

## Minutes of Special Meeting of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in the Boardroom Cooper Hall.

- 17/42 Apologies were received from Councillors Hillary & Reynolds.  
Present: - Councillors Liddle, Guy, & Waller Harries, Simpson, J Reynolds & Cowan.
- 17/43 Financial Report: - The Council discussed a financial report looking at the ongoing future financial situation in this current year 2017 – 2018.  
The Council resolved that sums now being not committed expenditure be allocated to support the employment of a Handy Person, possible financial assistance to repair the Lych-gate at the Church, Village Centre maintenance and that the Council use £10,000.00 of the outstanding £26,000.00 remaining of the loan approved by the Department of Local Government & Culture with the Public Works Loan Board for the Village Centre Contract.
- 17/44 Planning Application for 5 Houses Front Street: - The Council discussed a planning application for the erection of 5 Houses to the rear of the Glendenning Arms Public House at Front Street.  
The Council resolved to make the following comments  
The Parish Council is in support of residential development on the application site. The application is generally compliant with the Witton Gilbert Draft Neighbourhood Plan and takes up part of a very important site H2 within the proposed settlement boundary. However there are issues we would wish the applicant and planning officer to consider prior to approval.
1. Ideally we would make an overall master plan for the entire H2 site a requirement of development to ensure that individual schemes do not jeopardise the remaining site coming forward. With this in mind, we would ask the applicant to consider issues of vehicular access, footpaths, parking and public open space, to ensure all developments can be properly integrated into the village.
  2. This part of the village will be designated as our Historic Core and the design and materials of the proposed houses should reflect some of the random nature of the surrounding buildings. We would wish to avoid new insertions into this area giving the appearance of a speculative estate. Developments should comply with Building for life 12.
  3. The proposed site plan shows a segregated development cut off from the rest of the site, we would suggest that footpaths and wildlife links be provided together with some public open space.
- 17/45 G Thompson: - The Chairman read out a letter of resignation from G Thompson Parish Clerk terminating his employment on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017.  
The Council resolved to accept G Thompsons letter of resignation as Parish Clerk.
- 17/46 Appointment of Parish Clerk: - The Council discussed the appointment of a Parish Clerk and considered a job advertisement and Person specification.  
The Council resolved to appoint a Parish Clerk on Salary Scale LC2-SPC 27 Pro rata 48 hours per month and that the vacancy be advertised along with the Handy Person at a joint cost of £546.00 + VAT.
- 17/47 Appointment of Handy Person: - The Council discussed the appointment of a Handy Person and considered a job advertisement and Person specification.  
The Council resolved to appoint a Handy Person on Salary Scale LCS 13 Pro rata 7.5 hours per week 8.55 per hour and that the vacancy be advertised along with the Parish Clerk at a joint cost of £546.00 + VAT.
- 17/48 Durham County Council: - The Council discussed a letter from Durham County Council regarding Consultation on Proposals to remove Street Lights on Witton Gilbert By-pass.  
The Council resolved they have no objections on Proposals to remove Street Lights on Witton Gilbert By-pass.
- 17/49 Accounts for Payment: -
- |                   |                      |         |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------|
| J Ludman (BACS)   | Consultant Fees      | 1227.00 |
| B Gilmore (BACS)  | Honorarium           | 50.00   |
| G Thompson (BACS) | Northern Echo Advert | 655.20  |

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.03 p.m.

Signed.....

Councillor N Liddle

Chairman

11<sup>th</sup> September 2017