

**WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 2026**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 12th January 2026** at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at 18-15.

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

Residents: Mr T Cole

**26/01/1** Cllr Murray-Leslie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**26/02/1** Apologies received from Cllrs L Langstaff-Wood and M Campbell

**26/03/1** The agenda being considered by the Cllrs there was no declaration of interest.

**25/04/1** The minutes of the regular meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September were accepted and signed by Cllr Murray-Leslie. There were no amendments.

**26/05/1** The Clerk presented a financial report. There were no issues or irregularities. Signed by Cllr Murray-Leslie (Resolved)

**26/06/1** The Clerk presented a budget proposal for 2026 to align with the precept. The budget was agreed in principle but subject to further development. (Resolved)

**26/07/1** The Clerk presented a copy of the current electronic decisions.

Minute 25/102/14 recorded that it was agreed to increase the precept value by the rate of inflation. The increase of 2.99% was submitted post PC meeting and presented to the Councillors by email. Decision WLW25ED07 – it was precept rise should be 2.99% (Resolved)

**26/08** Communications. The Clerk has received communications from:

**Communications submitted 2026-Jan**

07/12/2025	Nic Waites	private	to hire community centre hall
18/12/2025		DCC	open space consultation
19/12/2025		Kim McGuiness	Merry Xmas
19/12/2025		Sharon West Auckland	dot gov provider and website etc
01/01/2026		The Circuit	Defib pads expire soon
06/01/2026		Zurich Insurance	Confirmation of cover
07/01/2026		Sevenside Defibs	First Aid Training or Defib Training
08/01/2026		Scribe Accounts	Assertion 10
09/01/2026	Lee Denny	Intermedical	Defib pads expire soon
09/01/2026		CDALC	Clerks Training
weekly		DCC	planning

**26/09 Actions from Previous minutes**

**26/09/01** Cllr Bentley to contact Makepeace Motors re additional strimming and to expedite a credit note. (credit already received) (Ongoing)

**26/09/02** Cllr Cook advised new notice boards are expected end of Jan 26. Quote received from Michael Parker to remove old boards and erect new. 2 x more needed. (Ongoing)

**26/09/03** Cllrs Cook and Bentley investigating issues with stiles. (ongoing)

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- 26/10/01 No representations from residents (no actions)
- 26/11 Projects**
- 26/11/01 No active microgrants (no actions)
- 26/12/01 Witton Word. Continuing good feedback (no actions)
- 26/13/01 Notice boards for St James Gardens and Enginemans Tce have been procured. ETA end of Jan 2026. (Resolved)
- 26/14 **Parish Plan**
- 26/14/01 The 2025-10-16 first release of the Parish Plan Meeting notes were distributed to the Councillors for discussion. (Document added to Parish Council Website) The Church had not been included and it was acknowledged this was a shortfall and would be included in the final document. (Ongoing)
1. Introduction, Parish Plan and Process
  2. Facilities and Services
  3. Life in the Community
  4. Environment and Heritage
  5. Travel and Transport
  6. Planning and Development.
- 26/14/02 The Clerk distributed a copy of the 'resident survey' to the Cllrs which had been prepared by Mr P Parsons. The Cllrs considered and agreed with content of the survey. Clerk and Mr Parsons to determine most efficient way to distribute survey to residents and return the results. Suggestions included inclusion in Witton Word, Collection points around the Village and a QR Code leading to an electronic survey.
- 26/14/03 The Cllrs agreed that good progress was being made on the Parish Plan and Cllr H Murray-Leslie expressed her thanks to Mr P Parsons for his ongoing work.
- 26/15 **Parish Council IT.**
- 26/15/01 The Clerk distributed a document titled 'Assertion 10'. Assertion 10 is a new requirement introduced in 2025 that relates to
- Email management
  - Website compliance
  - Personal data handling
  - IT Policies
- 26/15/02 Cllr Murray introduced Mr T Cole, a local IT Consultant, who has kindly offered to help the Parish Council with Assertion 10. A Parish Council IT Overview Document had been prepared by Mr Cole and Cllr H Murray-Leslie. The Document was presented and explained to the Cllrs. Mr Cole has volunteered to help set up the council domain name and link a cloud-based website and workspace to it.  
(Development action by Cllr H Murray Leslie, Mr T Cole and the Clerk)
- 26/15/03 Cloud based options by Google and Microsoft are to be evaluated. (Action – all Cllrs)

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- 26/15/04 It was agreed training is likely to be required to manage the new workspace. (ongoing)
- 26/15/05 It was acknowledged a laptop/PC and software may be required for use by the Clerk.  
(ongoing – Clerk to work with Mr Cole to determine optimal solution)
- 26/15/06 New IT policies are required to manage the workspace, email accounts and consider virus protection. (ongoing)
- 26/16/01 Precept. The Clerk has completed the precept. This has been signed by Cllr H Murray-Leslie and the document has been returned to DCC for payment.
- 26/17/01 There has been no cyber update from the police
- 26/18/01 There are no planning matters reported by DCC.
- 26/19 **Members Reports**
- 26/19/1 Cllr Bentley gave an update of the Ranger Group who keep a check on the condition of the paths and stiles. Although the Parish Council can pay towards the upkeep of the stiles permission must be granted by the land owner.
- 26/19/2 Cllr Bentley advised us work to digitise the local map had begun.
- 26/19/3 It was suggested the St John of God Hospitaller Services, a national charitable organisation that helps disadvantage people to lead fulfilling lives, might be able to help with some of the gardening services around the village green. (action Cllrs H Murray-Leslie & L Bentley)

Meeting closed at 19-45.

**Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 18-15 at WLW Community Centre.**

Signed by the Chair .

H Murray-Leslie

..... Date..... 13-03-26 .....