

Witton le Wear Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday 13th May 2024 at Witton le Wear Community Centre Commencing at 18.15

1. Welcome and Introductions

Present: Cllr Murray-Leslie (Chair), Cllrs- P. Parsons, L. Docherty, O Wilson, C. Cook, J. Tremewan (Clerk)

Residents: L. Bentley, A.Yuill, T. Cole

NB: All individuals present agreed to the meeting being recorded.

2. Apologies

Cllr Morehead

3. Declaration of interest

None declared

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2024

Minutes of March 2024 were discussed and approved by councillors without amendment.

5. Electronic Decisions

- Repair of Newby Lowson Tomb- Cllr H. Murray-Leslie updated councillors with work carried out on the Tomb to remove weeds and ivy. The tomb is now in a better state of repair.
- Bench path facing A68- Cllr C.Cook provided an update on paths and confirmed work will complete with the laying of flags to the bench wef 14/05/24
- Interviews Parish Councillors- Cllr H. Murray-Leslie confirmed there were three candidates for two positions on PC. Interviews were to be scheduled in advance of July meeting.

Action: J.Tremewan to reach out to appropriate charities to support repair of Newby Lowson Tomb

Action: J Tremewan to arrange interviews for three PC candidates

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

•Witton Word- Cllrs agreed J Tremewan would approach Lewis Langstaff Wood involvement for involvement in Witton Word.

Action: Cllr Murray- Leslie to discuss editorial support with resident T. Cole.

•Climate and Nature Working Group- To remove from standing items.

Blooming Witton- Cllrs discussed activity day Sat 18th May and were encouraged to get involved. Cllrs noted that the Community Centre will have coffee morning the same day.

- Emergency Response Working Group- Cllrs noted packs have been received from Northern Powergrid. Plan to let residents know they are available. Cllr Myrray-Leslie suggested we review this on 9th September.

- Public Footpaths- Resident L.Bentley discussed the Parish Paths Partnership (PPP) support for the public rights of way in the village. She explains the purpose of the grant is to maintain paths, yearly strimming application etc. L.Bentley is now doing the work alone and is asked whether PC would continue to assist with claim to DCC and Provide administrative support L.Bentley also asked that we put a path closed sign on path 198 (see DCC public rights of ways definitive map for clarification), noting that this particular path was in a poor state of repair.

Action: J. Tremewan to investigate PPP claim.

Path 198 to be closed

- Memorial for Queen Elizabeth II- Cllr Cook advised flowers have been sought with a donation of £150 towards budget.
- Benches on Village Green Update- Bench repair complete. Cllr P. Parsons will be adding plaques and Cllrs noted the history board was added when putting the benches in.

Agreed: Cllrs would pay the cost for the history board given it was next to the bench.

7. Small Grants Programme

No grant requests were received during the period.

8. DCC Consultations report

None as a result of pre-election period.

9. Representation by Residents

Resident A. Yuill requests clarity around Parish Plan. Cllr Murray- Leslie advised Parish Plan is a priority for the PC and suggested a working group to discuss priorities.

Action: Cllr P. Parsons to explore the opportunity to develop a poll to ascertain priorities and seek ideas and suggestions at the forthcoming Activities event and Summer Fayre.

Resident T. Cole notes the previous Parish Plan was launched pre covid.

Action: J. Tremewan to check

10. Financial Statement and report

- To follow with AGAR submission for approval.

11. Risk Assessment Updates

- As per AGM minutes. Cllr Parsons to seek confirmation on general equipment.

12. Planning applications to be considered by the Parish Council

Application at West End.- recognised domestic garden. No concerns raised.

13. Parish Plan / Neighbourhood Plan

- Discussed about under Residents' representations.

Action: Cllr Murray-Leslie will contact CDALC to clarify.

14. Correspondence Report

- CDALC- correspondence discussed including Financial Model Regs
- L.Bentley request re strimming and Parish Paths was noted
- Cllrs noted correspondence on Civility and respect pledge
- Cllrs noted pdate on community training
- Cllrs noted Rural Housing briefing.
- Cllrs noted opportunity for cycle parking for PC's

15. Members Reports

Cllr O Wilson: Cllr Wilson asked Cllrs to note the Online Event – Fire Service, Durham Royal Life Saving etc to discuss - health, safety, wildfire, cold water shock – scheduled for 15th May 2024 (online sessions)

Cllr Wilson notes the Annual Report AAP, Weardale Action Partnership

Cllr C. Cook: Cllr Cook notes the lack of bus transport through the village and suggests this may feed into Parish Plan.

Cllr L Docherty: Nil

Cllr Parsons: Notes caravans at Witton Castle have now gone.

16. Chairman's Report

Cllr Murray- Leslie thanked P Cowan for all of his work as Chair and S. Brabban for all of her support on the Parish Council and Witton Word contributions.

Cllr Murray-Leslie noted the successes of the PC over the past 12-18 months-

- Dropped curb
- Coronation event
- Reducing spray
- Traffic investigations
- Hanging baskets
- Tree baubles

- Small Grants Programme
- Benches
- History Board
- Appointed a clerk.

Finally, Cllr Murray Leslie thanked residents for continued support.

17. Date and time of next meeting

- The next meeting of Witton Le Wear Parish Council is on Monday 8th July 2024
- Dates of meetings for the year ahead:
- 8th July, 09 September, 11 November, 13 January, 10 March, 12 May (AGM TBC)

