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Witton Word

THE NEWSLETTER OF WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

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SPRING EDITION 2021
ISSUE 100

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Parish Councillors

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police – Non Emergency - 101
HOSPITALS

NHS None Emergency - 111
Bishop Auckland Hospital
01388 455000

University Hospital North Durham
0191 3332333

Darlington Memorial Hospital
01325 380100

DOCTORS SURGERIES

North House Surgery, Hope Street, Crook
01388 762945

Repeat Prescriptions 01388762718
Auckland Medical Group, 51 Toft Hill
01388 834843

Auckland Medical Group, St Helen Auckland
01388 604163

Auckland Medical Group, Bishop Auckland
01388 602728

PHARMACIES

Clemitsons, 25a Hope Street, Crook
01388 764939

Boots Chemists, 8 North Terrace, Crook
01388 762726

Well Pharmacy, 50 Hope Street, Crook
01388 766718

Britton & Robson, 45 High Street Crook
01388 746269

SCHOOLS

Witton Le Wear Primary School
01388 488350

CHURCHES

St Philip and St James Parish Church
01388 768898

Methodist Chapel
01388 205319

ORGANISATIONS

Community Centre
Clarice Smith 01388 488200

ELECTRICITY EMERGENCY

Northern Powergrid 0800 668877

WATER EMERGENCY

Northumbrian Water
Leaks 0800 393084

Sewerage 0800 3287648

GAS EMERGENCY

National Gas Emergency
Smell Gas 0800 111999

TRADE DIRECTORY

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COMPUTER REPAIRS ENTWINE SOLUTIONS 01388 488193 Email: richard@entwinesolutions.co.uk	GARDEN SERVICES EASTWOOD GARDENS 01388 417522 – 07736 396409 Email:

YOUTH CLUB

With the current climate and the requirement to meet the Government's requirements, we have decided to suspend the youth club at Witton le Wear until further notice.
Regards, Derek Bradley



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31/21 Chairman's Report: Signage for the bridge at the bottom of Clemmy Bank - It was resolved: Clerk to contact Durham County Council to see if the correct signage is in place near the bridge.
32/21 Any other business - None
33/21 Date and Time of the next Meeting - The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 12th April 2021 via Zoom commencing at 6:00pm.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Name	Telephone Number
WILSON. Olive	Tel: 01388 488294
BRABBAN. Sarah	Tel: 07824 564606
COWAN. Philip	Tel: 07884 452710
SWIFT. Elizabeth	Tel: 01388 488671
DOCHERTY. L	Tel: 07765 807589
MOREHEAD. Sarah	Tel: 07763 828076
PARSONS. Paul	Tel: 01388 488528
MURRAY- LESLIE. Hannah	Tel: 07920 557324
DIXON. Alan (CLERK)	Tel: 01388 609045



1st WITTON LE WEAR RAINBOWS

Rainbows is the first level of the girl guides movement for young girls between the ages of 5 and 7 years. At 7 years of age the girls automatically move up to Brownies.

Here at Witton Le Wear we meet every Thursday from 5pm – 6pm, at the Community Centre for lots of fun, games and creative activities.

Unlike larger Rainbows groups we have no waiting list, so if your daughter would like to come along, join in the fun, and meet some new friends. It is only £3 per week.

Contact:
Fiona Smith 07856 856714



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VILLAGE VOICES: Your Community Choir

Choral singing has taken on a rather different form over the past 18 months or so. Unable to meet in person many choirs, including our own, have had to learn how to gather for 'Zoom Singing' sessions. This is quite a different experience as we can't hear each other sing and we lose that special feeling of singing in harmony with others. It's not for everyone so some members have been patiently waiting for restrictions to come to an end.

We are beginning to get together for outdoor sessions now (we are allowed up to 30 people outdoors), when the weather permits that is. These sessions will be light hearted and with easy to learn songs, to ease us back gently into group singing. So now is a good time to join us, either as a returning or brand new member. There are lots of reasons to sing: it can lift your mood, boost the immune system and improve brain function for example (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/choir-singing-improves-health-happiness---and-perfect-icebreaker>); and best of all, it's good fun!

So if you'd like to try it out, get in touch. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm at the Parish Church in normal times. Contact choir at: gohere65@gmail.com

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

Once we have information from the Community Centre Committee that there is a Covid-19 secure protocol in place the monthly Coffee Mornings will be reinstated.

Watch for information on local social media or contact:

Anne 01388 488376 or
 Edith 01388 488136



COMMUNITY CENTRE EVENTS: CLOSED DUE TO CURRENT SITUATION

- Mondays:** 7.30pm – 10.00pm
 CARPET BOWLS – *Kate Atkins 488626*
- Tuesday:** 7.00pm – 8.30pm
 YOGA – *Mark Aspinall 710658*
- Wednesdays:** 1.30pm – 3.00pm
 BADMINTON – *Ursula Jones 488568*
- Wednesdays:** 6.30pm – 8.30pm
 YOUTH CLUB
- Thursdays:** 5.00pm – 6.00pm
 RAINBOWS – *Fiona Smith 07856 856714*
- Thursdays:** 6.00pm – 7.15pm
 BROWNIES – *Mary Smith 488200*



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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.

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday 8th March 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),

Apologies: K. Quigley, E. Todd

Declaration of interest: None

23/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 8th February 2021 - Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

24/21 Matters arising from the previous minutes -

1. Speeding traffic - Nothing to report at this time.

2. Trees and bulbs - Councillors waiting to see where bulbs need to be planted. It was resolved: Councillor Cowan to make a note of where bulbs are growing and where bulbs could be planted.

3. Information Boards - Nothing to report at this time.

4. Witton Word - Councillors hope to produce the next issue of the Witton Word in May. It was resolved: John Wheeler to contact advertisers and contributors to the Witton Word to update them on how the Witton Word will be produced in the future. Councillor Wilson to meet with the owner of Eli Press.

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 - Clerk updated Councillors on this matter. It was resolved: Clerk to email Jill Errington at Durham County Council and ask her to forward a request to carry out a tree survey on the village green and replace the fence at the bottom of green, to the relevant departments.

7. Cars parked on Station Road - The van blocking the pavement on Station Road has changed.

8. Dog fouling - Chair updated Councillors on this matter. It was resolved: Parish Council to continue to monitor this problem.

9. Erosion of the riverbank - Councillor B Henderson has received a letter of support from Witton le Wear Fly Fishers requesting that the river bank be repaired.

10. Community centre - The Community Association is currently in the process of appointing new Trustees.

25/21 Representation by Residents - None

26/21 Financial Statement and Report - Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £16935.85 as of 28th February 2021. Clerk has finally received the invoice from Durham County Council for the electrical work to fit the Christmas lights. A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 341 – 343 as follows:

341 –	Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary - March)	£ 216. 25
342 –	CDALC (Elections Training)	£ 10. 00
343 –	Durham County Council (Christmas lights)	<u>£9360. 00</u>
Total		<u>£9586. 25</u>

It was resolved: All financial matters agreed as being correct.

27/21 Planning Matters:

Demolition of existing garage and construction of dwelling: 3 High Street, Witton le Wear - A resident has asked why the public right of way leading onto High Street still remains closed. It was resolved: Councillor Cowan to check whether an extension for the closure of this path has been requested.

28/21 Clerks Correspondence -

Parking opposite the Nature reserve - After receiving really good photographic evidence from Councillor B Henderson, Clerk sent it on to Durham County Council to ask whether yellow lines could be put on the edge of road opposite the Nature Reserve.

Social media post - Clerk asked whether Councillors would agree to a post on the Parish Councils Facebook page asking residents what projects they would like the Parish Council to consider carrying out in the next financial year.

Potholes on High Street - Clerk to contact Durham County Council to ask when the potholes on High Street will be repaired.

29/21 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan - Nothing further to report.

30/21 Members Reports - Councillors have been asked by residents to report on the following matters:

Witton le Wear Primary School - The Primary School have approached a Councillor to ask whether the Parish Council would be willing to help with the funding of projects which are being considered by the School. There have also been reports of parents parked outside or near the school with their engines running and other parents not following social distancing guidelines. **It was resolved:** Clerk to write to the Head Teacher.