

Minutes of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on 11th January 2021 at 6.30 pm virtually through Zoom

- 20/96 Apologies: - Councillors A. Hillary and L Murphy.
Present: - Councillors F Reynolds, G Brown, A. Simpson, D Lynch, N. Liddle, and P Guy.
Also present: - G Thompson (Clerk), DC Rider (Deputy Clerk) and B Coult (County Councillor).
- 20/97 Declarations of Interest: - None
- 20/98 Questions and comments from electors of the Parish: - None
- 20/99 Minutes: - The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th December 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 20/100 Matters Arising: - None.
- 20/101 Correspondence: – The Clerk reported on Email from Lindsey Ramm requesting permission to build a polytunnel of 2m x 3m and 2m tall at the centre on their allotment plot (Plot A1). In addition, a storage box of a maximum of 2m x 1m x 1m for tools. Members approved the request.
- 20/102 Accounts for payment: -

E-on	Electricity`	13.10
N Crozier	Maintenance December	119.00
G. Thompson	Telephone November	56.17
G. Thompson	Telephone December	56.17
E-on	Electricity`	30.62
Durham County Council	Christmas Tree	2211.92

- 20/103 Reports: - County Councillor Simpson reported on planning issues with a fence recently erected by a householder at Burnside, Witton Gilbert. County Councillor Coult reported on play equipment at Fulforth Park and a proposed new footpath at South Lea. The County Councillors were asked by Councillor Brown about the caravan on the site of the former McAloon's garage and Councillor Reynolds inquired about the flood defences at the rear of Durham Gardens and South Lea (accumulation of litter in the basins). Councillor Lynch reported on landscaping at Witton Dene.
The Deputy Clerk temporarily left the meeting at this point.
- 20/104 Stepping down of the Parish Clerk and appointment of a successor: - The Council discussed minutes from its 11th November 2019 Parish Council meeting and its meeting of the Parish Council Personnel Committee on 25th November 2019 regarding replacement of the retiring Parish Clerk.
At a meeting of the Parish Council on 2nd December 2019 the Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council Personnel Committee on held 25th November 2019 and resolved under minute 19/81 to appointment, from existing Parish Council employees, of a Temporary Deputy Parish Clerk from 1st April 2020 on SCP 20 for 3 hours per week and that that the employment of a temporary Deputy Parish Clerk to assist with the future retirement of the present Parish Clerk be placed on the agenda for its February 2000 meeting. At a meeting of the Parish Council on 10th February Mr D Rider was appointed as Temporary Deputy Parish Clerk from 1st April 2020 on S C P 20 for 3.6 hours per week and that his present duties as litter picker be regraded to the same hourly rate of S C P 2
- The Council resolved to invite Mr Rider to an interview with respect to the position of Parish Clerk with a view to taking up the post on the 1st April 2021 if successful.
The Deputy Clerk now returned to the meeting.
- 20/105 Risk Assessment 2020-2021: - The Council carried out its annual financial risk assessment of its accounts and audit procedures and found all in order.

- 20/106 Allotment Gardens: - The Clerk reported on the latest developments regarding the Allotment Gardens.
- 20/107 Parish Council Newsletter: - The Deputy Clerk recommended that the upcoming newsletter be published online only for now with a print run and delivery to local households at a later date. This is due to health and safety concerns because of the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. Members agreed to the suggestion.
- 20/108 Witton Gilbert Parish Council: - Precept 2021 – 2022: - The Council discussed a summary of expected balances at 31st March 2021 and expected expenditure for the coming financial year commencing 1st April 2021. A Motion was proposed by Councillor N. Liddle and seconded by Councillor A. Simpson that the proposed Precept for 2021/22 as put forward by the Clerk be accepted. The Council resolved that the Parish Precept for 2021 - 2022 be £55000,00.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Signed..... Councillor F Reynolds Chairman 8th February 2021