

# Witton le Wear Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Witton le Wear Community Centre at 18.15pm

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome Cllr L Langstaff-Wood  
Residents were welcomed to the meeting

Apologies – Cllrs O Wilson, M Campbell

## 2. Declaration of interest

None declared

## 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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

## 4. Electronic Decisions since last meeting

None were made

## 5. Actions from previous minutes: -

- Witton Word - support for Clerk (agenda item)
- Rights of Way - path closed.
- Small Grants – Councillors noted that payment was provided to the Ambulance service directly for the First Aid contribution for the Summer Fayre
- Parish Plan conversations (agenda item) dealt with further down.
- Correspondence - Untaxed car – now removed

**Action:** JT to chase DCC on update on signage for path closure.

## 6. Representation by Residents

Speed Limit A68 West End: Cllrs welcomed C Fernyhough who gave an insightful context of the issue:

Over the years, there have been several police site visits, including the installation of a traffic island and speed checks. Historically, median speeds have been recorded in the high 50s. However, more recent council data from 2017 indicates an average speed of 44 mph.

- Next Steps: Charles will request a new speed review and liaise with Devon County Council (DCC), stressing the need for compliance with Department for Transport (DfT) guidelines and that villages warrant special consideration.

- Outstanding Commitments: A speed review was previously agreed upon but has yet to be conducted.

HML Notes Two Key Issues:

- Potential for a reduced speed limit.
- Improved signage for clarity and safety.

**Actions:**

- Draft a letter to the Traffic Officer advocating for the scheduled review. (HML)
- Obtain accident data from the past 10 years (Cllr Cook to make inquiries).
- Establish a Working Group to work on the issue.

The Working Group, consisting of Cllrs C Cook, L Langstaff- Wood, and Charles (possibly with Peter Topping), is to report back with findings at next week's meeting.

**7. Small Grants Programme**

No further requests have been received with the exception of an initial inquiry from Village Voices.

**Action:** JT to chase village voices on form.

**8. Financial Statement and report**

Shared and approved.

**9. Risk Assessment Updates**

Asset Check: The asset report has been reviewed by Cllr Parsons and confirmed as up to date.

Wear Valley Junction: Noted that one of the troughs at Wear Valley Junction is currently unused.

Notice Board Repairs: The notice board at Engineman's Terrace requires repairs. Cllr Morehead will follow the appropriate procurement process to complete the necessary work and report back to the next meeting.

Notice Board Updates: Cllr Langstaff has agreed to ensure that agendas are posted on notice boards across the village, including those at Engineman's Terrace, St James Gardens, and the Community Centre.

**10. Planning matters**

None

**11. Parish Plan**

Cllr P Parsons advised a comprehensive list of all organisations in the village has been compiled. Cllr Parsons requests that councillors review the list, share it as appropriate, and contribute any additions or amendments.

## 12. Witton Word

Cllrs observed demonstrative copies of a colour version of the Witton Word produced by T Cole

**Action:** Cllrs agreed that a procurement process should be followed to establish next steps for Witton Word.

## 13. Correspondence Report

- Cricket Field Entrance Gate:

Funding Contribution: A 50% contribution toward the entrance gate can be provided by DCC; however, this must be initiated by the landowner. The source of the remaining 50% contribution is yet to be determined.

**Action:** Councillors to speak with landowner to request he submit the application and Cllr Parsons to see if he can get an email address to put request in writing.

- CDALC Communications:

A summary on extremism and related issues was circulated via email.

- DCC Consultations:

Current Consultations: The Area Action Partnerships (AAP) consultation is still open, as well as the Council Plan consultation until 15th September. Along with the opportunity to share your views, consultations are a good source of information about possible changes to services.

## 14. Members' Reports:

- Parking Concerns (Nature Reserve): Raised by Cllr Langstaff Wood
- Query about possible VE Day Celebrations was raised by Cllr Langstaff Wood

**Action:** Cllr Langstaff Wood to consider plans for VE Day celebrations, upon completion of her Councillor induction training. Once embedded into the councillor role they would like to start this process by submitting an article to the Witton Word to request thoughts and ideas.

- Verges at St James Gardens: Cllr Docherty queried verge maintenance and was advised that residents should contact Believe Housing.
- Cemetery Gates: Cllr Cook reported that the cemetery gates require improvements.

**Action:** Request remedial work from DCC; J Tremewan to email the cemeteries department.

- Footpath Sign: Cllr Parsons confirmed that the footpath sign has been replaced (see previous minutes).

**Resident Concern:**

Traffic and Cemetery Signage: Resident Janet reported that vehicles travel too quickly past the cemetery and that signage, located within the cemetery, needs regular maintenance.

**Appreciation:** J Willey thanked Cllr Cook for addressing potholes and replenishing salt bins.

**Agreed:** Regarding trees obstructing signage near the cemetery, it was agreed that Cllr O Wilson would assess the necessary maintenance.

**15. Date for next PC meeting- 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024**