

Minutes of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on 28th June 2021 at 6.45 pm at Witton Gilbert Community Centre

- 21/17 Apologies: - County Councillors A Simpson and B. Coult, Councillor A. Hillary.
Present: - Councillors G Brown, D Lynch, N. Liddle, L Hope, L Watts and C Simmons
Also present: - DC Rider (Clerk), G Thompson (Deputy Clerk) and K Johnston (Public).
- 21/18 Declarations of Interest: - None
- 21/19 Questions and comments from electors of the Parish: - Kristi Johnston spoke to members regarding the possibility of organising a Fireworks Display this November as lockdown measures ease. Members agreed that it would be desirable to go ahead with this if possible. Clerk to check on policy if fireworks need to be returned in the event of cancellation due to further lockdowns and on Public Liability Insurance. Making the event a limited ticketed event due to social distancing was discussed as was the possibility of calling for volunteers from members of the public to help with the event. Members agreed that this should be an agenda item for further discussion at the next meeting.
- 21/20 Minutes: - The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 19th May 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 21/21 Matters Arising: - None
- 21/22 Correspondence: – The Clerk reported on the following: -
- a. Email from Kristi Johnston regarding the possibility of holding a bonfire/firework display in November. Kristie Johnston attended the meeting
 - b. Email from County Durham Association of Local Councils regarding new Durham County Council code of conduct for Councillors. The Clerk reported that this would be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
Email from Lisa Watts requesting permission to build a shed and greenhouse on her allotment. Both will be approximately 6ft x 4ft. Members agreed to this request
 - c. Email from Karen Bruce of Findon Avenue, Witton Gilbert requesting to be placed on the waiting list for an allotment. Members agreed to place Karen Bruce on the waiting list.
- 21/23 Accounts for payment: -

EON	Electricity	38.05
N Crozier	Maintenance (May)	238.00
G. Thompson	Telephone (May)	56.80
D Rider	Telephone (May)	67.90
D Rider	Stationary	26.04

- 21/24 Reports: - County Councillor Coult submitted a written report that was read out by the Chairman. The report included items on the latest Covid figures for County Durham and its impact on local schools, the latest Covid vaccination figures, the cancellation of Durham Brass until 2022, Traffic management, Councillor Arnold Simpson becoming Mayor of Durham City and Councillor David Freeman Deputy Mayor, Current DCC apprenticeship roles covering a wide range of occupations, Review of options for the new County Hall and the DLI, Enhanced elected members Neighbourhood Budgets with a one-off allocation of £10,000 to support revitalisation of towns and villages, The possibility of siting salt bins at Acorn Croft and other areas including Fairview and Chester Gardens assessed but rejected, Planning Applications, The caravan sited at the former McAlloons Garage site, Community Broadband project (see minute 21/25), Roadworks, Play Equipment, Tree Carvings and Capital Works.
- 21/25 High Speed Broadband Scheme: - Vice Chair Councillor Hope reported on a Zoom meeting between the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, the Chairman, herself and resident Terry Crozier to discuss how best to approach this fibre to the door Broadband scheme. Members discussed this and resolved to invite Terry Crozier to a future meeting of the full Council and to ask County Councillors Simpson and Coult to lobby DCC for inclusion for

the whole of Witton Gilbert (only a small part of the village is currently eligible for the scheme).

- 21/26 Organisation of Community Events: - Councillor Simmons talked about a desire by local residents to see some community events arranged for both children and adults to enjoy as the village transitions out of Covid restrictions and what the Parish Council could do to help with this. Both County Councillors have ring fenced up to £500 matched funding for this sort of scheme that would be available provided the Parish Council were willing to match the funding. A Village Fair was suggested and Councillor Brown suggested a planting scheme. Members asked that this be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion after which a vote would be taken on providing a donation of up to £500.
- 21/27 Christmas Tree: - Councillor Brown reported on this. Members agreed that it would be desirable to have a permanently planted tree and discussed possible species of tree. It was decided to ask County Councillor Coult to arrange a meeting with Martin Briscoe of DCC to progress this matter and to consult with members of the public on what species of tree would be best.
- 21/28 Allotment Gardens: - The Deputy Clerk reported on the latest developments on the ongoing purchase of the Allotment Gardens.
- 21/29 Parish Council Newsletter: - The Clerk reported that he would soon be starting a new edition of the newsletter and asked members for contributions. The Deputy Clerk reported on delivery options including costs.
- 21/30 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Committee – No Report

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

Signed..... Councillor D Lynch Chairman 13th Sept. 2021