

WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 at Witton le Wear Community Centre Commencing at 18.15

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| 1. Welcome  | Councillors P.Cowan (Chair), H. Murray-Leslie, P. Parsons, L. Docherty, C. Cook, O Wilson, S.Brabban, S. Morehead J. Tremewan (Clerk, minutes)  |
| 2. Apologies  | Residents: Anne Yuill, Christina Haworth, Phil Young, Dave Phelps<br>No Apologies   |
| 3. Declaration of interest  | No DOI  |
| 4. Approval of Minutes 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2023               | Cllr Cook notes that since the November meeting a new salt bin at the entrance to St. James Gardens has been put in place and filled.<br>Minutes of Nov 23 were approved by councillors without amendment.  |
| 5. Res/Appt of new Parish Councillor                                | Clerk (J Tremewan) discusses appointment process for new Cllr, including notifications on Facebook and Website. Cllr Parsons comments relevant advertisement should be listed in the next issue of Witton Word.<br>Cllr Cowan thanks Cllr Brabban for her contribution to the Parish Council with particular reference to the Witton Word.  |
| 6. Electronic Decisions since last meeting                          | Nil   |
| 7. Matters from previous minutes -Witton Word                       | Witton Word - discussion of future ownership. Clerk asks Cllr Brabban what the management of the Witton Word entails.   |
| -Climate and Nature Working Group<br>-Emergency Resp. Working Group | Cllr Brabban advises tasks are as follows-<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact all distributors each month requesting articles to be submitted.</li> <li>2. Articles are sense checked then sent on to our publishers who collate the articles and produce a draft.</li> <li>3. Cllr Brabban receives draft and approves.</li> <li>4. Collection from Etherley. Collection COB Friday.</li> <li>5. Out to distributors by following Friday. They are collected, packed and distributed.</li> </ol> <p>Cllr Parsons volunteers to collect from publishers and divide for relevant distributors.<br/>Cllr Murray-Leslie volunteers for sense checking.<br/>Cllr Brabban agrees to notify contributors and publishers re new correspondence address.<br/>Cllr Parson agrees to set up a group folder for Witton Word.<br/>Sub meeting to discuss afterwards. Next deadline 26<sup>th</sup> Jan.</p> |
| -Public Footpaths   | No update<br><br>Free emergency response equipment such as gas, camping stove, torches etc from DCA (80 packs to distribute to residents  |

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| <p>-Memorial for Queen Elizabeth II</p> <p>-Provision of Salt Bins</p> <p>-Benches on Village Green</p> <p>8. Representation by Residents</p> | <p>River issue- Councillors note the erosion of the river bank between the Cricket Field and the bridge. Cllr Cowan notes this is a permissive path as opposed to right of way. Response from LA is to restrict access but need to identify ownership.</p> <p>Residents present noted the riverbank towards Hamsterley is in a similar state although this is a public right of way so LA action may be different. A temporary closure remains in place.</p> <p>Resident suggests Durham Rivers Trust. Cllr Parsons agrees and provides contact details to Chair.</p> <p>Parish Councillors agree to write to council to ask for further support. Clerk to respond to Owen Shaw to this effect.</p> <p>PC and CC to discuss and confirm.</p> <p>Cllr Cook notes a new salt bin has been provided at the top of the bank at Cemetery Road, near the entrance to St James Gardens. There is no bin at the bottom of the bank as the LA advised it is a gritting route.</p> <p>Cllr Cook has two quotes for bases of the benches including shot blasting. The cheapest quote so far was Michael Barker who would arrange for the benches to be transported to Evenwood for repair.</p> <p>Funding has also been sought from AAP.</p> <p>Councillors noted 5 benches need refurbishing- Shot blasting and powder coating.</p> <p>Cllr Wilson advises there is no funding until April from AAP and Anne Yuill (resident) says the fifth is composite plastic and could be cleaned by WI.</p> <p>Further, Christina Haworth (resident) advises the WI will contribute once figures are available. Councillors resolved that quotes and pricing would be chased up and clarified.</p> <p>Resident D Phelps is here on behalf of carpet bowls club. 17 members have been meeting for 25 years. The group asked the Parish Council for a contribution to a Carpet trolley at a cost of £149 plus VAT.</p> <p>Resolved PC happy to fund.</p> <p>Resident P Young raised speeding in the village, advising very few cars stop at the junction near The Dun Cow Inn. He noted all three junctions are dangerous and suggested solutions.</p> <p>First solution- Mandatory stop sign. (Octagonal)</p> <p>Second Solution- One way system around village green</p> <p>Third solution- speed limit of 20 mph during school time. Suggests flashing amber signs due to high speeds down Cemetery Bank. Perhaps between 8.30 and 9.30 and 3 until 4pm.</p> <p>Cllr Cowan advises PC do not have control of the highways but we could approach the LA. We have approached the LA before with requests such as the STOP sign but this was not authorised as the LA advised it did not comply with highway regulations.</p> <p>We had previously been advised that a 20 limit through the whole village would not be possible but potentially through St. James' Gardens.</p> |
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| <p>9. Financial Statement and report</p>   | <p>We will continue to keep touch with LA to see if they can give any further support.</p> <p>The one-way system has been suggested before and refused by the highways department of LA.<br/>Cllr Murray- Leslie suggests Cllrs pull a report together which outlines what we have tried so far and why they have been rejected.<br/>Cllr Wilson suggests we raise with Council Again. (Clerk to email them upon receipt of contact details from Cllr Cowan).<br/>Cllr Cowan agrees and also suggests Community Speed Watch get involved again. Resolved.</p> <p>Christina Haworth (Resident) mentions the electric poles on Station Road are corroded at the bottom. Cllr Parsons had also noted similar issues. Resolved Councillors to investigate further.</p> <p>Anne Yuill (Resident) would like to discuss move from Weardale AAP to Crook Partnership. Asks for Parish Council to monitor and review this.<br/>Cllr Murray-Leslie advises no decision has been made yet but it is recommended in the final report published Nov 23 by the boundary commission that WLW will move into Crook.<br/>Cllr Wilson agreed to ask for update from Angelina at Weardale AAP<br/>Cllr Cowan confirms any decision is not imminent and County Council Elections are next year (2025).</p> <p>Cllr Cowan asks councillors to view financial report. Notifies precept deadline due end Jan.</p> <p>Discussion temporarily reverted back to the benches on the Village Greed:<br/>Cllr Wilson asks what the WI split ownership for the benches was (as depicted on quotes)<br/>Cllr Cook confirms quote for repair is circa 4.5k.<br/>Resolved the Parish Council will fund the repair of the benches and will not be seeking contribution from the WI.</p> <p>Resolved- Cllrs happy with Financial Report.</p> |
| <p>10. Risk Assessment Updates</p> <p>11. Planning matters – applications to be considered by PC</p> <p>12. Parish Plan / Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>13. Correspondence Report (JT)</p> | <p>Precept Report- Cllr Cowan asks whether we are happy to keep the Precept the same. CDALC advised to increase in line with inflation.<br/>Cllr Cowan asks what cap on CTax increase was for the current financial year? Confirmed this was 2.99%.<br/>Resolved- 2.99% increase precept claims. Clerk to complete relevant precept form and distribute.<br/>Cllr Parsons asks for ideas via emails with regards distribution of precepts.</p> <p>No updates</p> <p>No planning matters</p> <p>No update</p>   |

