

Minutes of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on 14th March 2016 in the Boardroom Cooper Hall.

- 15/133 Apologies were received from Councillor Harries & County Councillors J & B Armstrong.
Present: - Councillors Simpson, Reynolds, Guy, Waller, Liddle, Hillary, Cowan, PCSO Sadler Watson & Sgt Mallatratt.
- 15/134 Declarations of Interest: - Councillor F Reynolds declared an interest in the co-option for a vacancy of a Councillor
- 15/135 Vacancies for a Councillor: - Councillor F Reynolds declared an interest in this item and left the meeting. The Clerk informed the Council that following the death of Councillor Alex Woodmass a vacancy for the position of a Councillor existed. The Clerk informed the Council that the vacancy had been advertised in the Parish Councils area from 25th February 2016 to 11th March 2016 and that one application for the vacancy had been received from John Reynolds and that the respondent was present.
The Council resolved to co-opt John Reynolds to the position of Councillor on Witton Gilbert Parish Council and he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillor Reynolds returned to the meeting.
- 15/136 Village Wardens: - The Clerk presented the Village Wardens reports on mobile patrols in the village in January 2016.
- 15/137 Police Report: - Sgt Mallatratt introduced himself to the Council and along with PCSO Sadler Watson they presented the Police Report, which included incidents of theft and criminal damage in the village and surrounding area in February 2016.
- 15/138 Minutes: - The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th February 2016 were approved as a true record.
- 15/139 Matters arising: – The Clerk reported to the Council that forms for opening an account with the Royal Bank of Scotland had been submitted & that the signatures on the account would be Councillors Liddle, Guy and the Clerk.
The Clerk reported on progress on the draft lease from McColl's for land for the proposed Village Centre at the former White Tun Public House.
- 15/140 HM Revenue & Customs: - The Council received a letter from HM Revenue & Customs regarding tax year 2016 – 2017.
- 15/141 Allotments 9b & 17a: - The Council discussed a letter from V Leckenby of allotment 17a requesting an application to swap allotment gardens with J Doney of allotment 9b.
The Council resolved to agree a mutual swap of allotment gardens between V Leckenby & J Doney.
- 15/142 Breathing Space: - The Council received a letter & report from Breathing Space regarding Woodland Wonders which they had organized from 17th to 21st August 2015.
- 15/143 Citizens Advice Bureau: - The Council received a letter from Citizens Advice Bureau requesting financial assistance.
- 15/144 Accounts for payment: -
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| H M Customs (BACS) | NIC & Income Tax March | 128.00 |
| G Thompson (BACS) | February Telephone | 20.12 |
| Northumbrian Water (BACS) | Water Supply | 10.32 |
| Durham County Council (BACS) | Christmas Tree | 1427.16 |
| Ludman Planning (BACS) | Consultants Fee | 3647.80 |
| N Power (BACS) | Electricity Supply | 29.20 |
- 15/145 Reports: - Councillor Simpson reported on footpath at the War Memorial, Councillor Liddle reported on footpath at Brookside and Councillor Reynolds on a meeting with Durham County on the bridge at Wallnook Lane.
- 15/146 Parish Council Newsletter: - The Clerk reported that the April edition was almost complete and that any future articles would be welcomed by the editor Brenda Gilmore
- 15/147 Neighbourhood Plan: - Councillor Reynolds reported that with the help of our consultant and volunteers we now had a rough pre-draft of the Neighbourhood Plan which with further work could go to public consultation later this year.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

Signed..... Councillor A Simpson Chairman

11th April 2016.