

Witham on the Hill Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Witham on the Hill Parish Council (Min
23-02) 3 July 2023 at 7.00 p.m. held at St Andrews Village Hall.
Witham on the Hill

Present: **Councillors:** Charles Henriques, Paul Smith, and Richard Burbidge
Residents: Sue Pennant-Jones
Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk,

	Open Forum	
	Although a resident was in attendance there was no Open Forum. The meeting was formally opened at 19.14	
20.	Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies	
	20.1	Apologies were received from Duncan Brock (personal) Apologies were received from District Cllr Penny Robins
21.	Declaration of Interest – To receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests, as set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and the nature of those interests relating to any Agenda item	
	21.1	No one declared an interest in any matter that was on the agenda.
22.	Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 15 May 2023 (23-01)	
	22.1	Resolved: That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 th May 2023 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.
23.	Matters to Report	
	23.1	Cllr Burbidge said that he had given the matter of speeding/traffic calming in the village and what we as a council might do to resolve the issue. Speed humps would not be appropriate although they did reduce speed. Putting in place a build-out which is a section of kerb built out into the carriageway on one side only to narrow the road. These features can be constructed in many different ways. These were considered to be fairly effective, but the question was whether there was a problem with speeding in the village. It was considered that in view of the reports as set out in Item 28.1 there was not a problem although speeding was not in any way condoned.
	23.2	Cllr Henriques explained that it was necessary to purchase some new pads for the defibrillator. It was agreed that he could go ahead and order some.
24.	To Co-opt one Councillor	
	24.1	Sue Pennant-Jones was in attendance and wanted to be co-opted onto the Council. She was already known to the Council as she had been on the Council until May 2023. The Clerk asked the necessary questions about being an undischarged bankrupt and having a criminal record to which she replied no to both. It was resolved that she be co-opted onto the Council. The Clerk asked her to sign and complete the declaration of acceptance of office which she did and her signature was witnessed by the Clerk. She was also given a form to complete

		about her having any pecuniary interests. She was asked to complete this form as soon as possible after the meeting and to return it to the Clerk,.
25.	To receive a report from the County and District Councillors.	
	25.1	County Cllr Charlotte Vernon was not present and had not sent a report.
	25.2	District Cllr Penny Robins had sent her apologies and has asked that she speak to the Clerk about residents who had contacted her to complain about cars from the pub using their drives as pull in areas to let other cars through. This matter was discussed in some detail with the Clerk advising that in his opinion this was not a matter that a Parish Council could deal with as we had not authority to do so. The people to contact were either the Police or Highways. The Police might consider that they are unable to do anything, and Highways might be of the opinion that the land in front of the houses before the front fence was highways and using that land was not a problem. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Cllr Robins about this matter.
26.	Clerks Report and Correspondence received.	
	26.1	The Clerk had circulated in advance notice of the various e-mails received since the last meeting. If anyone wanted to see any e-mails they should let him know and he would send it on. He explained that he had received some other correspondence which was: A letter from the Mallard Pass Solar Farm with a poster which they wanted the Clerk to place in the noticeboard. He was unable to do so as the noticeboard was full of audit papers. He handed out the papers he had received for Councillors to read. He had also received an email from Francis Plummer writing about the huge chestnut tree branch which was obstructing the footpath into the field behind Witham church. It is at head banging height! Also, the missing paving slabs on the top step by the stocks are still not repaired and I believe someone did miss their footing there recently. There are also 2 stones out of the flowerbed by the stocks. The slabs were flagged up by me approximately 2 years ago and really do need cementing. The Clerk should respond saying that the ownership of the Green was at the moment in no mans land as the District Council denied they owned it as did the Parish Council so it was unlikely that anyone would accept responsibility to fix the problems. It was suggested that as advised at a previous meeting she should report the problems on Fix My Street.
27.	Planning applications:	
	27.1	Planning Applications to Approve: there were no planning applications to consider
	27.2	Planning Applications approved: - S23/0967 - Proposal: Proposed upgrade to the existing 25m Swann B2-3 Tower.at Grimsthorpe and Drummond Grimsthorpe Estate Office, Bourne
	27.3	To note any Planning Applications refused or withdrawn: S23/0222 - Proposal: Erection of single dwelling, garage and stable block, along with formation of vehicle access and hardstanding at Land to The West Of Witham Grange Witham On The Hill. Application refused
	27.4	To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal: S22/2355 - Installation of solar panels on the south east elevation at Palace Farm Main Street Witham On The Hill S22/2356 - Proposed extension to the South East Elevation of the barn at Palace Farm Main Street Witham On The Hill

28.	To receive any data from the reactive sign
28.1	<p>Data had been obtained from the reactive sign and Cllr Brock had prepared a report which had been circulated and was going to the Three Towers publication to be printed. The information without the graphs was as follows.</p> <p>We have been monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through Witham on the Hill from April 2022 to June 2023 and would like to feed back a summary of the data gathered so far. The speed monitor has been in two different locations – initially it was placed near East Green and then moved earlier this year to the other end of the village near the school.</p> <p>The speed of 104,399 vehicles has been captured during this time and 92% of the vehicles are travelling up to the legal limit of 30mph. This means that less than 10% of the vehicles are above the legal limit, i.e. 8,369 vehicles out of a total of 104,399, and out of these 7,315 were travelling up to 35mph. The vehicles that were travelling above 35mph were doing so late in the evening or early in the morning when the roads have less traffic and parked cars.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor the speed of vehicles through the village – at the moment the monitoring sign is back near East Green.</p>
29.	To consider whether we wish to take advantage of the scheme organized by LCC whereby we take part in the litter picking equipment scheme, with the aim to help tackle littering issues in the area
29.1	<p>An email had been received from the County Council who would like to give communities across Lincolnshire the opportunity to take part in our litter picking equipment scheme, with the aim to help tackle littering issues in the area. We will supply Parish and Town Councils with litter picking kits, which will give residents access to the necessary equipment that they will need to take part in their own voluntary litter picks. These kits will consist of a litter picking stick, a hi-visibility vest and clear plastic sacks. The litter picking kits will be available for collection at the Lincolnshire Energy from Waste Facility, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 3QW. This offer was noted, and we would consider it again if there was a problem in the village with littering.</p>
30.	To consider the re-declaration of compliance with the Pension Regulator.
30.1	<p>The Clerk explained that he had received a letter from The Pensions Regulator stating that every 3 years we have a legal duty as an employer to put certain staff into a pension scheme. We had completed the declaration previously, but it needed to be re-declared. The Clerk pointed out that he could carry out the re-declaration and that he would explain that as the only employee the Council would not have to put him into a pension scheme as he was above the state pension age and was earning less than £10,000.00 per annum. It was agreed that the Clerk complete the process,</p>
31.	To consider whether we purchase further items to place around the village on Remembrance Day
31.1	<p>The Clerk explained that he had placed this on the agenda as we would not meet again until September and wondered if that would be enough time to put in any orders with the Royal British Legion. Consideration was given as to what might be purchased but it was considered that we would not purchase any more items this year.</p>
32.	To confirm Expenditure [] denotes those payments paid between meetings, which have been approved by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Parish Council or at a previous meeting but not listed

	Payments made by Direct Debit - £
	32 1 There were no payments to approve this month
33.	Any other business – <i>Reminder – by law no decision can be made under this item only information exchanged.</i>
	33.1 The Clerk was asked if he could contact Highways and ask them to remove the signs at each entrance of the village advising motorists to slow down due to road works. It was suspected that they had been placed there by a resident as there were no road works in the village and the signs had been there for months.
	33.2 There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 20.00
34.	The date of the next meeting – to be held on Monday 4 September 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill