

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021** via Zoom commencing at **6.00pm**

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

**Also Present:** A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), C. Fernyhough (Resident)

**Apologies:** K. Quigley, E. Todd,

**Declaration of interest:** None

**01/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**02/21 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic**

A new resident to the village has complained about the speed of traffic on High Street.

**2. Trees and bulbs**

Planting of bulbs will be left until Spring 2021.

**3. Seats and notice boards**

Chairman received a thank you from Christina Haworth for installing the new seat.

**It was resolved:**

Chair to put an article in the Witton Word letting residents know a new seat has been purchased and installed outside Railway Cottages.

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

Nothing further to report.

**5. Information Boards**

Parish Council still waiting for the risk assessment to be carried out.

**6. Work to trees on the village green**

Councillor S Brabban offered to trim back the excess branches on some of the trees on the village green.

**7. Electric car charging point**

Chairman contacted Angelina Maddison at Weardale AAP regarding grants available to install electric car charging points.

**03/21 Representation by Residents**

Mr Charles Fernyhough expressed his concerns regarding the 60mph speed limit on the A68 going past West End. He asked Councillors whether they would be willing to write to Durham County Council to ask whether they would consider reducing the speed limit as there is increased traffic going past West End and also using Douglas Lane.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to write to Durham County Council and also include Richard Holden MP in the email.

**04/21**

**Financial Statement and Report**

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £17,683.89 as of 31st December 2020.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 335 – 338 as follows:

335 – Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary - January)	£ 216. 25
336 – Zurich Municipal	£ 362. 80
337 – Zoom	£ 14. 39
338 – Eli Press	<u>£ 103. 07</u>
Total	<u>£ 696. 51</u>

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct. Councillors agreed that there should be no increase in the Parish Council precept for 2021/22.

**05/21**

**Planning Matters**

Councillors discussed the following planning application:

**Reference:** DM/20/03373/FPA

**Address:** Garden House High Street Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0AZ

**Proposal:** Erection of car port and wall to north east, erection of detached domestic garage to north west and replace windows of dwelling.

**It was resolved:** Councillors neither agreed with or objected to this planning application.

**06/21**

**Clerks Correspondence**

Nothing to report at this time.

**07/21**

**Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**

Nothing further to report

**08/21**

**Members Reports**

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

**Village tidy up**

Clerk to confirm with SE Landscaping that he will be carrying out a village tidy up in the early part of 2021, weather depending.

**Lights on the village green**

A resident said how nice the new Christmas lights were.

**Fence on the village green needs painting**

Councillors discussed the need to paint the repaired section of the fence at the bottom of the village green.

**Cars parked on Station Road**

A resident has asked the Parish Council to contact the Police about a van parked at the end of Post Office Street and Station road which causes an obstruction.

**09/21 Chairman's Report**

**Dog fouling**

Due to an increase in dog fouling on High Street a resident has asked whether the Parish Council could install CCTV to find out which dog owners were responsible.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors felt that the installation of CCTV was not a matter for the Parish Council as it could encroach on residents privacy and it would also need to be monitored.

**Witton Word**

The January 2021 edition of the Witton Word will be the last one edited by John Wheeler. An advert has previously been put in the Witton Word asking for someone to help John but there was no response by any residents.

**It was resolved:**

Councillors agreed to pause the production of the Witton Word until someone can be found to become the Editor and also until there is more content. An article to be put in the Witton Word letting residents know that John is retiring.

**Village Green**

Councillors discussed the problem of who owns the village green. After a discussion with County Councillor John Shuttleworth Durham County Council have now agreed that they do have responsibility for the Witton le Wear village green.

**Community Centre**

Parish Councillors discussed the possibility of requesting an invitation from the Community Centre to attend their meetings.

**10/21 Any other business**

None

**11/21 Date and Time of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via Zoom commencing at 6:00pm.

The meeting finished at 7:20 p.m.