

## Minutes of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at 6.30 pm virtually through Zoom

- 20/42 Apologies were received from Councillor A. Hillary.  
Present: - Councillors F Reynolds, A. Simpson, G Brown, L Murphy N Liddle, P Guy, D Lynch, L Hope and L Murphy.  
Also present: - G Thompson (Clerk), D C Rider (Assistant Clerk), B Coult (County Councillor)
- 20/43 Declarations of Interest: - None
- 20/44 Questions and comments from electors of the Parish: - None
- 20/45 Minutes: - The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 20/46 Matters Arising: - There were none.
- 20/47 Parish Bonfire – The Council discussed an email from Kristi Johnston and the Bonfire Committee regarding the ongoing pandemic and the Annual Parish Bonfire  
The Council resolved to support the advice of the Bonfire Committee and cancel this year's Annual Parish Bonfire.
- 20/48 Remembrance Sunday: - The Council discussed arrangements regarding the ongoing pandemic and the Annual Parish Remembrance Sunday Service.  
The Council resolved to await further guidance from The Government and The Royal British Legion before making a decision.
- 20/49 Durham County Council: - The Council received a letter from Durham County Council regarding 2020 -2021 Budget Planning.
- 20/50 Jonathon Williams: - The Council discussed an application for an allotment garden from Jonathon Williams of 1 East Block.  
The Council resolved that Jonathon Williams be placed on the waiting list for an allotment garden.
- 20/51 Mazars: - The Council discussed a letter from Mazars regarding satisfactory completion of the Audit of Accounts for year ended 31st March 2020.  
The Council resolved that the Annual Return for year ended 31st March 2020 be approved and accepted.
- 20/49 J Barrett – The Council discussed an application for an allotment garden from J Barrett of 27 Friarside.  
The Council resolved that J Barrett be placed on the waiting list for an allotment garden
- 20/50 Accounts for payment: -

Eon (BACS)	Electricity	27.34
N Crozier (BACS)	Maintenance (August)	266.00
HMRC (BACS)	Income Tax	136.60
Fulforth Centre (BACS)	Donation	1500.00
D Rider (BACS)	Bin Bags	19.18
N Crozier (BACS)	Maintenance (August)	196.00
G Thompson (BACS)	Telephone (July)	52.17

- 20/51 Reports: - County Councillor Coult and Simpson reported on County Council matters and fly tipping. Parish Councillor Hope reported on comments from a member of the public.
- 20/52 Parish Council Newsletter: - The Clerk reported that the next edition of the Parish Council Newsletter would be ready to deliver in the last week in September.
- 20/53 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Committee: - The Clerk reported on the latest meeting of the Committee.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC** In accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council excluded the press and public for the remaining

items on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

20/54 Allotment Gardens Report on CPO Loan application and other Negotiations: - The Council received reports from Councillors Reynolds and Brown on the CPO Loan application and other negotiations with regard to the Allotment gardens and confirmed that an offer to buy the allotment gardens had been made to the Freehold owners but the offer had been rejected. The Clerk presented a financial statement of next year's 2021/2022 draft precept which had been requested for the application for the CPO Loan.

20/55 Allotment Gardens Sacriston Lane: - 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 cost of the purchase of the Allotment Gardens, Sacriston Lane. The Council resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State of the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £15000.00 over the borrowing term of 10 years towards the cost of the purchase of the Allotment Gardens Sacriston Lane. The annual loan repayments will be around £1692.00. It is not intended to raise the Council Tax precept for the purpose of loan repayments.

The Parish Council adjourned for a short while whilst the Parish Clerk prepared the minutes of this meeting after which the Parish Council resumed.

20/56 Minutes: - The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.14 p.m.

Signed..... Councillor F Reynolds Chairman 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020