

WEST WITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2015

Present: Cllr David Brown, Chairman
Cllr Christine Donovan-Brown
Cllr John Hunter
Cllr Graham Bottley
Tc Harker, Parish Clerk
Cllr Caroline Thornton-Berry (RDC) and 3 residents.

Key to abbreviations/organisations:

NYCC North Yorkshire County Council
RDC Richmondshire District Council
PC Parish Council

1. Approval of minutes of 10th September 2015.

The minutes were approved as a true record. It was requested that minutes are forwarded to the Darlington and Stockton Times in the future. Tc Harker said she would do this from now on.

2. Matters arising;

• **Digital Transparency regulations and funding.**

The Parish Clerk explained that there were new regulations requiring Parish Council records to be available online. A copy of these regulations is available to download online, or a copy is available from the Parish Clerk. A government fund has been set up to assist smaller councils purchase computers, scanners and internet access, a grant has been applied for to recover the cost of items already bought by the Parish Clerk.

• **Online Reporting of Highways issues.**

Tc Harker has recently been on a workshop at the Highways department of NYCC, she was asked to encourage residents to use the online reporting system for highways defects.

The list of defects that can be reported are;

Potholes	Damaged kerb or pavements
Street lighting	Obstruction on pavements
Damaged bus shelters	Road marking problems
Faulty cycle lane markings	Road sign problems
Concern about an event	Spillages
Flooding	Problems with street furniture
Tree, hedge or verge problems	Traffic light problems

The online reporting system is easy to use and can be accessed at www.northyorks.gov.uk/reportit

The other related website is www.roadworks.org which is an easy to use tool for looking at up to date information on roadworks and closures.

- **Any other matters arising.**

Cllr Brown reported a blocked and leaking drain to Yorkshire Water on Monday and they duly attended and jetted the blockage, they are going to inspect the drains with cameras on 16th of this month.

The Parish Clerk was asked to report overhanging branches on the road known as 'under the town', and flooding on the corner near to Oak Tree Farm; Cllr Hunter advised that cuts in the verge that allow water to drain away were likely to be blocked here.

Cllr Thornton Berry advised the council she had received a letter concerned about the speed of vehicles passing Oak Tree Farm, which she has passed on to NYCC to see if the 30mph zone can be extended.

A resident was concerned at the number of vehicles parked on the pavement/verge opposite the kagram junction at the weekend. Tc Harker has offered to ask the owners of the vehicles to leave room for pedestrians.

3. Swinithwaite Defibrillator.

Since the last Parish Council meeting, the Parish Clerk has applied online for a second defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation. This application has been approved and the defibrillator will arrive in the next 4 weeks.

Also included in the grant is a set of inflatable CPR dummies and training dvds for us to host CPR training events in the community.

Cllr Bottley spoke to a representative of LN Communications at the recent launch of the broadband service and they have offered to pay for the installation of the defibrillator at Swinithwaite. Cllr Bottley will organise this once the defibrillator has arrived.

It was suggested that a fundraising and awareness evening could be held at Berrys to raise some funds for ongoing costs for the defibrillator. Chris Lambert has offered to write a quiz. It is possible to host CPR training at the same time. Cllr Bottley's wife Jo has offered to help with training sessions.

4. Planning Issues.

3 Planning applications had been passed to the Parish Council for consideration; Listed building consent for changes to doors/windows at Grasgill House, Installation of an air vent on the gable end of Abbotsleigh and a small single storey extension to Ghyll Edge. The Parish Council had no objections to any of these.

5. Financial Issues;

- Report of payments made/received.
The ½ Yearly Precept payment of £1200 has been received and annual payment/donation of £550 from Park Leisure.

The Clerk's ½ Yearly salary of £440 and gardening costs of £586 have been paid.

- Payment of outstanding invoices/expenses.
Expenses of £10 for plants and £20.17 for ink were paid.
- Planning for Parish Precept.
A request has been received from RDC to provide the amounts required for the Parish Precept for 2016/17. Tc Harker will provide Cllr Brown all the required figures so a decision can be made about the amount to request. The information is required by 8th Jan.
Cllr Thornton Berry suggested that further cuts were likely throughout RDC, and suggested other sources of income should be sought possibly from local businesses near to the Smorthwaite Garden.

6. Any Other Business.

We have been asked to host an Art exhibition/Sale in the summer with a percentage of sales going towards the Parish Council, this will be discussed further in the Spring.

7. Confirmation of date and time of next meeting.

This was set for 14th January 2016 at 7pm in the Village Hall.