

Witton Gilbert Parish Council News

wgpcnewsletter@gmail.com

SACRISTON LANE ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council with the help and support of our County Councillors and Durham County Council themselves are continuing to do everything they can to secure the future of this important community asset.

By way of an update on the current status of their efforts to purchase the allotment gardens on Sacriston Lane, Witton Gilbert Parish Council would like to advise that Durham County Council are actively pursuing the compulsory purchase of the land, on their, and your behalf, and it is currently anticipated that the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) will be served, subject to Durham County Council Cabinet approval in the middle of October.

At its ordinary meeting on Monday 8th June the Council resolved to approach the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government to seek approval for the proposed borrowing of a loan towards the cost of the purchase of the Allotment Gardens, Sacriston Lane.



Sacriston Lane Allotments, Witton Gilbert

The Parish Council, and its tenants have been served "Notice to Quit" the allotments by 12th November, which would be the end of 110 years of continual occupation, and benefit to residents of the village.

Be assured that the Parish Council, Durham County Council, and our professional advisers are pursuing ways to purchase the land directly from the current owners, without recourse to the CPO, and remain optimistic that this designated community resource will be saved, and be available for use by the residents of Witton Gilbert for another 110 years.

Editor Mr. D. C. Rider

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The closing date for the next edition is Friday December 4th 2020

Statement by the Editor

Please note that a number of items in this edition are reproduced/updated from the previous edition (No. 58) which due to the Covid 19 lockdown was produced as an online only version.

This is in order to make sure that they are seen by a wider audience than would have been the case.

**New Assistant Clerk
Appointed from April 2020**

Mr David Rider (also editor of this newsletter) has been appointed Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council from April 2020 with a view to eventually taking over as Clerk on a permanent basis.

**Parish Council Meetings
and Contact Details**

Current members of Witton Gilbert Parish Council are as follows: -

Fraser Reynolds (Chair)	3711198
Neil Liddle	07950440265
Arnold Simpson	3712161
Paul Guy	3710455
Lynne Michelle Hope	0790418423
Geoff Brown (Vice Chair)	07540500073
Amanda Hillary	3718239
Louise Murphy	3711564
Daniel Lynch	07837278471

Parish Council meetings are normally held on the second Monday of the month in the Witton Gilbert Community Centre at 6.30 pm. However, at the time of publication meetings are being held by video link due to Covid 19. This will continue until it is deemed safe for face to face meetings to resume.

Members of the public wishing to attend a meeting may do so but must leave during confidential parts of the agenda. Residents may be given an opportunity to speak but this will be restricted to 15 minutes and is at the Chairman's discretion.

Agendas and Minutes are currently being published on the website in line with Government Guidelines.

Residents wishing to attend a meeting must give their full details (Name, Address, Contact No.) to the Assistant Clerk by email at wgassistantclerk@gmail.com at least 3 days in advance of the meeting and will receive an invitation email with further instructions on how to access the meeting remotely in good time before the meeting. If a member of the public wishes to take part they will need to be willing to install the necessary software on their PC, Tablet or Telephone if they don't already have it, further details will be provided by the Assistant Clerk before the meeting.

The Parish Clerk can be contacted on 01913711808, or by mobile at 07984027243 or by email at wittongilbertparishcouncil@gmail.com

The Assistant Parish Clerk can be contacted by Mobile phone on 07587568095 or by email on wgassistantclerk@gmail.com

**Neighbourhood Plan
Referendum Result**

A referendum was held on Thursday 7th November 2019 to decide on the following question.

**Do you want Durham
County Council to use the
Neighbourhood Plan for
Witton Gilbert to help it
decide planning**

**applications in the
neighbourhood area?**

The turnout was 23% and the result was: -

- **Yes 409 votes** 88% of the total vote
- **No 56 votes** 12% of the total vote.

The Neighbourhood Plan for Witton Gilbert was therefore approved.

The Parish Council would like to thank all residents who voted in this important referendum.

Covid 19

The response of the Parish Council to the Pandemic is as follows: -

- We donated £3000 to an initiative overseen by Sacriston Parish Council from the Fulforth Centre, Sacriston to provide hot meals to vulnerable residents of Sacriston and Witton Gilbert.
- Parish Councillors and other volunteers have been involved in an initiative to provide shopping for vulnerable residents of Witton Gilbert in association with McColls
- The Council set up a page on their website with links to further information on the Virus. It can be accessed via the front page of the website

The Parish Council would like to send best wishes to all of our residents in what continues to be a difficult situation.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

For those who may have missed the article in our last newsletter, we have committed a total of £20,000 towards significant improvements to the play park situated, just behind the primary school. The current play equipment is worn, damaged and in need of replacement, so the children have somewhere safe and enjoyable to play. This project is being done in conjunction with DCC and the Parish Council.

We arranged for the dragon teeth markings to be refreshed, this work was carried out and now they are much more apparent.

We intend to initiate some walkabouts with the local PCSO and Neighbourhood Wardens, just to clarify how things are going in the area and see how together we can address any issues

If any local sports, social or environmental groups, need funding, please get in touch and we will see if we can help. It is very important to us that children and adults have as many opportunities as possible to participate in local activities.

We regularly attend the Parish meetings and work

alongside members to address concerns raised.

If you need to contact us, our contact details are shown below

bev.coult@durham.gov.uk

03000268675 Bev

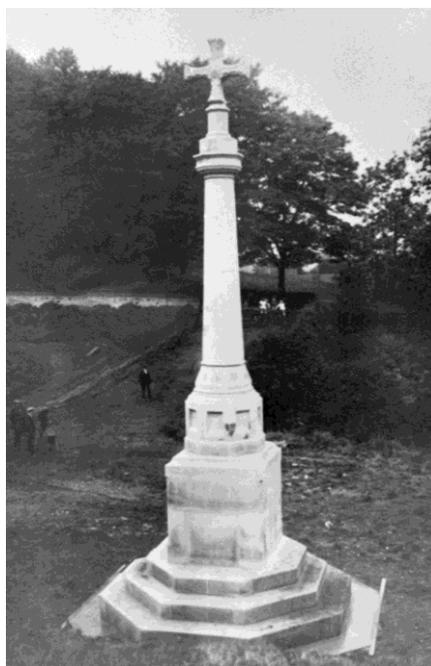
arnold.simpson@durham.gov.uk

03000268674 Arnie.

WITTON GILBERT WAR MEMORIAL GAINS LISTED STATUS

Every November members of the public and local dignitaries gather around the War Memorial to honour residents who made the ultimate sacrifice in two World Wars.

The War Memorial has an interesting history. It was originally erected in the Graham Memorial Park in Witton Dene at a cost of £400 all of which was raised by public subscription.



The War Memorial in its original location. Photograph reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office Ref D/Ph 110/26.

The designer was JG Burrell of Durham. It was unveiled on Saturday 2nd September 1922 by Lt Col JR Ritson, in attendance were representatives from Parish and District organisations.

The memorial was relocated to its current position between the junction of Briar and Green Lea in 1978 by members of 105 Squadron, 72 Regiment the Royal Engineers. At the turn of the Century the Memorial was cleaned and the inscriptions recut.

In early 2020 the War Memorial was designated as a Grade II Listed Monument by Historic England for the following reasons: -

- Historic Interest, as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on the local community and the sacrifice it made in the conflicts
- Architectural Interest, for the strong design interest of its St. Cuthbert's Cross and the complex mouldings of its tapering octagonal column and square pedestal.

The Parish Council were happy to support the listing of the War Memorial when approached by Historic England for comment.

WITTON GILBERT COMMUNITY CENTRE

As of August 3rd the Community Centre is operating again with precautions in place to

protect patrons and staff in light of Covid 19.

For the latest information on the status of the Centre or to make a booking could you please telephone 3712161 or 07982862127.

WITTON GILBERT WOMANS INSTITUTE

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Woman's Institute Annual Christmas Musical Evening at Cooper Hall last December.

Together we raised over £500 for the Chemotherapy Ward at University Hospital, Durham.



Handing over of the cheque for the Chemotherapy Ward at the WI Christmas Musical Evening

Please contact Christine Liddle on 07535552103 for more information about the Womans Institute.

CHILDREN'S HOPES AND DREAMS (CHAD)

Last year thanks to the generosity of the village we raised £11,000.00. We spent some of that money on the toddler group, the drama group, and Breathing Space.

We also purchased a large number of pairs of sparring

gloves for a local boxing club to help their children learn to box. We spent quite a large chunk of the money on two high flow oxygen units for Treetops neonatal ward at University Hospital of North Durham (Dryburn).

We also paid for an Easter family day at the club which was free to all the kids in the village, we did the same at Christmas and we also put a Halloween party on. Over the Christmas and New Year period we raised £5,500.

We spent some of it at Treetops and the rest was given to a local mental health charity If U Care Share, who we worked with last year developing a scheme for them to go into Witton Gilbert Primary School and talk to the teachers and children about mental wellness.

Thanks to everyone for all of your support.

WITTON GILBERT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

A meeting of trustees of the above foundation is to be held to consider applications for grants.

Applications for grants will be considered in respect of students who are over 16 and under 25 years of age on 1st September 2020 and undertaking full time further

education at school, college, or university.

Applicants must be resident in the Ancient Parish of Witton Gilbert (which includes most of Sacriston).

Requests for an application form should be made to;

WGEF

33 Hillside

Witton Gilbert,

Durham,

DH76RB

(Or email

cowanlm1@gmail.com for a printable application form).

Completed forms should be returned by 30th October 2020

WITTON GILBERT BONFIRE COMMITTEE

We're very sad to announce that due to the ongoing pandemic the annual bonfire and fireworks night has been cancelled. We considered a lot of different options for going ahead with the event, but the safety and health of everyone in the village is of great importance to us and we could not find an option that would allow us to continue with the event whilst ensuring everybody's safety.

We'll be back next year, bigger and better! If you have any questions about the cancellation please feel free to email the committee at wittonbonfire@gmail.com

See you all next year!

Kristi Johnston and the Bonfire Committee.