

WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday 11th April 2022 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, C. Cook

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

Apologies: None

Declaration of interest: None

23/22 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 21st March 2022.
Councillors agreed to make the changes as proposed by Councillors Murray-Leslie, Cowan and Parsons.

24/22 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

1. Speeding traffic

Councillors Cowan, Cook and Docherty met with Ellis Dunn from Durham County Council (DCC) to discuss various highway matters.

The installation of keep clear signs opposite the junction near the Dun Cow was proposed by DCC. He recommended the Clean and Green team cut back foliage in the area and the use of 3mm rumble strips could be considered at the Parish Council's cost. Mr Dunn has confirmed that DCC would not support a mirror opposite the junction as this often acts as a greater distraction.

DCC will be working to reinstate the road markings and the traffic sign at the junction leading onto the A68.

The mobile speed visor, available from Durham County Council is fully booked for some time.

It was resolved:

Councillors agreed to write to affected residents to get their opinion on the Keep Clear proposal before auctioning this with Durham County Council.

Councillor Brabban agreed to talk with Andy Corcoran, following an offer to help, to get his views on the proposals.

2. Village History Information Boards

No further updates.

3. Witton word

Councillors are happy with the previous edition of the Witton Word and thanked all those responsible for producing it.

4. Witton le Wear Primary School

Councillors are awaiting an update from Witton le Wear School.

5. Electric car charging points

The electric car charging points installed in Stanhope and Wolsingham are working well.

6. Dog bins / Hanging Baskets / Salt bins

Salt bins reported to DCC and awaiting an update.

It was resolved: Councillor Parsons to get in contact with the Clean and Green Team regarding the dog bins.

Councillor Murray-Leslie to visit Shincliffe Mill Nursery and New Row Nursery, Tow Law, as these may be good places to get plants for the hanging baskets and troughs which need to be ready for the Queens Jubilee weekend.

Councillors asked the Clerk to request a salt bin at the bottom of cemetery bank.

7. Queens Platinum Jubilee

Councillor Parsons gave an update on the proposed Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Witton le Wear.

Saturday 4th June - Jubilee Fayre. Volunteers are needed. There will also be a Big Jubilee Lunch organised by the W.I.

Organisers of the Jubilee celebrations asked the Parish Council for £500 seed funding to pay for costs. Small grants may be available from other bodies.

Councillor Cook has found hay bales.

8. Environmental plans

Funding is available from the organisers of the Great Big Green week. It was felt that involving the school would be a good idea as it then benefits all age ranges.

It was resolved: Cllr Murray-Leslie agreed to write a proposal for a £400 grant from the Great Big Green Week organisers. Councillors agreed to purchase 375 packets of seeds which could be stapled to the Witton Word as part of the Jubilee celebrations.

Defibrillator training

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to have defibrillator training between 23rd and 26th May.

9. Dumpy bags

Dumpy bags are still there.

10. Seat for the railway line

The Parish Council is awaiting delivery of the seat.

11. Maintenance of stiles on Public Rights of Way

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to accept a quote of £400 from SE Landscaping Ltd for this work.

12. Social Media Policy

Councillors Parsons informed Councillors on the ideas behind the creation of the proposed Social Media Policy and how it should be implemented.

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to adopt the Social Media Policy and look into giving administration access to both the Chairman and the Clerk. Councillor Cowan to investigate implementing a single email address for the Parish Council which would update all Councillors.

13. Emergency use of Community Centre

The Chairman updated Councillors on the proposed emergency use of the community centre.

It was resolved: Councillors Cowan and Morehead agreed to attend a Durham County Council event on 17th May at Spennymoor.

14. Railway sign

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to get quotes to remove the train part of the sign.

15. Walking route board

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to get 2 more quotes as the first quote was higher than £300.

16. Broken Guttering on the Methodist Chapel

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to contact the Minister to see if the guttering can be repaired.

25/22 Representation by Residents

None

26/22 Financial Statement and Report

Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £7066.42 as of 31st March, 2022. The Parish Council need to prepare the annual AGAR Report by 30th June.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 387 - 392 as follows:

387 - Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary – April 2022)	£ 219. 75
388 - E-On Next	£ 24. 26
389 - Eli Press	£ 175. 00
390 - Witton le Wear Community Centre	£ 127. 00
391 - Marmax	£ 488. 40
392 - Pretty Wild Seeds	<u>£ 238. 67</u>
Total	<u>£1273. 08</u>

It was resolved:

All financial matters agreed as being correct. Clerk to find an Auditor to carry out an internal audit for the AGAR report.

27/22

Planning Matters

There were no objections to the following planning applications:

Replace first floor french door and windows with bi-fold door

Bracken Edge West End Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 OBJ

Ref. No: DM/22/00840/FPA | Received: Fri 18 Mar 2022 | Validated: Fri 01 Apr 2022 | Status: Pending Consideration

Removal of lime tree

19 The Paddock Witton-le-Wear Bishop Auckland DL14 OGA

Ref. No: DM/22/00698/TPO | Received: Tue 08 Mar 2022 | Validated: Tue 15 Mar 2022 | Status: Pending Consideration

28/22

Clerks Correspondence

Trees on the village green.

Clerk has received an email from a resident from a resident regarding the condition of some of the trees on the village green.

It was resolved: Clerk to contact Durham County Council to ask if work could be done to the trees.

Speeding traffic A68

The Clerk has received an email from Professor Fernyhough updating Councillors on his discussions to try and reduce the speed limit for traffic going past West End.

Working from Home Allowance

It was resolved: Councillors agreed to pay the Clerk £26 per month to cover the costs of working from home.

New PCSO

The Clerk informed Councillors that he had been contacted by the new PCSO dealing with traffic matters in and around Witton le Wear. The Clerk informed Councillors he had replied expressing concerns about parking problems within the village.

Constituency Boundary Review

This review will not affect Witton le Wear directly.

29/22

Neighbourhood and Parish Plan.

Nothing further to report

30/22

Members Reports

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

Village seats

The seat at the entrance to the village needs to be painted.

31/22 Chairman's Report

Price of room rent for Parish Council meeting to rise from £11 to £21 per meeting.

32/22 Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 9th May **2022** commencing at 6:15pm. The Annual meeting will start at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 7:51p.m.