

Minutes of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on 8th November 2021 at 6.30 pm at Witton Gilbert Community Centre

- 21/63 Apologies: - County Councillor B. Coult, A. Simpson, C Simmons.
Present: - Councillors D Lynch, N. Liddle, L Hope, G. Brown, K Johnston, L Watts.
Also present: - DC Rider (Clerk), G Thompson (Deputy Clerk).
- 21/64 Declarations of Interest: - None.
- 21/65 Questions and comments from electors of the Parish: - None.
- 21/66 Minutes: - The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 11th October 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 21/67 Matters Arising: - None
- 21/68 Accounts for payment: -

PWLB	Loan Repayment	548.60
N Crozier	Maintenance (October)	182.00
Lintons	Printing of Newsletter	195.00
HMRC	Tax	48.23
G Thompson	Telephone (October)	40.09

- 21/69 Reports: - County Councillor Coult was unable to attend but provided a written report read out by the Chairman. Matters reported on included a possible development of land at rear of Snookacres, planning issue (Fence) at Burnside rejected on appeal – in the hands of enforcement, Believe Housing are commencing internal upgrades from November 2021 - March 2022 at Briar Lea and Green Lea, Flytipping issues on Nor Lane – plan to set up a meeting with residents to discuss, Christmas toy appeal, Tree carving near flood defence - final stage to install individual carvings, Steven Liddle (Neighbourhood Warden) – happy to attend Parish meetings (written report provided for this meeting), Warden currently addressing some local issues which were identified during a walkabout.
- 21/70 Parish Precept 2022-2023: – The Clerk handed out copies of the latest Draft Precept for the financial year 2022/2023. Members to discuss details further in upcoming meetings.
- 21/71 New Litter Bins for Witton Gilbert: - County Councillor Coult had informed members of possible funding for extra Litter Bins in addition to the 2 due to be installed in the MUGA (The Basketball Court behind the Community Centre). Members discussed possible areas for siting them, one possibility mentioned was Briar Lea as one had been removed from there at some point in the past.
- 21/72 Litter Picking: - suggestion by Councillor Coult to organise a voluntary litter picking scheme, with the Parish Council providing funding for equipment for the litter picking teams (Similar to a scheme being run by Councillor Coult in Esh Parish). Members expressed the opinion that further information was required from Councillor Coult and resolved to defer a decision on this item to a future meeting next year.
- 21/73 Small Event Funding: - Members discussed the possibility of the Parish Council funding a Christmas Fayre to take place in Witton Gilbert in December. The Durham County Council Members Small Grants Fund has up to £500 available for this type of event with the proviso that match funding is provided by the Parish Council. Clerk to liaise with Councillor Coult.
- 21/74 Allotment Gardens – Evictions from allotments 12b, 18b, 22 and clearance of sites. The Clerk reported that the tenants of the aforementioned allotments had been sent eviction letters as per the recommendation of the allotments sub-committee and subsequent ratification at the full meeting of the Parish Council in October. The Clerk further reported that site clearance was being undertaken by the Parish Council contractor Neil Crozier and that 2 of the allotments had already been re-let to Stephen Prosser and Lyndsey Ward.
- 21/75 Christmas Tree and Environmental Works: - Members discussed suggestions put forward from members of the public on types of permanently planted Christmas tree they preferred from the list given in the October newsletter. Councillor Brown suggested having a further public vote on a choice of 3 species of tree in December (Facebook and the December

Newsletter). Councillor Brown also reported that he had made little progress on the planting scheme and was awaiting further updates from DCC.

21/76 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Committee: – The Clerk reported that the latest meeting of the Committee had discussed an email from Believe Housing and Homes by Carlton regarding a proposed housing development in Witton Gilbert. The recommendation of the Committee was that a meeting be set up with the developers to discuss this that should include any Parish Councillors and members of the Committee who wished to attend. The Parish Council resolved to accept the recommendation and to instruct the Clerk to arrange a meeting.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed..... Councillor D. Lynch Chairman 6th Dec. 2021