

Minutes of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held on 14th February 2022 at 6.30 pm at Witton Gilbert Community Centre

- 21/103 Present: - Councillors D. Lynch (Chair), A. Simpson, C. Simmons, N. Liddle, G. Brown, L Hope (Vice Chair), K. Johnston.
Also present: - DC Rider (Clerk), G. Thompson (Deputy Clerk).
Apologies: -
- County Councillor B. Coult
 - L. Watts
- 21/104 Declarations of Interest: - Councillor Simpson declared an interest in agenda item 7a (minute 21/109 a) Witton Gilbert Village Hall Association request for a donation as he is a member of the management committee for the hall. Councillor Simpson left the room during the discussion of this item.
- 21/105 Questions and comments from electors of the Parish: - None.
- 21/106 Minutes: - The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 10th January 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 21/107 Matters Arising: -. The Clerk reported that he had received an enquiry about the vacant position of Parish Councillor but that it did not look like it would go any further due to the interested party having childcare issues. Councillor Liddle further updated members with some background information on this matter.
- 21/108 Parish Fun Day 2022 – Councillor Simmons reported on preparations for this event. Members felt that the Village Hall should play more of a role in future events and Councillor Hope who is the Parish Council delegate to the Village Hall proposed that she should attend future meetings of the management committee of the Witton Gilbert Village Hall Association.
- 21/109 Correspondence: -
- a) Email from Witton Gilbert Village Hall Association requesting a donation. Members discussed this and resolved to donate £4000 to the Association.
 - b) Email from Woodshed Workshop CIC requesting a donation. Members discussed this and resolved to donate the full amount requested (£1449.96) after receipt of further relevant information from the Woodshed Workshop.
 - c) Email from Zoe Lewin Senior Policy Officer – Spatial Policy Team, Regeneration, Economy and Growth, Durham County Council regarding notice boards on the Northern Saints Trails one of which runs through Witton Gilbert Parish. Members noted this information and resolved to support the installation of a notice board.
 - d) Email from Alexander Bonner of planning consultants Lichfields offering a meeting to discuss concerns about the Sniperley Park Development and from DCC regarding an updated planning application for the site. Members resolved to request a meeting with Lichfields at some point in the future but instructed the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Sacriston Parish Council first to discuss a possible joint approach to this matter. Members noted the updated application.
 - e) Email from Helen Heward regarding the public consultation for the proposed new housing development behind Front Street, Witton Gilbert. Members noted this information.
- 21/110 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Committee – Planning Application DM/22/00171/FPA for the Creation of menage on land north of 75 – 95 Rose Lea. Members discussed this matter and taking the views of the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Committee into account resolved that they would object to the application.
- 21/111 Accounts for payment: -

G Thompson	Telephone (December)	40.09
HMRC	Arrears	31.16
HMRC	Arrears	26.81
HMRC	Arrears	1.64

HMRC	Arrears	14.95
HMRC	Arrears	10.23
HMRC	Arrears	5.22
HMRC	Tax	48.23
N Crozier	Maintenance for January	196.00
Eon	Electricity (January)	15.29
NWG	Water Bill	10.94
Witton Gilbert Village Hall Association	Donation	4000
Woodshed Workshop CIC	Donation	1449.96

21/112 Reports: - County Councillor Coult submitted a report in writing as she was unable to attend the meeting. The report is attached to these minutes. It was suggested that an invitation should be extended to the Neighbourhood Warden to attend the next Parish Council meeting.

21/113 Christmas Tree and Environmental Works: - Councillor Brown reported on the latest developments.

The Council at this point resolved to agree the following resolution:

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the agenda, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

21/114 Nominations for Freeman of Witton Gilbert Parish – The Clerk reported that he had received nominations from members of the Parish Council for the award of Freeman of Witton Gilbert Parish to a number of recipients. Members resolved to consider these at a meeting on 14th March at 6 pm (before the ordinary meeting).

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.53 pm. The next ordinary meeting will be on March 14th at 6.30 pm.

Signed..... Councillor D. Lynch Chairman 14th March 2022

Report from County Councillor Coult

Witton Gilbert Parish Council - 14 February 2022

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

DCC illuminated County Hall with an image of HRH and flew 3 union jacks to mark the start of her platinum jubilee. Special events planned for bank holiday period 2 – 5 June include street displays, service at Durham Cathedral, plus much more.

Durham County Council will submitted County Durham's UK City of Culture 2025 bid on Wednesday 2nd February on behalf of the Culture Durham Partnership.

Detailed in the report to Cabinet are a range of investments, including £5 million towards Levelling Up Match Funding. We are able to submit five further capital bids to the Government's Levelling Up programme after our success with a first bid for funding for Bishop Auckland. County Durham, with six parliamentary constituencies, is able to submit up to six bids for the value of up to £120 million.

Cabinet to be asked to consider declaring an ecological emergency, members of ESCOSC committee supported the recommendation at a meeting today

DCC are also looking to recruit more foster careers – billboard at entrance to County Hall has been updated.

Consultation currently on going around libraries across the County, deadline for comments is 1 April

Consultation by the AAP's to help set the community priorities for 2022/ 2023.

Other consultations also taking place for more information visit www.durham.gov.uk and search consultations

Covid data is available on Durham Insight page if residents wish to keep up to date with current information.

LOCALLY

Walkabout has been undertaken with NHW 18th several issues identified including untidy gardens, etc, which are being addressed. Path edges covered in weeds have been logged for clearance, Glebeside areas. Intention is to hold these on a monthly basis, please can consider inviting NHW to the parish meetings, if not already happening.

Issues continue with flytipping on Nor Lane area, working closely with the flytipping warden on this matter

Issues with door to door sellers, please follow police advice and report concerns to 101

Cllr Coult recently visit the St Michael and All Angels Church / The Dene / Breathing Space – fantastic activities available for local people to enjoy.

Work is underway on building the new bungalows near Waterson Crescent, where the old garages were situated.

Children from the local primary school visited the area near the flood defence to view the new pathway and carvings – Portfolio Holder Mark Wilkes attended.

Zip line has been relocated near the main park in the village

Meeting to be arranged with DCC and Police about parking issues outside of the school at drop off and collection

Litter picking – Thank you residents who volunteer their time to keep areas clear, in particular Nor Lane.

Plan is to hold a Big Spring Clean session in each village during 21st Feb – 4th April