

WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2025

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 8th September 2025** at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at 18-15.

Present: Cllrs Murray-Leslie (Chair), C Cook, M Campbell, L Bentley.

Residents: Mrs A Yuill

25/58/1 Cllr Murray-Leslie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25/59/2 Apologies received from Cllrs L Langstaff Wood and L Docherty

25/60/3 The agenda being considered by the Cllrs there was no declaration of interest.

25/61/4 The minutes of the regular meeting on Monday 14th July were accepted and signed by Cllr Murray-Leslie. There were no amendments.

25/62/5 The Clerk presented a financial report. There were no issues or irregularities.

25/63/6 There were no electronic decisions

Actions from previous minutes:

25/64/7 Cllr Bentley advised that the actions to complete the path strimming and remove the dangerous tree described in 25/47 are complete. (Resolved)

25/65/7 Cllr Langstaff-Wood has completed the actions described in 25/48 with Facebook comms issues. (Resolved)

25/66/8 Cllr Murray-Leslie emphasised that training was available to the councillors.

25/67/9 The Clerk gave a short update on the GoFibre works around the village. An explanatory article has been produced for inclusion in the next Witton Word.

(Resolved)

Representation by Residents

25/68/10 Mrs Anne Yuill on behalf of the Weardale Railway thanked the parish council for the generous grant of £400 that will be used to offset some of costs incurred for the 200 years celebrations. Mrs Yuill briefly explained some of the works, lifting old sleepers, renewing ballast, station garden maintenance, lifting stones and giving credit to the tireless enthusiasm shown by the volunteers. Cllr Murray-Leslie thanked Mrs Yuill for sharing. (no action)

Working Groups - New Actions

25/69/11 Cllrs Cook and Bentley have agreed to get prices from 3 x local companies to carry out further strimming works around the Green. Cllr Bentley to determine areas that need further work and identify them initially with the 3 Word App. (Ongoing)

25/70/11 The lack of public transport was discussed. Although DCC have responded the bus service to the village only runs through term time. Issues around appointments to see doctors and hospital appointments were considered and it was agreed the existing system was not fit for purpose.

WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2025

The long term hire of an ‘eco’ car was discussed but no action / agreement.

The lack of suitable transport is to be brought up again with DCC by the Clerk.
(Ongoing)

- 25/71/11** The clerk advised that there were issues with Wordpress used for the WLW Parish website. Training is required, method to back the system up is required and action to improve site security. (Clerk – Ongoing)
- 25/72/11** A68 – nothing to report (Ongoing)
- 25/73/11** Microgrant forms are not easily accessible to all. Cllr Murray-Leslie to review and arrange training as required. (Action Cllr Murray-Leslie)
- 25/74/11** Cllr Cook advised she had received prices for the 2 x new notice boards to replace the failed boards at St James Gardens and Enginemans Tce. (Resolved)
- 25/75/12** There were no microgrant applications (Resolved)
- 25/76/13** The Parish Plan is still being developed by P Parsons. Cllr Murray-Leslie to arrange a meeting to determine way forward. (Action Cllr Murray-Leslie)
- 25/77/14** Cllrs reported receiving favourable comments about the quality of the new format Witton Word. It was agreed there had been a delay in the delivery of the paper. It was agreed the Clerk would liaise directly with South West Durham News and be the focal point for distribution to the delivery team. (Resolved)
- 25/78/15** Cllr Bentley advised all agreed strimming works were now complete. (Resolved)
- 25/79/16** Cllr Bentley confirmed the dangerous trees had been removed. (Resolved)
- 25/80/17** There were no planning matters (no action)
- 25/81/18** There were no member reports (no action)
- 25/82/19** Cllr Cook agreed to purchase the Remembrance wreath for £25 and to inform Cllr L Langstaff Wood. (Resolved)

Meeting closed at 19-15

Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council – 10th November 2025, 18-15, at WLW Community Centre

H Murray-Leslie

10/11/2025

Signed by the Chair Date.....