

**Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of Witton Gilbert Parish Council
held on 14th March 2022 at 6.30 pm at Witton Gilbert
Community Centre**

21/115 Present: - Councillors D. Lynch (Chair), N. Liddle, G. Brown, L Hope (Vice Chair), K. Johnston.

Also present: - DC Rider (Clerk).

Apologies: - None

21/116 Declarations of Interest: - None

21/117 Questions and comments from electors of the Parish: - None.

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.

21/118 Members considered a motion to award George Thompson the honorary title of Freeman of the Parish of Witton Gilbert and to sanction the purchase of a commemorative certificate. Members resolved unanimously to award George Thompson the title and to sanction the purchase of a certificate.

21/119 Members considered a motion to award Fraser Reynolds the honorary title of Freeman of the Parish of Witton Gilbert and to sanction the purchase of a commemorative certificate. Members resolved unanimously to award Fraser Reynolds the title and to sanction the purchase of a certificate.

21/120 Members considered a motion to award Arnold Simpson the honorary title of Freeman of the Parish of Witton Gilbert and to sanction the purchase of a commemorative certificate. Councillor Brown felt it would be more appropriate to discuss this again after Councillor Simpson had completed his term as Mayor. After further discussion members agreed not to proceed with the award on the assumption that Councillor Simpson would be nominated again later in the year and that a final decision would be made at that point.

The meeting was closed at 6.25 pm to be followed by the Ordinary Meeting.

Signed..... Councillor D. Lynch Chairman 11th April 2022

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21/121 Present: - Councillors D. Lynch (Chair), N. Liddle, G. Brown, L Hope (Vice Chair), K. Johnston, A Simpson.

Also present: - DC Rider (Clerk), G. Thompson (Deputy Clerk), B. Coult (County Councillor), J Reynolds and J. Nixon (Public).

Apologies: - None

21/122 Declarations of Interest: - None

21/123 Questions and comments from electors of the Parish: - J Reynolds and J. Nixon wished to discuss arrangements for this year's Parish Funday and how the CHAD organisation could be involved. The Deputy Clerk reported on insurance issues for the event. Members resolved that the Events Committee and the Clerk should meet with CHAD representatives again on the 28th March to discuss arrangements further.

21/124 Minutes: - The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14th February 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

21/125 Matters Arising: - The Clerk reported that a Planning Application had been submitted to Durham County Council in relation to the proposed new development behind Front Street, Witton Gilbert. The Clerk also reported that this application would be discussed at an upcoming meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Committee.

21/126 Reports: - As County Councillor Coult had to leave the meeting early members agreed to move this item up the agenda. County Councillor Coult then gave a verbal report to members followed up later by a written report that is attached to these minutes. County Councillor Coult then left the meeting.

21/127 Correspondence: -

- a) Email from SLCC - renewal notice for membership. Members agreed that the Clerk should renew membership of the SLCC for the upcoming year
- b) DCC Pest Control Contract for Sacriston Lane Allotments. Members agreed to go ahead with the proposed new contract from DCC for pest control at the Sacriston Lane Allotments.

21/128 Accounts for payment.

D Rider	Phone (January)	57.90
D Rider	Phone (February)	57.90
G Thompson	Phone (March)	40.09
SLCC	Membership Renewal	144.00
CDALC	Parkinson Partnership training	30.00
N. Crozier	Maintenance February	189.00
NCAA	Membership Renewal	55.00
PWLB	Loan Repayment (April)	2703.50

21/129 Sniperley development: - Councillor Lynch reported on the recent meeting between members of Witton Gilbert Parish Council, the Witton Gilbert Parish Council Neighbourhood Planning Committee and both Clerks with members of Sacriston Parish Council and one of the County Councillors for Sacriston Emma Waldock. Members agreed to continue to co-operate with Sacriston Parish Council and to participate in further meetings with officers of Durham County Council as arranged by Councillor Waldock, to discuss plans for this development.

21/130 Allotment Fence adjacent to Acorn Croft: - The Clerk reported that he had met with the resident at 2 Acorn Croft who's garden fence backs onto one of the Sacriston Lane allotments. The resident had some damage to her fence during the recent heavy storms

and was having difficulty getting it repaired due to some brambles up by the fence on the allotment side obstructing workman performing repairs. The allotment holder kindly removed the brambles to allow better access. The resident then asked that the Parish Council either contribute to the cost of repairs or arrange for repairs themselves as she felt that the brambles had contributed to the damage to the fence. Members discussed this and felt that the storm with wind speeds of up to 69 mph rather than the brambles was likely the cause of any damage caused and that they were not prepared to contribute to the repairs.

21/131 Christmas Tree & Planting Scheme: - Councillor Brown reported that he was still having problems contacting Graham Cozens of Durham County Council in order to obtain costings for the bulb planting scheme. The Clerk and Councillor Simpson to chase up Mr Cozens on this matter. Councillor Lynch suggested a village walkabout to map out possible locations for planting the bulbs. Councillor Liddle asked about the provision of tree lights and other lighting after the planting of the new Christmas tree.

The Chairman and Members of the Council thanked Deputy Clerk George Thompson who was attending his final meeting before retirement after over 40 years of service to the Parish Council.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.32 pm. The next ordinary meeting will take place on April 11th at 6.30 pm.

Signed..... Councillor D. Lynch Chairman 11th April 2022

Report from County Councillor Coult

Witton Parish - 14 February 2022

DCC

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 carers – 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