

## WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday  
**14<sup>th</sup> June 2021** at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at **6.15pm**

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

**Also Present:** A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), B Jones, U Jones, C. Jewell, C Haworth, A. Yuill,  
E Whalley, M Henderson (Residents)

**Apologies:** E. Swift, L. Docherty,

**Declaration of interest:** See below

**67/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**  
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

**68/21 Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

**1. Speeding traffic (speed signs)**

Clerk made Councillors aware of a Zoom meeting which has been organised by CDALC so that Councillors and Parish Council Clerks can meet with the new Police and Crime Commissioner.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to attend the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. Clerk to write to Sarah Anne Stoker at the Traffic Assets Department, Durham County Council to see if she would be willing to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss traffic problems within the village.

**2. Village History Information Boards**

Councillor Parsons is continuing to communicate with various departments at Durham County Council to get permission to erect the information board.

Councillor Parsons declared an interest in this matter.

**3. Witton word**

The deadline submission date for the Witton Word is the 19<sup>th</sup> July. More articles for this edition of the Witton Word have been received, than the previous edition.

**4. Village green / fence on the village green**

No further updates at this time.

**5. Cars parked on Station Road / Cemetery Bank**

Clerk has been in contact with a PCSO at Crook Police Station to report cars parked blocking the pavement on Cemetery Bank. The Police will contact the cars owners to ask them not to park on the pavement.

**6. Parish Council Facebook page**

**It was resolved:**

Parish Councillors agreed to delay the creation of a Social Media policy until the meeting in September to give Councillors time to work out what they wish to be included in the policy.

**7. Christmas lights**

£1000 was earmarked to pay for further Christmas lights in the 2021-22 financial year.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to contact Paul Gleadow at DCC to request an estimate for further Christmas lights on the village green.

**8. Witton le Wear Primary School**

Councillor Murray-Leslie asked for clarification of Donations and Grants Policy procedure if the Primary School wished to request a grant from the Parish Council. The policy can be found on the Parish Council website at [Council Information – Witton-Le-Wear Parish Website \(wittonlewear.org.uk\)](http://www.wittonlewear.org.uk)

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to email the Primary School including the Donations and Grants Policy. The exact amount of any grant to be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

**9. Electric car charging points**

Parish Council is awaiting feedback from Weardale AAP regarding this project. The best position for a charging point was agreed as being on the top road near the feeder box.

**10. Hanging baskets**

The hanging baskets have been delivered.

**11. Dog bins**

The dog bin on Cemetery Bank is still waiting to be repaired by DCC. Clerk still awaiting feedback from DCC about the dog bin in St James Gardens.

**12. Environmental plans**

Councillor Murray-Leslie informed Councillors about a meeting to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm to explore people's ideas of things that could be done in the village, to reduce the negative impact on the environment, or contribute to the response to the climate emergency. The aim is to create an action plan for the Parish Council and residents.

**13. Broadband**

The Parish Council have been looking into improving broadband within the village. Councillors met with a representative from Digital Durham via Zoom to discuss working with a company called Alncom who are their preferred broadband infrastructure provider. This could help the Primary School and residents. Hamsterley have already started working with Alncom.

**It was resolved:**

Parish Councillors to meet with Alncom.

**14. Cricket field**

Councillors have received concerns from residents regarding noise from the cricket field. Councillor Parsons has had a constructive discussion with some of the cricket team who informed him that there is a wedding planned to take place on the cricket field. It is hoped that an article will be put in the Witton Word notifying nearby residents that the event is to take place.

**69/21**

**Representation by Residents**

Ursula Jones asked Councillors if they would contact the Highways Department at Durham County Council regarding the state of the roads in Witton le Wear especially in St James Gardens.

Councillor Parsons who is a keen cyclist made members and residents aware of an app called fill that hole which can be used to report potholes to the County Council. Potholes can also be reported online using the "do it online" function on the DCC website [Roads and footpaths - Report an issue - doitonline - Information - Durham](#)

Brian Jones raised concerns about parents waiting for their children outside the school, letting their cars idle, which pumps out noxious gasses.

This issue has been raised on a number of occasions and the Parish Council have recently contacted the new head teacher about this problem.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to contact Councillor Docherty who might be able to give an insight into the use of the walking bus and as to whether anything can be done about this traffic problem.

Christina Haworth asked the Parish Council to consider improving communication with residents as the noticeboard outside the Community Centre does not always contain Parish Council notices.

Matthew Henderson made Councillors aware of his concerns regarding tall overgrown trees near his property. The overhanging trees are having an impact on the public right of way.

This matter has been raised previously and at that time the Parish Council were notified it was a private matter.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to contact the Public Right of Way Department to inspect the trees and contact the landowner.

**70/21**

**Financial Statement and Report**

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £14,589.83 as of 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 357 – 361 as follows:

357 – Eli Press	£ 175. 00
358 - SE Landscaping	£ 612. 00
359 - Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary - July)	£ 216. 25
360 - Miss Y Jabari – Audit Fee	£ 50. 00

361 - CDALC (Councillor Training)  
Total

£ 10.00  
£1063.25

**It was resolved:**

All financial matters agreed as being correct. Councillors Parsons and Murray-Leslie have agreed to be cheque signatories.

**71/21**

**Planning Matters**

Councillors discussed the following planning applications:

DM/21/01946/FPA	Mr & Mrs Young	Garden House High Street Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0AZ	Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement detached garage, replacement porch on front elevation, alterations to eaves of main house, replacement windows, doors and roof to outbuildings and demolition of hay shed	Weardale Witton-le-Wear	Jayne Pallas Delegated
DM/21/01892/FPA	Professor E Meins	Inveresk 2 West End Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0BL	Single storey rear extension, dormer window and rooflights	Weardale Witton-le-Wear	Wendy Dawson Delegated

Councillors neither agree with or object to the above planning applications. Councillor Brabban to attend the next Planning training session.

**72/21**

**Clerks Correspondence**

Clerk asked Councillors if it was ok to share a letter from Richard Holden MP showing that the Parish Council have been in contact with the Highways Dept at DCC regarding speeding traffic in the village.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to try and share the letter on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

**73/21**

**Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**

Nothing further to report

**74/21**

**Members Reports**

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

Councillor Wilson made Councillors aware of events for children during the Summer holidays organised by the Weardale AAP.

Councillor Parsons made Councillors aware that he is building a contact list of organisations within the village who may in the future be contributors to the Witton Word.

Councillor Parsons is also arranging Himalayan Balsam pulling at the end of July, along the riverbank after meeting with the Wear Rivers Trust.

**75/21 Chairman's Report**

**Witton Hall**

Chairman made Councillors aware of a problem with a recent planning application regarding Witton Hall whereby the landowner believed he owned part of the village green.

**Defibrillator Training**

Chairman asked Councillors if they would agree to further defibrillator training. This was previously carried out by the North East Ambulance Service.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to contact NEAS to see if training can be arranged.

**Planter on piece of land near the entrance to Witton Tower Gardens**

Residents who live near this piece of land have asked whether we have any objections to putting a planter there to stop people driving over it.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to speak to the Highways Department to see if they have any objections.

**Path that runs behind the railway platform**

Foliage is overgrowing this path.

**It was resolved:**

Clerk to contact the Public Right of Way Department and Weardale Railway to see if this foliage can be cut back.

**76/21 Any other business**

None

**77/21 Date and Time of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September **2021** commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:29 p.m.