

WEST WITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF WEST WITTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10th JANUARY 2023 AT WEST WITTON VILLAGE HALL.

Present

Cllr Dave Brown (Chair) Cllr Christine Donovan-Brown

Cllr Neil Dutton

Cllr John Hunter

Cllr Graham Bottley

In attendance

Alyson Jones (Clerk)

Public: 0

1 Apologies for absence

To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

RESOLVED: None

2 Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest under the following categories: Pecuniary interest, Outside Bodies interest and family, friend or close associate interest.

RESOLVED: None

3 Public Participation

Residents may raise any matter relating to the Parish.

RESOLVED: None. No public participation or matters raised via email to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

4 Minutes of the Last Meeting

To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 2nd November 2022 as a true and correct record and to sign them as such.

RESOLVED: That the Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd November 2022 as a true and proper record.

5 West Witton Christmas lights 2022

5.1 To consider the West Witton Christmas lights and trees 2022.

It was agreed that people had been pleased with the Christmas lights, however a proposal to replace the solar lights for the Milk Stand was agreed as these had not been so successful. The solar lights are stored in the Village Hall.

RESOLVED: The Clerk would contact the Playing Fields Committee to see if they would like to use these solar lights for any events and plug-in lights would be purchased for Dec 2023 to be plugged into the lamppost. It was agreed that Smorthwaite Trust would pay for the lights as they are of benefit to the village.

RESOLVED: It was noted that Cllrs would like to thank John Baxter for the kind donation of the tree and electricity for the Mill Dam tree.

6 Remembrance Service 2022

6.1 To consider Remembrance 2022 in West Witton.

It was noted that the Remembrance service had been well attended (between 30-40 people). Cllr Brown reported that there had been no response from the British Legion re flying a flag at the service.

RESOLVED: Cllr would continue to look into this matter and feedback to the Council.

RESOLVED: It was noted that Cllrs would like to thank the Wool Pack (Joy, Mary and Rebecca) for the knitted poppies.

6.2 It was raised that a member of the public had asked a Cllr if a war memorial plaque could be placed in Mill Dam Bus shelter. It was agreed that the plaque would need to be dedicated to all men and women who died in all services for their country. The cost would be approx. £400-500. It was considered if funding or donations could pay for this.

RESOLVED: Cllr Brown and Cllr Donovan Brown would look into this and report back to the Council.

7 Cemetery

7.1 To consider new cemetery management policy and rules.

New cemetery management policy and rules had been circulated by the Clerk and were agreed by the Cllrs.

RESOLVED: New cemetery management policy and rules were approved and are to be added to the Parish Council website.

7.2 To receive an update on new noticeboard grant.

It was reported that a grant through the Locality Budgets for the new cemetery noticeboard of £400 had been received by the Council.

RESOLVED: Cllr Donovan Brown to order new noticeboard.

RESOLVED: It was noted that Cllrs would like to thank Cllr Karin Sedgwick and the Locality Budgets for the grant.

7.3 Two issues re the cemetery were also raised: a sinking seat and overhanging tree by the gateway.

RESOLVED: Cllr Hunter to organise flagstones to support the bench and to contact a local tree surgeon to get the overhanging tree removed.

8 Parish Council website

8.1 To consider Parish Council website hosting fees.

Cllr Dutton reported that the host has changed for the website to Hostworld and the annual fee is £24.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to this change of host and fee.

9 Highway matters

9.1 To consider any highway matters.

To consider the state of repair of West Witton Steppes.

It was reported that Cllrs are still awaiting a report from Highways re the Steppes, and also re the road subsidence and to the matter of trees coming into the road.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that an update to be presented at a future meeting.

9.2 Flooding

It was noted that there has been some flooding on the exit to the village which has been reported to Highways.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that an update to be presented at a future meeting if this problem continues.

9.3 Speed sign

It was reported that the turning of the speed sign has been attended to and that the speed sign continues to be effective in slowing down drivers.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that an update to be presented at a future meeting if required.

10 Planning Applications and Decisions

10.1 To consider any recent/current Planning Applications.

RESOLVED: No applications or decisions since last meeting.

11 Financial Matters

1.1 To approve Receipts and Payments (see Appendix 1).

RESOLVED: Payments were made of £387.10 to Notice Board Company for Cemetery notice board and Neil Dutton for £82.48 for solar Lights and website host fee. No incoming payments received since last meeting.

11.2 To receive an update on Precept for 2023 and predicted expenditure.

The Clerk reported that the precept for 2023 had been submitted. Cllrs need to consider how any money will be spent over the year.

RESOLVED: Clerk to circulate budget/expenditure overview to Cllrs and a discussion re a 5-year budget plan to be raised at a future meeting.

11.3 To receive an update on online banking.

Clerk report that there has been no further progress re online banking, but that forms have been summitted. It was also proposed that future bank statements should be sent to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: Clerk to provide an update on internet banking at a future meeting.

12 Swinithwaite News/Matters

To receive an update on Swinithwaite News/Matters.

12.1 Grasscutting

Grasscutting in Swinithwaite is well received and ongoing. Work on bench is still ongoing.

RESOLVED: Update to be provided at next meeting

12.2 Traffic speed

It was raised that traffic is still going too fast through the village. A speed test was considered and the results of which could be sent to North Yorkshire Police.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bottley to look into this and report back to the Council.

12.3 Bus shelter

It was raised that the bus shelter was leaking at both ends. Ownership of the bus shelter was discussed.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bottley to look into this and report back to the Council.

12.4 Village sign

It was raised that the village sign should be placed in the field rather than on the road as it currently blocks tractor driver's view.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bottley to look into this and report back to the Council.

13 Emergency Planning

13.1 To consider Emergency Planning for 2023.

There was no further update on Emergency Planning for 2023, but the possibility of doing a leaflet was raised.

RESOLVED: Cllr Donovan-Brown to look into this further and report back to the Council.

14 Review of Parish Council Standing Orders

14.1 To consider an update of the Parish Council Standing Orders.

Updates Standing Orders of the Parish Council were circulated by the Clerk and agreed by the Cllrs.

RESOLVED: Updated Standing Orders approved by Cllrs and to be added to the Parish Council website.

15 Agenda items for future meetings

15.1 To notify the Clerk of matters for inclusion on the Agenda for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: None at this time

15.2 Any other matters.

Cllr Donovan-Brown proposed creating a Parish Council newsletter that could be circulated to residents to let them know the work the Parish Council has been doing.

RESOLVED: Cllr Donovan-Brown and Clerk to discuss this further outside the meeting and feedback to the Cllrs.

16 Date and time of next meeting (to be agreed).

RESOLVED: Next Parish Council meeting to be held on 2 May 2023 in the Village Hall. Annual General Meeting: date to be decided at next Parish Council Meeting