

Minutes of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th November 2012 in the Boardroom Cooper Hall

- 12/76 Apologies were received from Councillors Crooks & Waugh.
Present: - Councillors Gilmore, Gibbon, Reynolds, Simpson, Woodmass, Harries, County Councillor Wilks, S Longstaff Drainage & Costal Defence Manager of Durham County Council & 12 members of the public.
- 12/77 Flooding in Witton Gilbert: - The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Wilks, S Longstaff Drainage & Costal Defence Manager of Durham County Council & 12 members of the public to the meeting to discuss their concerns with recent flooding instances affecting Louisa Terrace, the Tile Sheds, the burn to the north east of the White Tun, Findon Avenue and bungalows at the top eastern edge of Brookside. County Councillor Wilks & S Longstaff explained to the residents that work has been programmed in to repair and replace various culverts and a considerable resource has already been spent in the village following the floods.
S Longstaff explained a major project which would be required to shore up the bank sides of the burn, which runs to the north east of the White Tun, & that it may be possible within the next 24 months to carry out this work but due to the cost of anything from £50-100k, for obvious reasons this work could not be promised.
County Councillor Wilks & S Longstaff agreed to ask the County Council for extra funding for this work to be carried out and indeed emphasise to them how serious this matter is for Witton Gilbert.
- 12/78 Police report: - The Clerk presented a written report on behalf of the Police which included incidents of burglary, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and vehicle nuisance within the village and surrounding area in October 2012.
- 12/79 Village Wardens: - Village Wardens B Weavill & R Cornwell gave reports on the new role of our village wardens and contact information so that they can attend future Parish Council meetings.
- 12/80 Minutes: - The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd October 2012 were approved as a true record.
- 12/81 Matters arising: - The Clerk reported on letters he had sent to 2 allotment holders with regard to their tenancies.
- 12/82 Durham Ass of Local Councils: - The Council discussed a letter from Durham Ass of Local Councils regarding dispensations being required for Councillors to set their Councils precept.
The Council resolved that all Councillors must apply to the Clerk for this dispensation before taking any part in setting the Councils precept.
- 12/83 Durham County Council: - The Council discussed a quotation of £132.50 + VAT for winter bedding from Durham County Council.
The Council resolved to accept a quotation of £132.50 + VAT for winter bedding from Durham County Council.
- 12/84 CSV North East: - The Council discussed a letter from CSV North East regarding financial assistance towards a General Practitioners car driving scheme for Witton Gilbert enabling elderly & disabled people to be taken to surgery & eye clinic appointments
The Council resolved to make a donation of £50.00 to CSV North East.
- 12/85 GSC Grays: - The Council received a letter from GSC Grays regarding a probate valuation.
- 12/86 Durham Ass of Local Councils: - The Council an agenda for the Annual General Meeting of Durham Ass of Local Councils.
- 12/87 Breathing Space: - The Council discussed a letter from Breathing Space a registered charity for the refurbishment of St Michael & All Angels Church Witton Gilbert requesting financial assistance.
The Council resolved that their request be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.
- 12/88 G Bowron: - The Council discussed a request from G Bowron for permission for a 1m x 1m wetland area on allotment 11.
The Council resolved to grant G Bowron permission for a 1m x 1m wetland area on allotment 11.
- 12/89 Accounts for payment
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|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| H M Customs | NIC & Income Tax | 124.00 |
| G Thompson | Telephone October | 20.90 |
| G Thompson | Generators | 40.00 |
| Papercraft | Newsletter | 249.00 |
| Langley Estates | Allotment Rent | 87.50 |
| K Chicken | Grasscutting | 440.00 |
| CSV | Donation | 50.00 |
| British Legion | Wreaths | 50.00 |
- 12/90 Reports: - Councillor Gilmore gave a report on the environment group and Councillor Simpson reported on speed watch activities.

- 12/91 Queens Jubilee: - The Clerk reported to the Parish Council that he will now arrange the ordering of the apple trees to be planted before the end of March 2013.
- 12/92 Play Equipment: - The Clerk reported to the Parish Council on the proposed site for the provision of play equipment at South Lea and that he was requesting a meeting with the County Council to progress the scheme.
- 12/93 Risk Assessment; - The Council carried out its annual financial risk assessment of its accounts and audit procedures & found all in order.
- 12/94 Rate Precept: - The Council discussed a summary of expected balances at 31st March 2013 and expected expenditure for the coming financial year commencing 1st April 2013.
The Council resolved that the Parish Precept 2013-2014 be placed on the agenda for further discussion at its meeting in December.
- 12/95 Neighbourhood Plan: - Councillor Reynolds gave notice of motion that the development of a Neighbourhood Plan be placed on the agenda of the next Parish Council Meeting

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

Signed..... Councillor F Reynolds Chairman

4th December 2012