

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday
18th October 2021 at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at **6.15pm**

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

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), A Yuill, C. Howarth (Residents) S.
Whelerton (Headmaster Witton le Wear Primary School)

Apologies: O. Wilson, S. Brabban,

Declaration of interest: None

89/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 13th September 2021.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

90/21 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic (speed signs)

Hamsterley Parish Council have been recently using a mobile speed sign.

It was resolved: Clerk to contact the Traffic Assets Department at Durham County Council to ask if signs can be installed indicating the hump in the road as some speeding vehicles have been seen leaving the road when they hit the hump in the road near Engineman's Terrace. Clerk to find out if it is possible to borrow the mobile speed sign.

2. Village History Information Boards

Currently no further updates.

3. Witton word

Chairman thanked everyone responsible for the creation and delivery of the Witton Word. Despite teething troubles the Witton Words contents are growing and improving.

4. Village green / fence on the village green

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to investigate repairing or replacing the fence on the village green as parts of it still need painting after being repaired by the County Council. Councillors also agreed to purchase bulbs to be planted around trees on the village green in time for Spring. Councillor Docherty to find out if children from the Youth Club or School would be interested in planting the bulbs. Councillor Murray-Leslie asked whether it would be possible to change how often the grass on the village green is cut so that it could possibly be left to grow.

5. Cars parked on Station Road / Cemetery Bank

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

6. Christmas lights

The extra Christmas lights will hopefully be installed before a proposed switching on ceremony that will take place at the beginning of December.

7. Witton le Wear Primary School

Mr Whelerton informed Councillors of the problems the School is having to deal with from old toilets that need repairing, to classrooms that are in the wrong place. He feels that the school is not big enough for the number of pupils it has. Anne Yuill informed Councillors of fundraising that is already taking place.

Volunteers are still needed to get the walking bus up and running.

It was resolved: Clerk to calculate how much funding the Parish Council could provide to help with the repair of the school toilets.

8. Electric car charging points

Parish Council is still awaiting feedback from Weardale AAP.

9. Dog bins

The broken dog bins on Cemetery Bank have now been replaced although there seems to be some difficulty in getting a dog bin in the area of Castle View.

It was resolved: Councillor Cowan agreed to monitor the dog bags in the dog bag dispenser.

10. Environmental plans

Councillor Murray-Leslie informed members that the event organised by the Climate and Nature subgroup was well attended and the Scarecrow competition raised funds going to help the school fundraising.

11. Broadband

Unfortunately the broadband project in Witton le Wear will not go ahead due to it not being signed off in time by the Governments Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. It will be at least 6 months before anything further is likely to happen.

12. Defibrillator training

It was resolved: Clerk to advertise the defibrillator training course on the Parish Council Facebook page to see if there is sufficient interest for the course to go ahead.

13. Dumpy bags

Clerk has been in contact with the Clean and Green Team who will deal with the dumpy bags as fly tipping.

14. Street lighting

Councillor Docherty reported the street lights that did not seem bright enough to Durham County Council and had received a response stating that the lights were as bright as they needed to be and that the Council is trying to reduce carbon emissions. Residents have reported that a number of street lights are not working

Signed by the Chairman.....

properly due to them being masked by foliage. The lights on Clemmy Bank are in a poor condition compared to the rest of the village.

It was resolved: Clerk to write to the street lighting department and ask them to remove the foliage masking the street lights.

15. Issue with caravan

Councillor Brabban has been contacted by a Planning Enforcement Officer at Durham Council stating that the matter is being dealt with.

91/21

Representation by Residents

C. Haworth asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to purchase another seat for the path near the railway line. She also asked whether it would be possible to plant a tree on the village green in memory of Sheila Tock, former President of Witton le Wear W.I.

It was resolved: Clerk to try and obtain three quotes for benches.

92/21

Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £13,528.57 as of 30th September 2021.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 369 – 37 as follows:

369 – E On Energy	£ 25. 39
370 - Great Big Green Week Event	£ 18. 95
371 - Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary - October)	£ 216. 25
372 - Eli Press	£ 175. 00
373 - Royal British Legion	£ 25. 00
374 - Glasdon (Dog bags)	<u>£ 48. 90</u>
Total	<u>£ 509. 49</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct.

93/21

Planning Matters

Councillors discussed the following planning applications:

Reduce height up to 50% and trim sides to shape to G1. Conifers and Crown reduce and shape up to 2m to T2. Ash

23 – 24 High Street Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 0AY

Ref. No: DM/21/O3267/TCA | Received: Mon 20 Sep 2021 | Validated: Mon 20 Sep 2021 | Status: Pending Consideration

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

94/21

Clerks Correspondence

Maintenance of stiles on Public Rights of Way

SE Landscaping have been asked to supply a quote for stile repairs.

Defibrillator

Defibrillator has now been registered on The Circuit which is a national database. Weekly test sheets no longer need to be submitted to NEAS but Mike McLaren said he would continue to inspect the defibrillator.

Clerk Training

Clerk asked whether he was able to attend further online training provided by CDALC.

95/21 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Nothing further to report

96/21 Members Reports

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

School Defibrillator

Councillor Docherty asked for help with the school defibrillator.

Fly tipping

Sawdust and waste has been thrown over the bridge.

Poppy Wreath

Councillor Cowan agreed to lay the poppy wreath at the Remembrance Church Service.

97/21 Chairman's Report

Nothing to report

98/21 Any other business

None

99/21 Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 8th November **2021** commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:50 p.m.