

## Minutes of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 6.30 pm at Witton Gilbert Community Centre

- 21/31 Apologies: - County Councillor B. Coult, Councillors A. Hillary and G Brown.  
Present: - Councillors D Lynch, A Simpson, N. Liddle, L Hope, L Watts, C Simmons and K Johnston  
Also present: - DC Rider (Clerk), G Thompson (Deputy Clerk), G Nevard (Public).
- 21/32 Declarations of Interest: - Councillor A. Simpson declared an interest in item 38a and took no part in the discussion and vote on this matter.
- 21/33 Vacancy for Councillor. To co-opt Kristi Johnston as a Councillor of Witton Gilbert Parish Council. Members agreed to co-opt Kristi Johnston as a Councillor and she signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Parish Clerk.
- 21/34 Questions and comments from electors of the Parish: - Mr Nevard wished to bring to the attention of members an issue he had with land near Burnside. County Councillor Simpson to look into this matter and provide a report for the next Parish Council meeting. Mr Nevard also commented on the state of the Clink Bank field.
- 21/35 Minutes: - The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 21/36 Reports: - County Councillor Simpson reported on the expected re-opening of Elvet Bridge in October, Problems with cancelled local bus services, vacancies with DCC, a free bulbs scheme run by DCC, Awards for people who have made a major contribution to helping others during Covid, 20 mph signs outside schools (lighting times), Fly tipping, Planning Applications, Neighbourhood Wardens, Complaints of fires on the Sacriston Lane Allotments and Complaints of bushes at the Village Centre obscuring views of oncoming traffic. Councillor Simpson then left the meeting.
- 21/37 Matters Arising: - None
- 21/38 Correspondence: – The Clerk reported on the following: -  
a. Email from Victoria Richardson of Durham County Council requesting a donation for the Mayor of Durham’s Appeal fund for NHS Charities Together. Members resolved to donate £50 to the mayor’s appeal fund.
- 21/39 Mazars: - The Council discussed a letter from Mazars regarding satisfactory completion of the Audit of Accounts for year ended 31st March 2021. The Council resolved that the Annual Return for year ended 31st March 2021 be approved and accepted.
- 21/40 Accounts for payment: -

HMRC	Income Tax	82.89
N Crozier	Maintenance (June)	210.00
G. Thompson	Telephone (June)	56.80
D Rider	Telephone (June)	47.90
Kate Hardy	Family Fun Day	40.00
Premier Bar Hire	Family Fun Day	100.00
Rachel Mangles	Family Fun Day	30.00
HMRC	Income Tax	82.89
N Crozier	Maintenance (July)	231.00
Eon	Electricity	9.14
G Thompson	Measuring Wheel Hire	17.14
NWG Business Ltd	Water Bill	183.31
Eon	Electricity	8.83
G Thompson	Telephone (July)	56.80
G Thompson	Petty Cash	45.00
D Rider	Telephone (July)	57.90

Richie Barnes	Wood Carver	250.00
JL O'Brian	Family Fun Day	400.00
Kate Hardy	Family Fun Day	120.00
Rachel Mangles	Family Fun Day	80.00
Sunset Balloons	Family Fun Day	195.00
Claire Simmons	Family Fun Day	8.99
Hannah Dixon	Family Fun Day	175.00
DCC	Website Maintenance	747.56
Claire Simmons	Family Fun Day	8.35
N Crozier	Maintenance (August)	245.00
HMRC	Income Tax	53.45
Mayors Charity	Donation	50.00
G Thompson	Telephone (August)	56.80
Eon	Electricity	10.44
DCC	Funday Event License	50.00
DCC	Christmas Tree	2316.19
D Rider	Telephone (August)	57.90

- 21/41 Approval of new Code of Conduct for members – Members resolved to adopt the new Code of Conduct for members of the Parish Council.
- 21/42 Possible fireworks display in November – The Deputy Clerk and Councillor Johnston reported on this matter. Currently the Clerk/Deputy Clerk are awaiting confirmation from the Council insurers (Came & Co.) that they are happy for this to go ahead under plans submitted to them. Councillor Johnston who is organising the display expressed concern that the restriction of 75 metres from any properties imposed by the insurance company would lead to safety issues in itself as it would be too close to the A691 road at the far end of the field. Members discussed the possibility of using the football field behind the Community Centre in future years for the display. Parish Clerk to chase up the insurance company and remind them that there is a deadline of the 21<sup>st</sup> September for a decision on this in order to be ready for November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 21/43 Remembrance Day Service and Roll of Honour – The Clerk reported that the Minister and Band had been organised for the event. The Clerk also reported on a Roll of Honour he had received through the post from a member of the public as a donation, that listed all of the First World War dead of Witton Gilbert. Members discussed the possibility of getting this restored and framed and displaying it in the Community Centre.
- 21/44 Christmas Tree and Environmental Works: - The Chairman reported that a temporary tree had been ordered for this year due to the short time scale for organising a permanently planted one. From next year onwards a permanently planted tree would be put in place after consultation with residents on the type of tree. The chairman also reported that Martin Briscoe who was helping to organise the planting scheme has since left DCC and that Councillor Brown had been trying to contact his replacement, John Snailham without success. The Parish Clerk or Deputy Clerk to chase up John Snailham to further discuss this matter.
- 21/45 Allotment Gardens: - The Deputy Clerk reported on the latest developments on the ongoing purchase of the Allotment Gardens.
- 21/46 Parish Council Newsletter: - The Clerk reported that due to personal circumstances he had not made very much progress with the latest edition but would now be moving forward with it. Councillors Lynch and Simmons offered to provide photographs and a write up of the recent Fun Day for the newsletter.

21/47 Notice of Motion – A notice of motion was requested to discuss at the next meeting the setting up of an events committee to co-ordinate future fun days and other events of this type.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.42 pm.

Signed..... Councillor L Hope Vice Chairman 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2021