

**Minutes of the Meeting of Witton and Ridlington Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 8pm remotely on Zoom**

**Present:** Clive Stockton (Chairman)  
Rebecca Barringer  
Gillian Owles  
Amanda Sands  
Eric Seward  
Catherine Moore, Parish Clerk

**Also present:** County Councillor Lucy Shires and four members of the public were in attendance

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Public Forum**

a) Public  
None.

b) District Councillor

A Community Renewal Fund bid was being drafted which would bring significant revenue funding to the area.

County Councillor

Lucy Shires was welcomed as the newly elected County Councillor. Lucy reported that the completion of the Western Link had been approved and the contract awarded. Wellbeing packs for carers were available. Applications were invited for the Parish Partnership Scheme 50/50 funding for small highways works. There was a 5-6 week lead time for non-urgent highways defect repairs. Lucy had attended a site visit with the planning enforcement officer regarding the common land.

A member of the public reported that she had been on hold for half an hour waiting for NCC to answer a call to report a highways issue, and when the call was answered was told that the person was out in her garden. She felt that during working hours, call centre staff should be at their desks. She also noted that the call took another 30 minutes as the internet connection for the customer service agent was very slow. It was explained that staff were working from home due to Covid and did not always have a great internet connection, however staff should have been working, and Lucy would raise this.

**ACTION: LS**

It was noted that some potholes in Ridlington near the church had been filled and others had been left. Lucy was working with Highways to get these rectified.

It was felt that the increased move to digital working and reporting of issues was isolating some people from being able to effectively communicate with the Council. It was suggested that the member of the public should write to the Leader of the Council, Andrew Proctor, and the Cabinet Member, Tom Fitzpatrick. Lucy agreed to also raise this concern.

**ACTION: LS**

**3. Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda**

Rebecca Barringer declared an interest in item 9a as she was the architect.  
Gillian Owles declared an interest in item 9a as she was the applicant.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The minutes of the meeting **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

## 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

### a) Noticeboards

Clive Stockton reported that he would complete the maintenance works to the notice boards as soon as possible. Rebecca Barringer reported that the notice board at the village hall was stuck, this would be attended to. **ACTION: CS**

### b) Signs for the Village Sign Area & Playing Field

The signs were complete and were handing to Gillian Owles (Village Sign area) and Rebecca Barringer (Playing Field) to be put up. **ACTION: GO / ReB**

The Clerk was asked to put something in the next Bacton Village News about residents being allowed to use the playing field area. **ACTION: Clerk**

The Clerk asked whether the grass cutting frequency was ok, noting that the bills showed a gap of two months between the first two cuts, then two consecutive cuts. It was noted that there did not seem to be any problems with long grass.

### c) Rented Land in Witton

The Clerk reported that the negotiations had been completed with the rent levels set as the Council wished, and that the documents had been signed.

## 6. Co-option of a Parish Councillor

It was noted that following two applications to join the Council, Lucy Shires had resigned to create a vacancy for a local representative.

Following a show of hands, Jane Simpson was co-opted to the Council, all in favour. Jane signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her seat for the remainder of the meeting. The Clerk would send the training and introductory documentation to Jane. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was **agreed** that Eric Seward would resign after the meeting to make way for the second applicant, who would be co-opted at the next meeting provided an election was not called.

## 7. Finance

### a) Financial Update

The financial update was noted, reporting that the Council had £9,311.66 in the bank as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. It was confirmed that the defibrillator had been installed, with thanks for the kind donations made by Witton Charities, and an anonymous donor. The Clerk would be putting the signage into the phone box shortly, and information on this would be put into the next newsletter. **ACTION: Clerk**

### b) Payments

It was **agreed** to pay the following:-

C Moore	Salary & Expenses	£347.84
CGM Group	Playing Field Maintenance	£125.04
Community Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillator	£2,041.20
Norfolk ALC	Councillor Training	£72.00
Village Hall	Recycling Credits	£100.26
North Norfolk District Council	Dog Bin Emptying	£218.40
Countrystyle Recycling	Glass Collection	£27.00

It was confirmed that the Lloyds Bank account was still open as payments were still being received into the account. These were being notified of the change as the Clerk became aware of them.

## 8. Correspondence

### a) Dog Fouling, Witton Bridge

An email from a resident was circulated and discussion ensued regarding the various problems that were being experienced around the parish. It was **agreed** that this issue would be highlighted in the newsletter, and the Clerk was asked to get in contact with Environmental Services to ask them to contact Gillian Owles to discuss the problem.

**ACTION: GO/Clerk**

It was noted that the Council had agreed to fund another dog bin in Witton but a suitable location could not be agreed with residents. Other initiatives would be welcomed.

### b) Parish Partnership Scheme

The Clerk noted that the Council could apply for 50/50 funding for small highways works. Village gateways had been considered but the width of the verges made these unsuitable. There was an appetite to look at speed reduction schemes. A SAM2 speed monitoring device would cost around £3,750 and there were limited spots that were suitable for this. Lucy Shires offered to part fund using her member highways budget. It was felt that Ridlington Church was a suitable location, but noted that the device had to be moved around. Councillors were asked to send other locations to the Clerk.

**ACTION: ALL**

### c) General Correspondence

None.

*Rebecca Barringer and Gillian Owles left the room for the next item.*

## 9. Planning

PF/21/1692 Park Farm, Well Street, Witton: Conversion of barn and external alterations to form single dwelling.

The plans were considered and it was **agreed** that there were no objections.

**ACTION: Clerk**

*Rebecca Barringer and Gillian Owles returned to the meeting.*

### Applications Considered Between Meetings

PF/21/1459 Heathers, Pollard Street, Bacton: Change of use from residential care home to two dwellings.

**NO COMMENTS**

## 10. Other Matters

### a) Vattenfall Update

There had been regular communications with Vattenfall although it was expected that things would go quiet for a while now, until permission was granted for the scheme. It was suggested that a focussed presentation should be arranged with a technical consultant, not a PR specialist as they could not answer specific questions regarding the scheme.

### b) Refurbishment of Witton Phone Box

Rebecca Barringer noted that there were volunteers happy to look after a vegetable swap scheme in the box. The area inside and around the box needed clearing of vegetation. It was **agreed** that Rebecca would speak with the volunteers.

**ACTION: ReB**

c) Communication from Land Tenant

As there had been no response from the tenant, the meeting did not need to go into confidential session for this item of business.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 at 7p, at Witton and Ridlington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

After the meeting, Lucy Shires have a brief update on the common land encroachment issue, noting that this had been discussed in the past by the Parish Council.

**CHAIRMAN**