

WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Witton le Wear Community Centre Commencing at 18.15

1.Welcome and Introductions	Councillors P.Cowan (Chair), H. Murray-Leslie, P. Parsons, L. Docherty, C. Cook, O Wilson, J. Tremewan (Clerk, minutes)
2.Apologies	Councillors S. Brabban, S. Morehead
3.Declaration of interest	No DOI
4.Minutes of the meeting on 10/07/23	Cllr Murray-Leslie notes item 7- She is not monitoring Emergency Response Group- agreed this would be altered Agreed Action log should be removed from agenda moving forward but minutes should contain a note of proposer and seconder for any important decisions. Minutes subsequently accepted
5.Electronic Decisions since last meeting	Giant Hogweed article included in previous Witton Word. Cllr Cook: The tree stump blocking the path at St. James Garden has now been trimmed back. Cllr Wilson provided update on Christmas lights. AAP funding is currently not available for a project. Cllr Wilson: Signage on Junction actioned although noted that it isn't visible due to shrubs Cllr Cowan: Interview and appointed new Clerk (JT)
6.Action Log	Vegetation has been cleared around the base of the trees on village green
7.Matters arising from previous minutes:  Traffic Working Group	In addition to the new signage that matter of the garden display outside of Witton Tower Gardens was raised. Cllr Wilson notes that residents have commented that this has created an obstacle for the residents of Witton Towers/wider access. Cllr Parsons notes the road itself is not busy and therefore low risk. Cllr Murray- Leslie adds the purpose of the display is a traffic calming measure with the intention of slowing traffic. Cllr Cowan comments that it is his belief this could be seen as a positive solution for a problem. There have been no serious concerns/incidents of late. <b>Agreed- No further action at this stage. Residents to note concerns and raise as a matter of interest if needed.</b>

Witton Word	<p>Cllr Brabban provided an email update in advance of the meeting has had 4 articles in so far and is happy that everything is on track.</p> <p>Cllr Murray- Leslie requests investigation into electronic, more user friendly version of WW using Mailchip.</p> <p><b>Action- Cllr Brabban to investigate electronic software and update Councillors.</b></p> <p><b>Action- Clerk JT to write and into for WW</b></p>
Climate and Nature Working Group	<p>Cllr Murray-Leslie: hanging baskets looking good, troughs may need more attention next year.</p>
Emergency Response Working Group	<p>Cllr Cowan: grant submitted for approximately £5,000 and notes there is a 12 week waiting time. Will update in due course</p>
Public Footpaths	<p>Cllr Cowan: first strim has occurred although we are awaiting an invoice.</p>
Christmas Lights (Costs, Believe Housing)	<p>Cllr Cook is awaiting a response from Believe Housing on support for Christmas Lights in / around St. James Gardens.</p> <p>Cllr Docherty is awaiting price from Derek Bradley on baubles and long life batteries.</p>
Memorial for Queen Elizabeth II	<p><b>Agreed- Cllr Cook will take ownership of this and source a memorial from Deco (Tindale) and some heather plants.</b></p> <p><b>Action- Cllr Cowan to source price for memorial and share with Cllr Cook.</b></p>
Provision of Salt Bins	<p>Cllr Cook: emailed Lee Potter for support with moving the salt bin.</p> <p><b>Action- Cllr Cook to update with movement for salt bin at next meeting.</b></p>
Giant Hogweed at West End	<p>Noted this issue is resolved for the time being and can be removed from next month's agenda but councillors are mindful further action may be needed when it grows back.</p>
Northumbrian Water leaks	<p>Councillors noted that Northumbrian Water have now repaired the leaks.</p> <p>Cllr Murray- Leslie notes this should be subject to ongoing monitoring.</p>
Bin near School	<p>Cllr Cook: a resident has noted the location of bins on Cemetary road are inappropriately located and should be moved.</p>

	<p>Cllr Murray- Leslie suggests residents should be notified for comment.  <b>Action- Cllr Cook to write an article for inclusion in WW and invite residents to comment.</b></p>
8.Representation by Residents*	No residents were in attendance
9.Financial Statement and report	<p>Cllr Cook updates:  VAT rebate has been paid into account  Balance sheet discussed but noted clerk wages would be paid moving forward.  Cllr Cowan queried cheque for £40 listed as TBC- clarified this was for ICO  Cllr Murray- Leslie asks about funding for road closure for village fayre- as yet- no invoice received. Will update next meeting.  Cllr Murray- Leslie asks about funding for community groups. PC should draft / implement a micro grants policy.  Agreed- Cllr Murray-Leslie would organise a subgroup to explore further and update before next PC Meeting.  Cllrs Parson and Cowan would support.</p>
10. Risk Assessment Updates	No updates
11. Planning matters – applications to be considered by the Parish Council	None to note
12. Parish Plan / Neighbourhood Plan	<p>No update.  <b>Action: Cllr Cowan noted he would arrange a meeting.</b></p>
13. Correspondence Report	<p>Cllr Cowan has investigated the defibrillator issue. New pads have been ordered and we will reimburse Mr McLaren for the pads that he has acquired for the machine. Our ongoing thanks to Mr McLaren are noted for his help looking after the defibrillator.  Cllrs acknowledge the proposed ban on new oil boilers from 2026 noted on the Resident's Group and are awaiting further information/undergoing more research.  Concerns raised with regard to surface water drains being regularly blocked.  <b>Action- Cllr Cook to arrange support re drains and blockages following notification on Resident's Group</b></p>
14. Members Reports	<p>Cllr Cook: Spoke to J Ward who will get a quote to recondition village benches x5.</p> <p>Cllr Parsons- Would like to minute thanks to the show committee for their hard work and effort for an excellent show.</p>
15. Chairman's Report	There is no further report at this time.

16. The next meeting of Witton Le Wear Parish Council	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2023.
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Meeting Closed: 19.30

Signed by Chair:.....