

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday
14th June 2021 via Zoom commencing at **6.15pm**

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

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), C. Hall, A. Blackett (Residents)

Apologies: O. Wilson,

Declaration of interest: See below

56/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 10th May 2021.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

57/21 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Councillor Parsons felt that any further correspondence to Durham County Council regarding this matter should be forwarded to the local County Councillors.

2. Village History Information Boards

Councillor Parsons updated Councillors about the history information boards, in his role as part of the Heritage Group, and asked whether Councillors would support its installation on the village green. Permission from Durham County Council is still required before the installation can be carried out.

It was resolved:

Councillors gave their support for the installation of the information board.

Councillor Parsons declared an interest in this matter.

3. Witton word

Councillors discussed the initial problems regarding the May 2021 issue of the Witton Word. It is hoped to get more advertisers which will help pay for printing costs.

It was resolved: It was agreed to try and improve the content of future issues by hopefully involving more organisations within the village. Councillors requested more time to proof read the next issue.

4. Village green / fence on the village green

Chairman has been in contact with Jill Errington from Durham County Council and was told that Durham County Council have the responsibility for the maintenance of the village green and any fences on it. The Parish Council can carry out works on the village green so long as it is “for the better enjoyment of residents.”

5. Cars parked on Station Road

No further updates at this time.

6. Parish Council Facebook page

Councillors discussed better ways to communicate with residents using social media.

7. Christmas lights

No further updates at this time.

8. Witton le Wear Primary School

Councillors Docherty and Murray-Leslie made Councillors aware of the plans to improve the building facilities within the School. Two sheds have been demolished to make space for future developments.

Councillors Murray-Leslie and Docherty declared an interest in this matter

9. Electric car charging points

Councillor Wilson met with a representative from Durham County Council to discuss the positioning of an electric car charging point. It is part of the County Councils plans regarding carbon reduction.

10. Hanging baskets

Clerk has been in contact with Thinford Nurseries who have promised to provide the hanging baskets within the next couple of weeks.

11. Dog bins

Councillors discussed the continuing problem of dog bins in the village.

It was resolved: Clerk to contact the Clean and Green Team at Durham County Council and ask whether the Parish Council could provide a bigger bin to replace the one in St James Gardens. The one on Cemetery bank needs repairing.

58/21

Representation by Residents

Mrs Hall commented on cars parked on the pavement on Cemetery Bank which causes traffic problems and also problems for pedestrians who are forced to step onto the road to get past these cars.

59/21

Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £15,003.19 as of 31st May, 2021. The Annual Governance Statement was approved by Councillors.

Clerk requested that the bank changeover be carried out in August when there is no meeting and payments are limited.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 352 – 356 as follows:

352 – Ultimate Flowers	£ 29. 50
353 - Wel Medical (Defibrillator Pads)	£ 43. 20
354 - Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary - June)	£ 238. 85
355 - E On	£ 25. 56
356 - SLCC	<u>£ 7. 50</u>
Total	<u>£ 344. 61</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

60/21

Planning Matters

Clerk to email new Councillors copies of Planning Training material which shows the valid reasons for objecting to a planning application.

61/21

Clerks Correspondence

Speed signs

The speed signs currently held by Edward Todd need collecting.

Defibrillator pads

Clerk informed Councillors that replacement defibrillator pads have been ordered as the current spare pads will soon be past their use by date.

Parish paths strimming

The first strimming of the parish paths will be carried out in June.

Credit Union

CDALC have asked whether the Parish Council are willing to promote a Credit Union which is a way to lend money and hopefully stop the use of loan sharks.

Wall at St James Gardens

Clerk to make a request to Durham County Council that this wall be repaired.

62/21

Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Nothing further to report

63/21

Members Reports

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

Cricket Field

A resident has reported problems caused by people using the cricket field who are swearing and playing loud music.

Broadband

Councillor Parsons has asked whether anything can be done to improve broadband within the village.

It was resolved: Chairman to contact Digital Durham to find out if there are any grants available to bring improved broadband to the village.

Japanese Knotweed

Instances of Japanese Knotweed has been reported on the river bank.

Litter pick

Councillors wish to thank residents who organised the annual litter pick.

Queen's Jubilee

Councillors agreed that they would be willing to support any plans to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

Environmental Plans

Councillors agreed to setup a sub-committee to discuss environmental plans. There are a number of residents who are interested in attending these meetings.

64/21 Chairman's Report

Village fayre

The Community Association are considering organising a village fayre, regulations permitting, and are asking for volunteers.

Hogweed

Councillor Wilson contacted Durham County Council after reports of hogweed on the verge at the entrance to The Towers Gardens. The hogweed has now been sprayed by Durham County Council to prevent it spreading and will continue to be sprayed twice yearly.

65/21 Any other business

None

66/21 Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 12th July **2021** commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:56 p.m.