

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday 8th November 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, O. Wilson, S. Brabban

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk),

Apologies: None

Declaration of interest: None

100/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 11th October 2021.
Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

101/21 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic (speed signs)

A resident of Witton le Wear is still in communication with Durham County Council to try and get the speed limit on the A68 reduced as it goes past West End. The Clerk has been made aware that the Traffic Assets Department at DCC is understaffed. Clerk had contacted this department recently about the installation of road signs but has not received a reply.

2. Village History Information Boards

Councillor Parsons informed Councillors that after taking advice, site notices are to be put up informing nearby property owners that the information board is to be installed to ascertain whether there are any comments or objections.

3. Witton word

The deadline for entries into the next edition of the Witton Word is 22nd November. Councillor Brabban has emailed contributors to make them aware.

4. Village green / fence on the village green

Councillors discussed planting a native hedge next to the fence on the village green. Clerk informed Councillors that DCC are willing to paint the fence and plant a hedge, if the Parish Council are willing to buy the hedge. The planting of a hedge could be done instead of planting a tree in memory of Sheila Tock.

As regards the village green, DCC have informed the Clerk that they had not heard of No Mow May and that residents would need to be informed if the Parish Council wanted the village green not to be cut as often. DCC also said that it may cost more to reduce the number of cuts.

The Parish Council have looked into planting more bulbs on the village and these could be bought from Durham County Council at a cost of 10p a bulb.

It was resolved: Clerk and Chair to get quotes for different types of hedge. Councillor Murray -Leslie to contact DCC to ask whether they would be willing to vary how often the village green is cut and possibly cut paths along the routes

where people normally walk. Councillors agreed to put an article in the Witton Word asking residents how they would feel about this idea.

Councillors agreed to buy 1000 bulbs.

5. Cars parked on Station Road / Cemetery Bank

There have been reports that a cattle truck struggled to get past cars parked on Station Road. Concerns have been expressed about what will happen when building work starts on Cemetery Bank and car owners have to find somewhere else to park.

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

6. Witton le Wear Primary School

Councillors agreed that they would like to support the proposal to assist with the funding of the Primary School toilets, following a presentation by the Headteacher at the October meeting.

Following discussion with the Clerk, the Chair advised Councillors that the maximum grant amount that our Parish Council could offer is in the region of £4,600 based on advice received from CDALC.

Addendum

At the November meeting, councillors agreed in principle to support a request to provide a grant contribution to Witton le Wear Primary School to assist with the costs of refurbishing the pupils' toilet facilities. After the meeting the Clerk briefed Councillors on updated advice received from CDALC about grant making. By correspondence, Councillors agreed to suspend this decision until further discussion can take place at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

7. Electric car charging points

No further updates.

8. Dog bins

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to install a dog bin outside the School next to where the path starts again opposite 7 Castle View.

9. Environmental plans

The next meeting of the Climate and Nature subgroup will take place on 7th December.

10. Defibrillator training

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to put an advert in the Witton Word to ask residents if they are interested.

11. Dumpy bags

Clerk informed Councillors that the dumpy bags have been reported by the Clean and Green Team to the Neighbourhood Warden, who will go out and speak to the owner of the property.

12. Street lighting

Clerk informed members that Durham County Council have checked the street lights and they meet the relevant regulations.

13. Seat for the railway line / Tree in memory of Sheila Tock

It was resolved: Clerk still obtaining quotes for a seat.

14. Maintenance of stiles on Public Rights of Way

Clerk still awaiting a quote from SE Landscaping for stile repairs.

It was resolved: Councillors agreed that a village clean-up be carried out in January to remove leaves etc from gutters. This is work that is not normally carried out by DCC.

15. Fly tipping

Fly tipping signs have been installed near where the reported fly tipping took place.

102/21 Representation by Residents
None

103/21 Financial Statement and Report
Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £10,788.22 as of 31st October 2021.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 375 as follows:

375 - Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary - November)	<u>£ 216.25</u>
Total	<u>£ 216.25</u>

Clerk has opened a bank account with Unity Trust.

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

104/21 Planning Matters
There were no planning applications to discuss.

105/21 Clerks Correspondence

Electric Meter
The electric meter cannot be connected to the network which would allow automatic meter readings. After the latest manual reading the Parish Council received a refund.

106/21 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.
Nothing further to report

107/21 Members Reports
Councillors have been asked by residents to report on the following matters :-

Traffic Junction near the Dun Cow

Residents have expressed concerns about the traffic junction where the low road meets the high road, near the Dun Cow. Cars trying to pull out of the junction have difficulty due to traffic entering the village and coming from the low road. Cars coming from the low road have nowhere to go due to the car parked on the pavement.

It was resolved: Clerk to write to the Traffic Assets Department to ask if rumble could be installed to slow traffic down.

108/21 Chairman's Report

Precept

Chairman asked Councillors to think about projects they would like the Parish Council to carry out in the next financial year. The Parish Council need to apply for the Precept by the end of January.

Christmas Lights

Christmas lights are to be switched on at the same time as the Youth Club baubles as they have a limited lifespan.

New Councillor

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to put an article in the Witton Word reminding residents that there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor post.

109/21 Any other business

None

110/21 Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 24th January **2022** commencing at 6:15pm.

The meeting finished at 7:45 p.m.