

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 8th February 2021** via Zoom commencing at **6.00pm**

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

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), C. Fernyhough, E Whalley, M. Whalley (Residents)

Apologies: K. Quigley,

Declaration of interest: None

12/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 11th January 2021.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

13/21 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic – speed limit on the A68

Clerk received a letter from the Traffic Assets Department at Durham County Council stating that the speed limit on this section of road is considered appropriate and credible.

It was resolved: Councillors believe they are unable to get any further with this matter as it has been an issue for a number of years, but are willing to help any residents wishing to take this matter further.

2. Trees and bulbs

Councillors waiting to see where bulbs need to be planted.

3. Information Boards

Resolved: As the risk assessment from the Heritage Group was received by the Clerk on the day of the meeting, Councillors agreed that more time was needed to be able to read it.

4. Witton word

Councillors hope to produce the next issue of the Witton Word in May.

5. Village tidy up

The tidy up has been delayed due to the recent bad weather and will happen once the weather improves.

6. Fence on the village green

Repairs or replacement of the fence to wait until the weather improves.

7. Cars parked on Station Road

Van parked blocking the pavement on Station Road was reported to the Police.

8. Dog fouling

Councillors believe that dog owners from outside the village are to blame. It is difficult to monitor and enforce the actions of irresponsible dog owners.

9. Community centre

Chair to contact the Community Association to ask if the Parish Council could have an invitation to their next meeting.

14/21 Representation by Residents
None

15/21 Financial Statement and Report
Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £17,164.46 as of 31st January 2021.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 339 – 340 as follows:

339 – Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary - January)	£ 216. 25
340 – Zoom	<u>£ 14. 39</u>
Total	<u>£ 230. 64</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

16/21 Planning Matters
No relevant planning applications.

17/21 Clerks Correspondence

May elections

Clerk informed Councillors that Parish Council elections are due to go ahead in May. Councillors wishing to stand again are required to complete nomination papers and send them to Durham County Council.

18/21 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.
Nothing further to report

19/21 Members Reports
Councillors have been asked by residents to report on the following matters :-

Repair work to the level crossing

A request has been made that panels that were left after previous repair work at the level crossing be removed. There are concerns that if the proposed work is carried out on the 15th February then this will mean that some residents will be cut off due to the flooding further along Low Lane.

It was resolved:

Clerk to contact Weardale Railway and request these panels be removed. He will also contact Durham County Council making them aware of residents concerns.

Erosion of the riverbank

Erosion of the riverbank near the old bridge at the bottom of Clemmy bank has been reported to Durham County Council as the path is now extremely close to the river and is a hazard. Due to lockdown the path is being used by families during their daily walks.

Witton le Wear fly fishers have asked that the Parish Council support the claim for a grant from Northumbria Water to carry out work to repair the river bank.

20/21 Chairman's Report

Electric Car Charging points

Chair to contact Angelina Maddison at Weardale AAP to make her aware that the Parish Council are interested in any grants available for Electric Car Charging Points.

21/21 Any other business

None

22/21 Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 8th March **2021** via Zoom commencing at 6:00pm.

The meeting finished at 7 p.m.