

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Wednesday
19th May 2021 via Zoom commencing at **6.15pm**

Present: Councillors P. Cowan (Chair), E. Swift, S. Brabban, O. Wilson, L. Docherty,
S. Morehead, P. Parsons, H. Murray-Leslie

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), Mr Metcalfe (Resident)

Apologies: None

Declaration of interest: See below

45/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 12th April 2021.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

46/21 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Professor Fernyhough is still awaiting a response from Durham County Council after a road traffic accident that occurred on the A68 near Witton le Wear.

2. Information Boards

Nothing to report at this time.

Councillor Parsons declared an interest in this matter.

3. Witton word

Clerk and Councillor Wilson met with Eli Press who are going to produce future issues of the Witton Word. John Wheeler has passed all the relevant information on to Eli Press.

It was resolved: Councillors agreed that they should be responsible for reviewing the draft version of the Witton Word before it is published. Councillor Brabban agreed to be responsible for handling the collection from Eli Press and distribution to those volunteers who are delivering the Witton Word once it has been printed.

4. Village green / fence on the village green

Nothing to report at this time.

It was resolved: Chairman to email Jill Errington at Durham County Council to clarify the position of who is responsible for carrying out work on the village green.

5. Cars parked on Station Road

Chair updated Councillors regarding this matter. Police are continuing to monitor parking within the village. Mr Metcalfe expressed his concerns about having to walk on the road to get past cars that are parked blocking the pavement.

It was resolved: Councillors agreed that an article should be put in the Witton Word asking residents to be considerate when parking their vehicles and highlight the concerns that have been raised.

6. Parish Council Facebook page

Clerk is now responsible for the Parish Council Facebook page.

7. Christmas lights

Councillor Wilson has been in contact with Durham County Council to get a quote to put more Christmas lights on the village green trees.

8. Witton le Wear Primary School

Chair asked Councillor Murray-Leslie to find out whether the Parish Council can help with any of schools proposed projects. Councillor Docherty made Councillors aware of the hope to reinstate the walking school bus which would help with reducing the traffic congestion around the school gates caused by parents dropping their children off at school.

Councillor Murray-Leslie declared an interest in this matter

9. Replacement of noticeboard

Clerk has received 3 quotes to replace the noticeboard at St James Gardens which is letting water in.

It was resolved: Councillors agreed not to replace the noticeboard at this time.

47/21 Representation by Residents

Mr Metcalfe expressed his concerns about the overdevelopment of the village which in his view is not for the good of the village.

48/21 Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £13,885.84 as of 30th April 2021.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 349 – 351 as follows:

349 – Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary - May)	£ 216. 25
350 - ICO	£ 40. 00
351 - CDALC	<u>£ 98. 25</u>
Total	<u>£ 354. 50</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct. Accounts Statements dated 31/03/2021 were approved and Councillors agreed that they should be used in the 2020/21 Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

49/21 Planning Matters

Replace timber windows and door with UPVC to rear

14 Post Office Street Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0AW

Ref. No: DM/21/01413/LB | Received: Tue 20 Apr 2021 | Validated: Wed 21 Apr 2021 | Status: Decided

Parish Council neither object to or agree with the above planning application.

50/21 Clerks Correspondence

Councillor Training

Clerk reminded Councillors of the online training that is available in June.

Digital meeting

Clerk asked Councillors if it would be possible to reduce the amount of paper being used in meetings as all the documents are already emailed to Councillors before the meeting.

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to only having a printed agenda unless they were unable to access the other documents digitally during a meeting.

51/21 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Nothing further to report

52/21 Members Reports

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

Electric Car Charging Points

Councillor Wilson made Councillors aware of a grant that is available for electric car charging points. She has arranged to meet with a representative from Durham County Council to discuss where a charging point could be positioned.

Hanging baskets

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to accept Councillor Brabban's offer to look after the hanging baskets within the village and to request that Thinford Nurseries only use peat free compost in the hanging baskets and planters from now on. Councillors also agreed to contacting the Youth Club to see if the children would be interested in filling the hanging baskets and planters.

Environmental plans

Councillors discussed possible environmental projects for the village including further work to the rough area next to the railway platform.

Dog bins

Residents have raised concerns about how often the dog bins are emptied within the village. The bin near the school is filled really quickly.

It was resolved: Clerk to contact the Clean and Green Team at Durham County Council to ask if we could have another dog bin in the St James Gardens Area.

53/21 Chairman's Report

New Councillors

Chairman congratulated new Councillors on being elected to the Parish Council and wished to thank former Councillors for their many years of hard work. Chairman also wished to thank Councillor Wilson for carrying out the role of Chairman over the last three years.

It was resolved: An article to be put in the Witton Word thanking former Councillors.

54/21 Any other business

None

55/21

Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 14th June **2021** commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:44 p.m.