

Minutes of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on 8th February 2016 in the Boardroom Cooper Hall.

- 15/118 Apologies were received from Councillors Hillary, Cowan & Harries.
Present: - Councillors Simpson, Reynolds, Guy, Waller, Liddle, & County Councillors J & B Armstrong.
- 15/119 Councillor Alex Woodmass & Ellen Waugh: - The Chairman informed the Council of the death of Councillor Alex Woodmass & former Parish Councillor Ellen Waugh and paid tribute to their outstanding work for the Parish Council and within the wider community of Witton Gilbert and the Council stood in silence as a mark of respect.
- 15/120 Village Wardens: - The Clerk presented the Village Wardens reports on mobile patrols in the village in December 2015.
- 15/121 Police Report: - The Clerk presented the Police Report, which included incidents of burglary and anti-social behaviour in the village and surrounding area in January 2016.
- 15/122 Minutes: - The minutes of Joint Meeting of the Parish Council & Neighbourhood Plan Committee held on 4th January 2016 & the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th January 2016 were approved as a true record.
- 15/123 Matters arising: – The Clerk reported to the Council progress on opening an account with the Royal Bank of Scotland.
- 15/124 Village Centre Project: - The Council discussed a report from the Neighbourhood Plan Committee regarding the appointment of a Design Consultant for the Village Centre Project.
The Council resolved to appoint Southerngreen as Consultant for the Village Centre Project.
- 15/125 Village Centre Project: - The Council discussed making an application to the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government to seek the Secretary of State’s approval for the proposed borrowing of a loan towards the costs of the Village Centre Project.
The Council resolved to make an application to the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government to seek approval for the borrowing of a loan towards the costs of the Village Centre Project.
- 15/126 Village Centre Project: - The Council discussed a draft lease from McColl’s for land for the proposed Village Centre at the former White Tun Public House.
The Council resolved to engage Durham County Councils Legal Department to act as solicitors on behalf of the Council in negotiations over the terms of the lease.
- 15/127 Village Centre Project: - The Council discussed applications for grant funding towards the Village Centre Project.
County Councillors J & B Armstrong informed the Council that they had made provision in their Neighbourhood budgets for 2015 – 2016 for £5000.00 each to be set aside for the Village Centre Project as well as £13000.00 of section 106 monies from former Anderson & Young site at Witton Station.
The Council thanked County Councillors J & B Armstrong for their financial commitment to the Village Centre Project and resolved to make an application for grant assistance to the Durham Area Action Partnership for further financial assistance.
- 15/128 GCS Grays: - The Council received a letter from GCS Grays regarding a change of contact details.
- 15/129 Graform Ltd: - The Council discussed a planning application from Graform Ltd for the erection of 19 residential properties, associated highways and landscaping works at land Adjoining Snook Acres Front Street Witton Gilbert DH7 6SY
The Council resolved that they were not against the development in principal but that the design of the development should be unique to Witton Gilbert and asked the Neighbourhood Plan Committee to reply to the County Council within the terms they have already put together in their work towards a Proposed Neighbourhood Plan.
- 15/130 Accounts for payment: -
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| Groundworks UK (BACS) | Grant underspend | 879.00 |
| H M Customs (BACS) | NIC & Income Tax February | 128.00 |
| G Thompson (BACS) | January Telephone | 41.14 |
| Papercraft (BACS) | Newsletter | 305.00 |
| B Gilmore (BACS) | Honorarium | 50.00 |
- 15/131 Reports: - Councillor Simpson reported on highway issues at South Lea.
- 15/132 Neighbourhood Plan: - Councillor Reynolds reported on progress towards the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan.
As there was no further business the meeting closed at 6.54 p.m.

Signed..... Councillor A Simpson Chairman

14th March 2016.