WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – JULY 2026

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 13th July 2026** at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at 18-30.

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

Residents: Ms E Meins, Mr C Fernyhaugh

Invited Guest: Cllr R Rodiss – Chair of DCC and Crook Ward Cllr.

26/65/1 Cllr Cook welcomed everyone to the meeting.

26/66/2 Apologies received from Cllr Murray-Leslie.

26/67/3 There were no declarations of interest.

26/68/4/1 The minutes of the regular meeting on Monday11th May were accepted and signed by Cllr Cook. There were no amendments. (Resolved)

26/69/4/2 The minutes of the AGM on Monday11th May were accepted and signed by Cllr Cook. There were no amendments. (Resolved)

26/70/5 The Clerk presented the WLWPC financial report 01/05/26 thru 30/06/26 . There were no issues or irregularities. Signed by Cllr Cook (Resolved)

26/71/6 The Clerk presented a copy of the current electronic decisions.
Cllrs agreed to support the quote for the shot blasting and painting of WLW cemetery gates (accepted by emails) (Resolved)

26/72/7 Action 26/48/8 to review and agree WLW updated financial Regulations . Review completed by Cllr Cook and accepted. (Resolved)

26/73/8 Action 26/49/9 to review and agree WLW updated standing orders. Work in progress. (Ongoing action Cllr Campbell)

26/74/9 Action 26/50/10 to review and agree WLW updated Code of Conduct. Review completed by Cllr Murray-Leslie and accepted. (Resolved)

26/75/10 The WLWPC Data Protection Policy has been updated from standard NALC document. The policy was accepted (Resolved)

26/76/11 The WLWPC asset register has been updated with the missing history board. (Resolved)

26/77/12/1 Communications from DCC re training and CDALC meetings. All distributed to Cllrs. (Resolved)

26/77/12/2 Email from Beech Grove resident concerned about power cables being fouled by new growth on trees. Npower have been contacted. (Resolved)

26/77/12/3 Cllr received telephone call from former resident who wished to remain anonymous claiming a listed building in the village was being altered without consent. The caller told the Cllr DCC planning had been informed. No action by PC. (Resolved)

26/78/13/1 Action 26/57/17/2 Stiles and paths – Update by Cllr Bentley (Works in progress)

26/78/13/2 Action 26/58/18/2 Village Green Hanging Baskets – works complete. (Resolved)

26/78/13/3 Action 26/57/18/3 Plants adjacent A68 Bench – works complete (Resolved)

26/79/14/1 Paths and rights of way. Ongoing works by Cllr Bentley (ongoing)

26/79/14/2 Hanging baskets and planters complete. (Resolved)

26/79/14/3 Cemetery Gates – Cllr Cook reported the gates have now been shot blasted and painted with electrostatic powder coat paint. Ready for return 15/7/26. Gates need to be collected and re-hung. (Action – Cllr Cook)

26/79/14/4 Several of the dog waste bins in the village are in a poor state of repair and are to be replaced. The waste bin at the River is now emptied twice a week but is clearly no longer fit for purpose. A further bin is to placed in the location. (Action – Cllr Cook)

26/80/15/1 Cllr Cook asked Cllr Rodiss to lead a discussion on the issues around the existing A68 speed limit of 60mph and the general feeling that as it passes the houses at West End this limit is far too fast. Historical information on that section of the A68 was presented and in particular commented on by the residents who were present and more directly affected. DCC Engineers reports were considered but it was felt many incidents on that section of road appear to going unreported. Cllr Rodiss offered to work with WLWPC to approach the Highways Commissioner and Police Commissioner asking them to reconsider the situation.

(Ongoing actions – Cllrs Cook, Campbell and Docherty)

26/80/15/2 Cllr Cook asked Cllr Rodiss to lead a discussion on the proposed bus service for Witton le Wear. In the first instance Cllr Rodiss was asked to read out a missive from Mrs A Yuill regarding the proposed bus service.

In a public village meeting it was agreed a community bus service was desirable and has now been ordered through Weardale Community Transport Group. The first aim is to establish a regular bus service linking WLW to Crook and Bishop Auckland. Practical solutions are being worked and is hoped by the September PC meeting to give more firm information.

Cllr Rodiss offered his assistance with DCC and the Weardale Transport Group.

26/81/16 Witton Word. Contributors to be advised of next cutoff date. (Action – Clerk)

26/82/17 Mr P Parsons reported to the Clerk that the Village Survey was now closed and actions being considered. Only 15% of the Village responded by Cllr Rodiss suggested this was a good result for a survey of this kind. (Ongoing – Cllr Murray-Leslie and Mr P Parsons)

26/83/18 Planning applications received since last PC meeting – none (Resolved)

26/84/19 Members Reports

26/84/19/1 Cllr Cook – quotations have been received for St James Gardens planter, notice board planned for West End, update on cemetery gates. Cllr Cook reported that the handrails in the cemetery have now been replaced

26/84/19/2 Cllr Bentley – Update on village map with highlighted walks.

The new maps will also be placed onto the WLW Parish website.

Investigation into map adjacent Community Centre that aligns with ordinance survey guidelines as regards the orientation of the compass points in reality is proving confusing

because it is pointing people in the wrong direction. Enquiries are being made as to the cost of replacing the picket

26/84/19/3 Cllr Docherty – working with Cllr Rodiss to access Etherley Playing fields and possible funding for trips to the coast as has happened at Tow Law.

26/84/19/4 Cllr Campbell is working with Cllr Rodiss to explore possible funding for bulbs for the village.

Meeting closed at 19-40.

Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council – 14th September 2026, 18-15 at WLW Community Centre.

Signed by the Chair ..... Date 14-09-26.....