

Witham on the Hill Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Witham on the Hill Parish Council
15th January 2018 (Min 17-05) at 7.00 p.m. in St Andrew's Parish
Church Hall

Present: **Councillors:** Charles Henriques, Andrew Greenwood, Janet Kirkwood, and Sue Pennant - Jones,
 Residents:
 Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk and County Cllr Bob Adams and District Cllr Martin Wilkins

Open Forum

The meeting was formally opened at 19.00

69. Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies

69.1 Apologies were received from Cllr L O'Hara (personal)

69.2 **Resolved:** that the apologies be accepted

70. 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

70.1 No one declared an interest in any matter that was on the agenda.

71. Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 20th November 2017(17-04)

71.1 **Resolved:** That the minutes of the 20th November 2017 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

72. Matters to Report

72.1 There were no matters to report

73. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors.

73.1 District Cllr M Wilkins said that the Chief Executive was hoping to do a tour of the Ward on the 17th January and anyone was welcome to attend. At the end of the meeting there would be a question and answer session at the Toft House Hotel which would start at 2.30 p.m. Cllr Greenwood explained that the footpath from the village to the crossroads is in a dangerous state due to the surface crumbling and vegetation spreading across it. He was wondering if anything could be done to make the path safe. He had made a request under the Big Clean initiative organised by SKDC to get this work done, but without result. Cllr Wilkins explained that as the footpath was outside the village it would not be included under this scheme but this was a matter for Lincolnshire County Council Highways dept. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Cllr Richard Davies for this to be included in our wish list of works. Cllr Wilkins was asked about the consultation by South Kesteven District Council regarding Council tax options and said the preferred option was to increase their element by £5/household.

Cllr Wilkins also mentioned that SKDC were organising a meeting for local people to come and listen to a talk about current Planning issues given by one of the senior Planning Officers, to be held at the Toft House Hotel on the 31st January 2018 at 7.30 p.m. This will be a questions and answer meeting on the planning process but not about specific planning applications. Everyone was welcome.

- 73.2** County Cllr B Adams explained that there was a change in how the responsibility for footpaths and bridle paths was changing from Highways to an independent source. He said that if we had any issues, we should let him know and he is happy to be copied in on any correspondence. Regarding the crossroads with the A6121, he now had details of accidents that had occurred there, but a mini roundabout would need a budget in excess of £1 million for which the County Council does not have a sufficient budget. Therefore any significant works are unlikely to be carried out. However, the County Council are looking at speed signs but probably not in this financial year.

74. Clerks Report and Correspondence received.

- 74.1** The Clerk had prepared a separate list of correspondence received since the last meeting and this had been circulated in advance. There were a number of questions on a number of emails which the Clerk was able to answer and clarify. In addition, to the list the Clerk had received other correspondence which was:
1. Details of Council tax consultation 2018/19 by South Kesteven District Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would reply to the survey confirming they would support option A.

75. Planning applications:

- 75.1** There were no planning applications to consider

- 75.2** The following plans had been approved:
1. S17/2034 – reduce whitebeam (T1) by 1 m in height, reduce crown of Yew Tree(T2) by 1,5m and remove 5 x Ash tree to just above ground level and reduce height of Beech Tree (T6) by 2m and reduce lateral branches to balance shape by 1,5m at Longacre, High Street
 2. S17/1978 – reduce height of Wild Cherry tree (T1) by approx. 4m and reduce lateral branches, raise crown of Horse Chestnut trees (T2 & T4) Beech trees (T3, T5 & T6) Norway Maple tree (T7 & T13), Copper Beech tree (T9) and Lime tree (T11) to 4m. Remove Horse Chestnut tee (T12) to just above ground level and grind out stump, remove significant deadwood from Ash tree (T4), reduce height of Wild Cherry tree (T15) by approx.3m and reduce lateral branches to balance shape, raise Wild Cherry tree (T16) to 4m and remove stub at The Six Bells, Main Street.
 3. S17/2391 – removal of dangerous tree in parking area at Witham Hall Preparatory School, Main Street.
 4. S17/2240 – fell Eucalyptus tree at Ashridge, Main Street
 5. S17/2162 – fell Ash tree (T8) and remove 2 branches of Yew tree at Witham Preparatory School, Main Street,

76. To consider the 2018-19 Precept and to set a budget.

- 76.1** The Clerk had circulated a spread sheet to all Councillors to show them what we had spent in the last financial year, the budget for this year, what we had spent to date and what we anticipated spending by the end of this financial year. It also set out what we might spend in 2018-19. This was discussed and considered which resulted in it being **resolved** that the Precept be set at £1,891.00

77. To discuss the website and how this can be updated and how to ensure that minutes get to the Three Towers

77.1 Cllr Greenwood explained that he had looked at the website and thought that it could be tidied up as the information regarding Councillors was out of date as was the information regarding the Police. This information was in the contacts page. The page with details of meetings was now too long and complicated. If it was possible to put all the information regarding meetings in a folder for each year this would make it easier to find and reduce the documents on the page. The Clerk would amend the contact details and see if it was possible to place documents into a folder. He was to contact Lincolnshire County Council if he needed help in doing these tasks. Regarding putting the minutes in the Three Towers, one of the problems was that our meeting was always just after the copy deadline, the next being 12th January for the February issue.

78. To receive an update on how we can progress our request for some action to make the junction on the A6121 safer

78.1 As was explained by Cllr Adams Lincolnshire County Council did not have funds to pay for the provision of a mini roundabout at the junction on the A6121 and it was unlikely that funds would be available for any significant work to be done. It was generally felt that the junction was dangerous and it was hoped that something would be done before there was a fatality. The question of using speed monitoring equipment was discussed. The Clerk said that he thought that this might be possible because of the 60-mph limit. We should continue to press for the speed limit to be reduced and double white lines being painted on the road.

79. To receive an update on the play equipment on The Green and to consider the e-mail from John Spooner of Lawrance Park Association.

79.1 Cllr Greenwood explained that he had spoken to Mel Sinott who was very helpful, they had the materials to repair the broken playground equipment, but the weather was too wet at the moment.

79.2 An email had been received from John Spooner of Lawrance Park Association in Thurlby who had given details of some play equipment. It was agreed that this would be looked into as well as other play equipment

80. To discuss how best to use the potential offer of funds from Witham Hall.

80.1 It was agreed that Cllr O'Hara would continue her correspondence with Witham Hall

81. To confirm Expenditure

£257.07 – B M Champness (salary for October, November and December)

£64.00 – HMRC (PAYE)

[] 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 - £

81.1 Resolved: that the above payments be made after the Clerk explained that the sum to pay the Clerk was £194.28 and the amount to HMRC was £129.60.

82. Any other business – Reminder – by law no decision can be made under this item only information exchanged.

82.1 There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 20.36

83. The date of the next meeting – to be held on Monday 19th March 2018 at 7.00 p.m. at St Andrew's Parish

Hall, Witham on the Hill.