

WEST WITTON PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Monday 24 March 2025 at 7pm

Present Cllr Dave Brown (Chair) Cllr Christine Donovan-Brown
Cllr Graham Bottley Cllr John Hunter Cllr Karin Sedgwick

In attendance

Alyson Jones (Clerk)

Members of public: 3

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.

Cllr Karin Sedgwick provided an update on issues within the parish, which included a demand for services for older people and those with special educational needs. The second home precept will be spent on affordable housing in the area and it was highlighted that the National Park has issued a call for 1,500 sites to be put forward to fulfil the Governments' request for 750 houses to be built over the next 5 years. The Locality Budget has been reduced by 50% but good services are still being provided by Cllr Sedgwick and her team.

RESOLVED: The Cllrs thanked Cllr Sedgwick for the work she has been doing and for the Locality Budget grants which have helped West Witton parish considerably.

Cllr Sedgwick left the meeting at 7.45pm

4 Minutes of the Last Meeting

To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 21 October 2024 as a true and correct record and to sign them as such.

RESOLVED: The Council approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 October 2024 as a true and proper record and were signed by the Chairman

5 Co-option of new Councillor

5.1 To receive an update on the co-option of a new Councillor

Former Cllr Neil Dutton has agreed to return as Parish Councillor

RESOLVED: The Council approved of the co-opting of former Parish Councillor Neil Dutton to fill the existing vacancy pending receipt of the

appropriate paperwork. Paperwork was provided to Neil Dutton by the Clerk for completion.

Cllr Graham Bottley announced the news that he will unfortunately have to stand down as Parish Councillor as he is moving from the area and will be outside the 3 mile boundary for West Witton Parish Council.

RESOLVED: Cllrs thanked Cllr Bottley for his valuable contribution as a member of West Witton Parish Council. Included among Cllr Bottley many achievements during his term in office was the successful campaign for the enforcement of the much needed 40mph limit in the village of Swinithwaite.

The Parish Clerk will now begin the Casual Vacancy Procedure.

6 Garden Rents

6.1 To receive an update on Garden Rents for 2025 and decide on any actions necessary

The Parish Clerk will be sending out the new contracts and invoices for the agreed new fixed rates so no further updates since the previous meeting

RESOLVED: Nothing to resolve

7 Cemetery

7.1 To receive an update on any cemetery matters and decide on any actions necessary

Cllr Brown provided an update on work at the cemetery which includes a cost of around £600 to remove a dead tree. Raising of burial rates was discussed and it was raised that photos of the work on the Remembrance Garden were added to the Parish Council website

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the tree needs to be removed and to any costs that ensue. It was also agreed that rates would not increase for burials at the cemetery in 2025. The Clerk will add photos of the Remembrance Garden to the website

8 Mill Dam

8.1 To receive an update on Mill Dam and decide on any actions necessary

Cllr Brown and Cllr Donovan-Brown provided an update on the replanting of Mill Dam, which has included the chopping down of old/larger trees/bushes, the placing down of a membrane, regravelling areas, straightening edges and replacing slabs by the memorial.

RESOLVED: Cllrs thanked United Charity who contributed £500 and the Wensleydale Heifer in West Witton who contributed £200 towards the replanting.

9 West Witton Christmas lights

9.1 To receive an update on West Witton Christmas lights and trees.

Cllr Donovan-Brown confirmed the work regarding West Witton Christmas lights is now complete and no further updates to provide since the previous meeting.

RESOLVED: Nothing to resolve

10 Grass Cutting

10.1 To receive an update on grass cutting for 2025/26 and decide on any actions necessary

Cllr Brown provided an update on grass cutting which includes Anthony Goulthorpe's son continuing to do the cutting following Anthony's retirement.

Turfs taken from the old Remembrance Garden have been reused on graves within the cemetery that needed them.

RESOLVED: No further issues to resolve

11 Litter and Grit Bins

11.1 To receive an update on grit bins and decide on any actions necessary
Cllr Brown reported that the new grit bin for Heather Court, the purchase of which was agreed at the last Parish Council meeting, arrived in time in December before the first snow.

RESOLVED: No further issues to resolve

12 Standing orders

12.1 To approve West Witton Parish Council standing orders

RESOLVED: The standing orders for West Witton Parish Council were approved by the Cllrs and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk will add the standing orders to the Parish Council website.

13 Highways update

13.1 To consider any highway matters

Cllr Donovan-Brown reported on a meeting requested by residents Mr and Mrs Sadler regarding their wall that has been repeatedly knocked down by large vehicles going down the lane. Highways offered solutions including rewalling further back from the edge of the road and cutting back overhanging trees/bushes.

RESOLVED: Cllr Donovan to report if any further action needs to be taken at a future meeting.

14 Planning Applications and Decisions

14.1 To consider any recent/current Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered by the Parish Council:

23 Jan - R/91/169C - An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the "Refused" decision of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority re Full planning permission for use of land as an allotment, including the retention of a shed (retrospective) at Thistle Bout, Main Street, West Witton, Leyburn, DL8 4LX

21 Feb – Planning Application R/91/139G/LB5 - Listed building consent for installation of additional heating pipework for ground floor radiators, involving removal of 4no. existing radiators and replace them with 5no. new radiators at Abbotsleigh, Main Street, West Witton, Leyburn, DL8 4LU

RESOLVED: No objections raised

15 Financial Matters

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

RESOLVED: The following accounts were approved for payment and receipts acknowledged.

	MARCH 2025			
PAID				
DETAILS	TO	AMOUNT	DATE PAID	P NUMBER
Plants/Poobags for West Witton	Christine Donovan-Brown	£35.36	21/10/2024	P14
Grit Bin	Grit Bin: Heather Court	£150.00	21/10/2024	P15
Gardening	A Gouldthorpe	£470.00	10/12/2024	P16
Parish Clerk Salary	Alyson Jones	£1,320.00	05/02/2025	P17
RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA SENT	TO BE PAID			
Waste collection: West Witton Cemetery	North Yorkshire Council	79.20	20/03/25	P18
Use of Village Hall	West Witton Village Hall	£80.00	23/03/25	P19

15.2 To receive the latest bank balances and sign statements

RESOLVED: Copies of bank statements to date were presented and signed by the Chairman.

16 AGAR Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2024/25

16.1 To approve internal and external auditors for AGAR 2024/25

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to the proposal of using the same internal auditor as 2024 and for PKLittlejohn to be external auditor in 2025. Clerk to send accounts to internal auditor for review after 5 April 2024.

17 Update on Parish Council website

17.1 To receive an update on the Parish Council website and decide on any actions necessary

Clerk provided an update on the Parish Council website. Any information not relating directly to the Parish Council has now been removed. The Garden of Remembrance section has been update in light of recent work done on the Garden. And the Parish Council news section will be updated regularly.

RESOLVED: No further issues to resolve

Mr Barker from the West Witton Chronicle attending the meeting and updated the Council about the link on the West Witton Chronicle which links to the Parish Council website with an invitation to go there for minutes, agendas etc.

It was suggested that this could be broadened out with maybe a "write up" about the Council and its activities whilst retaining a link to the website for core Council documents.

RESOLVED: Clerk and Mr Barker to discuss outside meeting and Clerk to update Council on any progress

18 Swinithwaite News/Matters

18.1 To receive an update on Swinithwaite News/Matters

Cllr Bottely gave his final update on Swinithwaite news following his retirement from office. He raised the issue of dog fouling in Swinithwaite, particularly on Dog Leg Lane and suggested that a dog bag dispenser is placed on the lane and that signs are placed that would discourage people leaving dog mess and encourage them to clear up after their pets.

RESOLVED: Cllr Donovan-Brown agreed to contact the NYC about dog fouling and to get their advice and will report back at the next meeting.

19 Town and Parish Council Survey for North Yorkshire Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2024/25

19.1 To discuss email received regarding the above.

Cllr Brown completed the survey and reported that we currently have no disruption or issues raised by the survey.

RESOLVED: No further issues to resolve

20 Agenda items for future meetings

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

VE DAY

Because the next meeting will be held after VE Day on 8 May, Parish Councillors agreed that Union Jack flags will be placed on the lampposts in West Witton to mark the event.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Brown and Donovan-Brown to organise flags to be displayed in village for VE Day on 8 May.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan - Regulation 19 (Final Draft)

The National Park Local Plan was circulated to the Parish Councillors on 20 March 2025 and it was agreed Parish Councillors would submit any formal representations by 6 May 2025.

RESOLVED: Councillors to submit any formal representations to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan - Regulation 19 (Final Draft) by 6 May 2025.

21 Date and time of next meeting and for Annual Parish Meeting

To confirm the date and venue of the next meeting of the Council and the Annual Parish Meeting

RESOLVED: A provisional date for the next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 12 May at 7pm and will be followed by the next general Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm. Both meetings will be held in West Witton Village Hall.

This date has now been confirmed at Friday 16 May.