

**Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of Witton Gilbert Parish Council held  
on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 6.00 pm at Witton Gilbert  
Community Centre**

- 22/30 Present: - Councillors D. Lynch (Chair), N. Liddle, A. Simpson, G. Brown, L Hope (Vice Chair), K. Johnston, L. Watts.  
Also present: - DC Rider (Clerk).  
Apologies: -
- B Coult (County Councillor)
- 22/31 Declarations of Interest: - Lisa Watts declared an interest in agenda item 7g minute 22/36 item g) and took no part in the discussion or subsequent decision on this matter.
- 22/32 Questions and comments from electors of the Parish: - A concern from a member of the public was brought to the attention of members related to the large amount of dog mess around the area of Norburn Park. Councillor Simpson reported on signage in the area related to this matter. The Clerk reported that he had received a request from Morrisons shop for dog poo bags to give out and would be providing these as soon as possible.
- 22/33 Reports: - The Chairman read out a report from County Councillor Coult that has been attached to these minutes. The Chairman also reported on preparations for the upcoming Fun-day organised by the Parish Council. Councillor Johnston reported on the recent meeting of the Witton Gilbert Village Hall Association that she had attended as the Parish Council representative. Councillor Simpson reported on his year as the Mayor of Durham.
- 22/34 Minutes: - The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 22/35 Matters Arising: - None.
- 22/36 Correspondence: -
- a) Letter from Witton Gilbert Playgroup requesting a donation to help with annual rent costs. Members discussed this and resolved to donate up to £1650 as soon as clarification of the cost of the rent is received.
  - b) Letter and report from City of Durham Parish Council regarding the Sniperley Development specifically relating to renewable energy provision. Members discussed this and felt that it was not appropriate for the Parish Council as a body to be involved in this matter.
  - c) Email from Danielle Eckart of 3 East Block, Witton Gilbert requesting to be placed on the allotment waiting list. Members agreed to this request
  - d) Email from David Lane of 19 Fair View, Witton Gilbert requesting to be placed on the allotment waiting list. Members agreed to this request
  - e) Email from Christine Park of 6 Chapel Court, Witton Gilbert requesting to be placed on the allotment waiting list. Members agreed to this request
  - f) Email from Louise Tuck of 12 Fair View, Witton Gilbert requesting to be placed on the allotment waiting list. Members agreed to this request
  - g) Email from Lisa Watts requesting to add a greenhouse of 6x6 feet on her allotment plot. Members agreed to this request
  - h) Email resignation from the Parish Council from Councillor C. Simmons. Members noted this. The Clerk to inform Electoral Services at Durham County Council.
- 22/37 Accounts for payment.

Gallagher	Insurance	1481.33
EON	Electricity	9.08
N. Crozier	Maintenance (May)	182.00
All That Glitters Tattoo's	Funday (Deposit)	10.00
All That Glitters Tattoo's	Funday	90.00
K&A Party Time & Face-painting	Funday	145.00

Terrace Cupcakes	Funday	200.00
Miss S. A. Hawkins	Funday	400.00

- 22/38 Review of Draft Allotment Rules – Members reviewed the rules as drawn up by Councillor Brown. The final version to be put to the next meeting for approval after some minor changes.
- 22/39 Report on the latest edition of the Parish Newsletter – The Clerk/Editor reported that he would soon be making a start on the next edition of the Parish Newsletter and asked members to forward any items they would like adding. Councillor Brown reported that he would be providing an article on the Planting Scheme.
- 22/40 Latest report(s) on the Christmas tree including lighting provision – The Clerk reported that he had been in discussions with Durham County Council on the matter of lighting and had been advised that there were risks in adding lights to a newly planted tree in that it may damage the tree. Members discussed using a metal support structure around the tree to support the lights therefore minimising the threat of damage to the tree. The Clerk to follow this idea up with the County Council.
- 22/41 Planting Scheme: - Members resolved to approve the planting scheme as drawn up by Councillor Brown. The Clerk to contact Graham Cozens of Durham County Council to arrange a meeting to progress this matter.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.14 pm. The next ordinary meeting will take place on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

Signed..... Councillor D. Lynch Chairman 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Report for Witton Parish Council meeting – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June

DCC

2025 City of Culture winner due was Bradford. Coming within the top 4 is still a fantastic achievement for Durham and

Road closure which may impact – Browney Lane, Burngill Bank – closing on July 15<sup>th</sup> – anticipated to be reopened by the winter

Consultations ongoing on:  
Pharmacy Service  
SEND

We would like to encourage as many residents and parish councils to submit their views.

Council Tax Energy Rebates £150 – DCC are now contacting non direct debits payers about how to process the payment. 79,000 residents to contact, so being done in a phased manner over coming weeks.

2<sup>ND</sup> July - 70 glorious years of Her Majesty Freedom Concert taking place at Wharton Park – more information on Facebook

15<sup>th</sup> June – Cabinet to discuss:

New Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP 2) which outlines further actions taken from 2022-24  
£117 million of Levelling up fund

Tour of Britain Cycle Race – Stage 3 of the completion leaves from Durham cathedral on 6<sup>th</sup> September

Variety of jobs available at DCC – more information available on the website

Road closure which may impact – Browney Lane, Burngill Bank – closing on July 15<sup>th</sup> – anticipated to be reopened by the winter

Support – We have shared this link which you may wish to share on the parish website.  
<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2079/Benefits-Support>

LOCALLY

General litter picking - Thanks again must go to all of the volunteers within the Parish who give up their time to litter pick the villages.

NHW walkabout – date being arranged for June we will ask that play area continues to be monitored

Issues with parking – specifically in Rose Lea, working to get access “one way”

Bins – sincere apologies for the issues with the bin collections – if any streets are still outstanding, please can you advise us. Issues with North area, caused backlog.

Fencing at the end of Front Street is logged for repair, bin near Morrisons also logged to be repaired – will chase these, as still outstanding

Several areas put forward to be cleaned up, paths widened (top of Norburn leading to the bus stop and three point area at top of allotments leading into Chester Gdns, West Lea) – will chase these.