

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on 9th May 2022 at Witton Gilbert Community Centre.

- 22/15 Appointment of Chairman: - The Council discussed the appointment of a chairman for 2022 – 2023. The Council resolved unanimously to elect Councillor D Lynch to be the Chairman of the Parish Council for 2022 – 2023. Councillor Lynch signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Clerk.
- 22/16 Apologies were received from County Councillor B. Coult, A Simpson, G Brown
Present: - Councillors N Liddle, D Lynch, L Hope, K. Johnston, C. Simmons, L. Watts.
Also Present - DC Rider (Clerk)
- 22/17 Appointments: - The following were appointed,
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|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Vice Chairman | Councillor | L Hope |
| Delegate to the Village Hall | Councillor | K. Johnston |
| Delegate to Assoc. of Councillors | Councillor | D Lynch |
| Personnel Committee | Councillor | D Lynch |
| | Councillor | N Liddle |
| | Councillor | G Brown |
| | Councillor | C Simmons |
| | Councillor | L Hope |
| | Councillor | K. Johnston |
| Personnel Appeals Committee | Councillor | L Watts |
| | Councillor | A Simpson |
| | Councillor | D Lynch |
| | Councillor | G Brown |
| Allotments Committee | Councillor | L Watts |
| | Councillor | N Liddle |
| | Councillor | A Simpson |
| | Councillor | G Brown |
| Complaints Committee | Councillor | K. Johnston |
| | Councillor | L Hope |
| | Councillor | N Liddle |
| | Councillor | A Simpson |
| Neighbourhood Plan Committee | Councillor | G Brown |
| | Councillor | L Hope |
| | Councillor | N Liddle |
| | Councillor | A Simpson |
| Events Committee | Councillor | D Lynch |
| | Councillor | D. Lynch |
| | Councillor | L. Hope |
| | Councillor | K. Johnston |
| | Councillor | C. Simmons |
| | Councillor | L. Watts |
| Data Protection Officer | Parish Clerk | DC Rider |
| Responsible Financial Officer | Parish Clerk | DC Rider |

22/25 Correspondence.

- a) Email from Alison Copeland requesting to erect a shed of 8x6 feet on her allotment. Members approved this request.
- b) Email from Mathew Jenkins requesting to erect a polytunnel of no more than 4x2 metres on his allotment. Members approved this request.
- c) Email from Nicola Barton requesting to erect a shed of 6x4 feet on her allotment. Members approved this request.

22/26 Accounts for Payment: - Members Approved the Accounts.

PWLB	Payment of loan	544.55
Witton Gilbert Bowls Club	Donation	300.00
CDALC	Subscription	361.17
Eon	Electricity	9.08
Eon	Electricity	8.79
D. Rider	Heavy Duty Rubble Sacks	11.90
Neil Crozier	Maintenance for April	231.00
WAVE	Water Supply	39.24
Michelle Harrison	Audit Fee	60.00
C&C Direct	Freeman Scrolls for G. Thompson & F. Reynolds	210.66

22/27 Witton Gilbert Fun-day – Members discussed a budget for this and resolved to ring fence £1000 for the event.

22/28 Adoption of NALC Standing Orders 2018 – The Clerk reported that the Current Standing Orders were adopted in 2008 and requested that members adopt the latest Model Standing Orders from NALC dated 2018. Members resolved to adopt the NALC Model Standing Orders 2018.

22/29 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Committee – The Committee submitted a report on planning application DM/22/00987/FPA Land adjoining Snook Acres, Front Street, Witton Gilbert. Residential Development for 31 dwellings. Members resolved to accept the report and requested the Clerk forward to the relevant planning officer at Durham County Council. The report is attached to these minutes.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 6.39 p.m.

Signed..... Councillor D Lynch

Chairman 13th June 2022

Report from County Councillor Coult

Report for Witton Parish Council meeting – Monday 19th May

DCC

2025 City of Culture winner due to be announced at the end of May. Judges visited the City on Monday 9th May

Tour of Britain Cycle Race – Stage 3 of the completion leaves from Durham cathedral on 6th September and travels through areas such as Esh Winning and Cornsay Colliery

Cabinet agreed at special meeting on 27th April to sell the Sands building to Durham University Business School. DCC will use two buildings on Aykley Heads site and also a building on Stanley Front Street which is going to be redeveloped. After all of this there will be a net surplus which will be reinvested across the County.

Mental Health week – 9th – 15th May , new campaign launched called “Now you are talking” to encourage people to talk to someone they trust about concerns

Survey monkey ongoing linked to the North East Travel Survey 2022 – final date for comments is 15th May

Variety of jobs available at DCC – more information available on the website

Government Council Tax Energy Rebate – target date of 13th May to have all those who pay by direct debit credited with the £150

Free School Meals can save families up to £10 a week, find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

LOCALLY

General litter picking - Thanks again must go to all of the volunteers within the Parish who give up their time to litter pick the villages.

NHW walkabout on 28th April – highlighted several issues which wardens will progress – NHW report available. Play area to be monitored

Sourced some wood chippings for the allotment site

Fencing at the end of Front Street is logged for repair, bin near Morrisons also logged to be repaired.

Several areas put forward to be cleaned up, paths widened (top of Norburn leading to the bus stop and three point area at top of allotments leading into Chester Gdns, West Lea)

New bin situated near the MUGA

Positive response after the road improvements on Sacriston Lane – new surface, new markings.

Requested some signage to go up, near the new bungalows being built – Issues with horse manure

Witton Gilbert Parish Council response to Planning Application:
DM/22/00987/FPA: Land adjoining Snook Acres, Front Street, Witton Gilbert.
Residential Development for 31 dwellings.

Witton Gilbert Parish Council supports this application as it makes a significant contribution to the aims of the **Neighbourhood Plan** to provide additional good quality homes within the village of Witton Gilbert.

Policy 2: Housing development in Witton Gilbert Neighbourhood Plan Area: The proposed development complies with the policy by providing a range of sizes, and tenure following **Building for Life principles** and meeting targets for affordable homes.

Policy 3: Older people's Homes. The proposed development meets the policy requirement.

Policy 4: Development of land to the south of Front Street, Witton Gilbert. The design has taken account of the policy by respecting the setting of Front Street and the **Historic Zone of Witton Gilbert** outlined in **Policy 5**.

Policy 6: Sustainable Design. The proposed development complies with the policy which requires that a Design and Access Statement shows that the design responds to the local environment and character of the site and makes adequate provision of green open space.

Regarding the requirement to achieve high levels of energy efficiency and incorporate small scale energy generation the development does make modest improvements on the **minimum** requirement of Building Regulation but it still uses **gas boilers**. Given Durham County Council and Government commitments to the environment, it would seem this modest improvement doesn't go far enough. With a more significant improvement in thermal insulation and the use of heat pumps the development would make a meaningful contribution to sustainability.

The Design Statement proposes installing both **Photovoltaic** power generation and electric car **charging points**, which is to be welcomed. However, neither of these elements appear on the drawings, which is especially of concern for the photovoltaic panels as they not only have a significant impact on the visual appearance of the house types, but make a large contribution to the proposed carbon reduction measures. The proposal states that Photovoltaic panels will be installed on south facing roof slopes, while the majority of the houses have a south face roof, 6 of them do not. Can the developer explain how these will be managed?

We request that the Developer reconsider the thermal insulation and heating proposals and amend the drawings to show the solar panels.