

Minutes of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on 11th October 2021 at 6.30 pm at Witton Gilbert Community Centre

- 21/48 Apologies: - Councillors D Lynch, K Johnston, C Simmons.
Present: - A Simpson, N. Liddle, L Hope, G. Brown
Also present: - DC Rider (Clerk), G Thompson (Deputy Clerk), County Councillor B. Coult, S. Williams, M. Cutmore (Public).
- 21/49 Declarations of Interest: - None.
- 21/50 Questions and comments from electors of the Parish: - Residents brought to the attention of members concerns relating to child safety issues. County Councillor Simpson reported that he had been liaising with the Police on this matter and would continue to monitor the situation and residents could contact him with any concerns. County Councillor Coult advised that residents should contact the Police if they have any specific concerns. Councillor Brown suggested other agencies may be better placed to help with this matter.
- 21/51 Minutes: - The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13th September 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- 21/52 Matters Arising: - None
- 21/53 Correspondence: – The Clerk reported on the following: -
- a) Thank you card from Victoria Richardson of Durham County Council acknowledging the Parish Council's £50 donation for the Mayor of Durham's Appeal fund for NHS Charities Together.
 - b) Email from Christine Park of 6 Chapel Court requesting to be placed on the waiting list for an allotment. Members agreed to add Christine Park to the allotment waiting list.
 - c) Letter of resignation from Councillor Amanda Hillary.
- 21/54 Accounts for payment: -

Swinburne Maddison	Purchase of Allotments	19,412.00
PWLB	Loan Repayment	2722.00
HMRC	Income Tax	48.23
D & M Property	Allotment Rent	87.50
N Crozier	Maintenance (October)	231.00
H & H Land and Estates	Professional Services	586.80
D Rider	Dog Poo Bags	57.85
Pains Fireworks Ltd	Order for Fireworks	1197.60
Mazars	Accounts	360.00
EON	Electricity bill	10.71
Ash Signs & Banners	Allotment Banner	75.00
Richie Barnes	Wood Carver	250.00

- 21/55 Reports: - County Councillor Coult reported on reviews on the future of the DLI and the new County Council HQ, Leisure Centre improvements, Durham successfully through to the next stage of the City of Culture 2025, Stoptober (Giving up Smoking), Covid Acts of Kindness community award, Available apprenticeships at DCC, How to access the latest Covid Data, Walkabout undertaken with the NHW on 30th September, The latest Neighbourhood Warden Report, an email to the PCC about concerns around accessibility of the Police 101 number, weeds around the village to be treated by Clean and Green by 18th October, requested for South Lea park play equipment to be checked, Potential for more street name signage at Norburn Park, litter bin ordered for the MUGA, 2021 Christmas Toy Appeal launched for vulnerable children, Carving of dead tree next to the flood defences and Planning Applications.
- 21/56 Members discussed a Notice of Motion from the September meeting of the Parish Council to consider the formation of a Family Fun Day Sub-Committee, to include 4 Councillors to

organise such events in the coming years with the power to co-opt to the Committee such residents to assist as necessary. Members resolved to approve the formation of the Family Fun Day Sub-Committee.

- 21/57 Possible fireworks display in November – Councillor Johnston submitted a written report that was read out by the Vice Chair. The report confirmed that an amended SAG (Safety Advisory Group) application has been submitted to Durham County Council with no issues raised as yet. Still to be organised first aid cover and stewarding.
- 21/58 Christmas Tree and Environmental Works: - Councillor Brown reported that he had not got any further forward with regards to the planting scheme due to difficulties created by Martin Briscoe leaving DCC. Members discussed possible types of trees to be planted as a living Christmas tree in the coming year.
- 21/59 Allotment Gardens: - The Vice Chair reported that the Sacriston Lane Allotments had been purchased. The Clerk reported that a banner had been ordered to celebrate the purchase of the allotment gardens to be hung on the fence at the front of the gardens facing the road. Councillor Brown suggested getting everyone involved in saving the allotments together for a celebration and a photograph taken with the banner and inviting the local press to cover this. Clerk to send out a press release to local media and all who were involved in saving the allotments.
- 21/60 Termination of Allotment Tenancies – Members received a report from the allotments sub-committee in relation to plots that were not being cultivated and were being left untidy by their respective tenants. The report recommended termination of the tenancies for plots 12b, 18b and 22. Members resolved to accept the report and terminate the tenancies.
- 21/61 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Committee – Members received a report from the Committee in relation to Planning Application DM/21/02360/FPA for a housing development at Sniperley (report attached to these minutes). Members discussed this matter and resolved to accept the report of the Committee.
- 21/62 Parish Council Newsletter – The Clerk reported that publication of the newsletter was imminent.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Signed..... Councillor D. Lynch Chairman 8th Nov. 2021

Report by Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Committee Application DM/21/02360/FPA

Background

Site is part of a wider housing allocation within the CDP for the development of 1700 dwellings on 107.8 hectares of land. As part of Durham City's Sustainable Urban Extension the land will be removed from the Green Belt. Any development is required to be supported by a comprehensive masterplan and to demonstrate how the phasing of development will have regard to the provision and timing of the infrastructure and services necessary to support them.

The problem is, the Masterplan is not available to the public. The applicant has undertaken pre application discussions since June 2020 with Council officers and with Council appointed consultants preparing the Masterplan for the wider allocation. Feedback from these and from the DCC Design Review Panel has helped shape the details of the application. Local pre application online consultations yielded 1,000 visits but less than 50 responses.

Conclusion

Until we know how the proposed development will integrate with the overall Masterplan a comprehensive response is difficult as the Masterplan is not available to us. The Ward Councillors have the authority and the opportunity to ask for further information. It would be helpful if they could contact the Planning Department and determine what, if any, further information could be given in order to make more meaningful comment. A timetable at least would be of some help.

Planning Application DM/21/02360/FPA

Hybrid application consisting of: Outline planning permission for retention of farm buildings for residential and extension to Sniperley Park and Ride facility;

And

Full planning permission for the development of 370 dwellings with access, landscaping, SuDS' ecological mitigation/compensatory land, open space and the demolition of vacant farm buildings.

Suggested Parish Council comments

The proposed development is situated within the boundary of Witton Gilbert Parish Council.

The Parish Council recognises the need for development and associated supporting amenities in principle, as demonstrated in the Witton Gilbert Neighbourhood Plan. However, concerns have been raised regarding the lack of detailed information with reference to the Masterplan stated in Policy 5 of the CDP and how this proposed development would fit with the wider development.

Policy 5 also states that Sniperley Park will incorporate a local centre as a community focus including retail, office and hospitality provision; new primary school and health centre building. The Parish Council has concerns about how existing schools and health facilities would be able to cope with the influx of new residents before new facilities have been developed.

Signed.....



Councillor D. Lynch Chairman

11th Oct. 2021