

## WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 2026

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 9th March 2026** at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at 18-15.

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

Residents: None

Representatives from Community Centre: Cheryl Barker, Joanne Stokoe

**26/20/1** Cllr Murray-Leslie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**26/21/2** No apologies – all councillors present.

**26/22/3** The agenda being was considered by the Cllrs. Cllr H Murray-Leslie declared interest in all gardening works proposed for the Village Green by the charitable organisation SJOG..

**26/23/4** The minutes of the regular meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January were accepted and signed by Cllr Murray-Leslie. There were no amendments.

**26/24/5** The Clerk presented a financial report. There were no issues or irregularities. Signed by Cllr Murray-Leslie (Resolved)

**26/25/6** 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)

**26/26/7** The Clerk presented a copy of the current electronic decisions. (accepted by emails)

**26/27/8** **Communications.**

A list of communications to the Parish Council was shown to the Councillors by the Clerk.  
(No action)

**26/28/9** **Actions from Previous minutes**

**26/28/9/1** Credit note for strimming received from Makepeace. (Resolved)

**26/28/9/2** Cllr Cook advised new notice boards have arrived and have been erected. (Resolved)

**26/28/9/3** Cllrs Cook and Bentley investigating issues with stiles. (ongoing)

26/28/9/4 Mel bus

**26/29/10** A letter from Mr T Slack, Chair of the Weardale Railway advised of the proposed change of ownership of WLW Station platform to the Auckland Trust. The matter was considered and there were no objections. Clerk to contact Mr Slack to advise him. (action clerk)

**26/30/11** **Community Centre**

26/30/11/1 Mrs C Barker and Mrs Joanne Stokoe, trustees of the WLW Community centre joined the PC meeting.

The following points were made

- The community centre trustees are investigating ways to get more use out of the building on the realisation it is an ongoing asset for the village.

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- Through the Parish Plan questionnaire the village is to be canvassed for ideas for plans of use to secure the future of the Community Centre
  - Possibility to restart the weekend breakfast club.
  - More trustees are required on the Community Centre board.
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|-------------|--|--------------|
| 26/31/12    | There were no representations from residents.  | (no action)  |
| 26/32/13    | No active microgrants  | (no actions) |
| 26/33/14    | Witton Word.   | (no actions) |
| 26/34/15    | Notice boards at St James Gardens and Enginemans Tce are now village assets.<br>(Clerk to update asset register)   |              |
| 26/35/16    | <b>Parish Plan</b>   |              |
| 26/35/16/01 | An email has been received by Mr P Parsons to confirm the Village Plan questionnaire has been completed and is now ready for distribution. It was agreed this could be included as a 'paper pullout' in the next edition of the Witton Word. The Witton Word would also include a QR code allowing residents to complete the questionnaire 'on line' rather than data processors having to manually input the information. |              |
|             | The councillors agreed that there would be no mandatory questions on the questionnaire would be mandatory. (action Clerk to include the questionnaire into next Witton Word)   |              |
| 26/36       | <b>Parish Council IT.</b>  |              |
| 26/36/17/1  | Mr R Rowland of Entwine Computers has been retained to support the existing Parish Council Website. Updates have been applied, the site secured and back up now running.<br>(Resolved)   |              |
| 26/36/17/2  | An account has been opened with Krystal and the <b>wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk</b> domain has been secured. Cllr Bentley has completed an assessment on the benefits of Google Workspace and Microsoft office 365. It was agreed Microsoft office 365 offered more benefits appropriate to the Parish Councillors needs.  |              |
|             | The Clerk is working with a local IT Consultant Mr T Cole who has offered to assist with Assertion 10. Ongoing works with the Councillor EMail addresses together with Cloud storage and Office 365 Software.<br>(Mr T Cole and Clerk) – ongoing)  |              |
| 26/36/17/3  | Laptop and supporting software for Clerk   | (ongoing)    |
| 26/37/18    | The request for precept for has been returned and acknowledged by DCC  | (Resolved)   |
| 26/38/19    | There has been no cyber update from the police   | (no action)  |
| 26/39/20    | DCC have not reported any planning applications in WLW.  | (no action)  |

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**26/40/21 Members Reports**

- 26/40/21/1 Cllr Bentley gave an update on Makepeace who have offered to trim the Parish Paths at the same price as last year. (Resolved)
- 26/40/21/2 Cllr Bentley gave an update on her works with SJOG regarding works to village green. Works to include an area adjacent the railway path. (action Cllr L Bentley)
- 26/40/21/3 Cllr Cook gave an update on the new village notice boards that have now been erected. Keys to be distributed and a list of keyholders to be controlled by the Clerk. (resolved)
- 26/40/21/4 Cllr Campbell gave an update on the village bus. (ongoing)
- 26/40/21/5 Cllr Campbell gave an update on the A68 speed limit adjacent West End and how it was proposed to try and align this with the restrictions adjacent Fir Tree. (action Cllr M Campbell and Clerk)

Meeting closed at 19-45.

**Parish Council AGM – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 18-15 at WLW Community Centre.**

**Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 18-30 at WLW Community Centre.**

H Murray-Leslie

11/5/26

Signed by the Chair ..... Date.....