about the number of power outages experienced within the village.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to contact Northern Powergrid to ask if anything can be done.

**Parking outside the School**

There have been complaints about the number of cars parked outside the School when parents are dropping their children off at the School.

**75/20 Chairman's Report**

**Traffic travelling down Station Road**

There are concerns about cars driving on the footpath down Station Road to enable two way traffic.

**76/20 Any other business**

None

**77/20 Date and Time of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November **2020** via Zoom commencing at 6:00pm.

The meeting finished at 7:30 p.m.