

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday 13th September 2021 at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors H. Murray-Leslie (Chair), S. Brabban, L. Docherty, S. Morehead, O. Wilson

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), E. Kirkby, C. Hall, J. Elliot, S. Oliver, J. Butt (Residents)

Apologies: P. Cowan, P. Parsons, E. Swift

Declaration of interest: None

78/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 12th July 2021.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

79/21 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic (speed signs)

Councillors have completed and returned the plan sent to them by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham to make her aware of their concerns regarding speeding traffic.

2. Village History Information Boards

Currently no further updates.

3. Witton word

The final submission date for the Witton Word is the 20th September with delivery to take place in the first week of October. The Parish Council has funding for six editions of the Witton Word from May 2021 but there is a need to push business advertising.

It was resolved: After complaints from residents, Councillor Brabban to write an article about Antisocial behaviour and how to report it to the Police and Durham County Council [Anti-social behaviour - Durham County Council](#)

4. Village green / fence on the village green

Currently no further updates.

5. Cars parked on Station Road / Cemetery Bank

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to continue reporting cars that are illegally parked.

6. Parish Council Facebook page

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to ask Councillor Parsons to write a Social Media Policy for the Parish Council.

7. Christmas lights

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to pay for extra Christmas lights on the trees

that have previously been lit as the remaining balance of the grant from Weardale AAP would have to have been returned if it is not spent.

8. Witton le Wear Primary School

The school is trying to get support from parents to allow the walking bus to go ahead. This would reduce the number of parents parking outside the school. The Parish Councils Grant Policy has been emailed to the school. Any grant given to the school would be made under <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/section/137>

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to ask Mr Whelerton, the Head Teacher of Witton le Wear Primary School to attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the schools plans and their funding needs.

9. Electric car charging points

Electric car charging points are going ahead in Stanhope. Parish Council is still awaiting feedback from Weardale AAP.

10. Hanging baskets

It was resolved: Clerk to notify Thinford Nurseries not to collect the hanging baskets as the Parish Council will be doing their own in future. Hanging baskets can be stored in the Community Centre. The hanging baskets are to become a community project maintained by the Youth Club.

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. Councillor Docherty felt that there was a need for a dog bin in the area of Castle View.

It was resolved: Clerk to buy dog bags for the dispenser and contact the Clean and Green Team.

12. Environmental plans

Chair updated Councillors to be held by the Parish Council in the Community Centre on the 25th September, to coincide with Great Big Green Week.

It was resolved: Chair to provide exact details of what the budget of £70 for the upcoming event, is to be spent on.

13. Broadband

Parish Council is waiting to hear from Incom to see if the broadband project has been allowed to go live by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

14. Cricket field

Clerk informed Councillors that he had received an apology from Mr Chrisp, the Treasurer of the Cricket Club following complaints from residents.

It was resolved: Clerk to ask if the apology can be published in the Witton Word.

15. Defibrillator training

Clerk notified members that defibrillator training is still not available from NEAS. Training may be available from Weardale AAP.

80/21 Representation by Residents

Eileen Kirkby asked Councillors if it would be possible to repair the interpretation board at the front of the Community Centre. She also asked if it would be possible to have some way of displaying leaflets within the Community Centre. There are several stiles within the Parish that need repairing.

It was resolved: Chair to ask Councillor Cowan to investigate the repair of the display board and if there is a way to display leaflets in the Community Centre. Clerk to contact SE Landscaping regarding the repair of the stiles.

81/21 Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £13,528.57 as of 31st August 2021.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 362 – 368 as follows:

362 – E On Energy	£ 16.39
363 - E On Energy	£ 23.63
364 - Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary - August)	£ 216.25
365 - Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary - September)	£ 216.25
366 - Wel Medical (Defibrillator)	£ 43.20
367 - CDALC (Training costs)	£ 60.00
368 - Eli Press (Witton Word)	£ 175.00
Total	<u>£ 750.72</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

82/21 Planning Matters

Councillors discussed the following planning applications:

Discharge of condition 3 (Amphibian and Reptile ecological method statement) pursuant of planning permission DM/20/03163/FPA.

Low Barns Nature Reserve Low Lane Witton-le-Wear DL14 0AG
Ref. No: DRC/21/00284 | Received: Mon 06 Sep 2021 | Validated: Fri 10 Sep 2021 | Status: Pending Consideration

Replace existing doors and windows. 

14 The Paddock Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0GA
Ref. No: DM/21/02825/FPA | Received: Mon 09 Aug 2021 | Validated: Tue 10 Aug 2021 | Status: Pending Consideration

Felling of 1 No. Horse Chestnut

Garden House High Street Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0AZ
Ref. No: DM/21/02593/TCA | Received: Mon 19 Jul 2021 | Validated: Mon 19 Jul 2021 | Status: Decided

Councillors neither agreed with, nor objected to the above planning applications.

- 83/21 Clerks Correspondence**
Clerk to complete the online application to open a Unity Bank Account.
- 84/21 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.**
Nothing further to report
- 85/21 Members Reports**
Councillors have been asked by residents to report on the following matters :-
 - Dumpy bags outside properties in St James Gardens**
There have been complaints from residents about dumpy bags left outside properties in St James Gardens.
 - Street lighting**
Some of the street lighting in St James Gardens is poor.
It was resolved: Clerk to contact the Street Lighting Department at Durham County Council to see if all the lighting has been upgraded to LED.
 - Issue with caravan**
The Parish Council have been asked to look into whether a caravan has been sited without the landowner's permission.
- 86/21 Chairman's Report**
Nothing to report

87/21 **Any other business**
None

88/21 **Date and Time of the next Meeting**
The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 18th
October **2021** commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:29 p.m.