

**Withington Parish Council
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 8th May 2019 in the Parish Room at 7.30pm
Minutes**

01/2019: Present: Councillors Phil Heath (Chair) Neil Maxwell, Lesley Stone, Alan Williams, Cllr Lezley Picton (Shropshire Councillor for Tern Ward), Denise Roscoe (Clerk) and 11 members of the public

02/2019: Welcome: Councillor Heath welcomed everyone

03/2019: Election of Chairman: Councillor Heath was elected Chairman unopposed. He signed the declaration of acceptance of office

04/2019: Apologies: Cllr Marting Timmis, Jon Scutt, Brenda Marshall

05/2019: Declaration of Interests: None reported

06/2019: Election of Vice Chairman: Councillor Martin Timmis was elected unopposed. He was elected in absentia having previously indicating to the Chairmen his willingness to serve if elected.

07/2019: Approval of the Minutes of the 20th March 2019: Minutes were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman

08/2019: Responsible Finance Officer's Report

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
As at 8th May, 2019

<u>Parish Council (Incl Defibrillator Funds)</u>	
Brought Forward from 20/03/2019	£2,890.84
Receipts since 20/03/19	£6,059.02
Precept	£6,000.00
Wayleave	£59.02
Payments Approved - 20/03/2019	£48.00
Room Hire (20/03)	£12.00
CPRE Membership	£36.00
Payments made since 20/03/2019 for approval	£0.00
None	
Balance Carried Forward to 8/05/2019	£8,901.86
Payments for approval - 08/05/2019	
Room Hire (08/05)	£12.00
SALC Membership	£121.98
Zurich Municipal Insurance	£257.60
Internal Audit	£30.00
Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:	
Clerk's Salary (June-19)	£470.83
Shropshire Council Loan Repayment	£3,470.00

<u>Village Green</u>	
Brought Forward from 20/03/2019	£5,872.82
Receipts since 20/03/2019	£137.00
Friends of the Green (2019/20)	£137.00
Payments Approved - 20/03/2019	£48.00
J.O. Nicklin & Sons (Fuel)	£48.00
Payments made since 20/03/2019 for approval	£0.00
None	£0.00
Balance Carried Forward to 08/05/2019	£5,961.82
Payments for approval - 08/05/2019	
None	£0.00
Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:	
Lawn Mower Maintenance	
Hedge Cutting	

Payments Approved at the Meeting for Both Accounts

All payments made since 20/03/2019
None

Payments to be made
£12.00 Room Hire (08/05)
£121.98 SALC Membership
£257.60 Zurich Municipal Insurance
£30.00 Internal Audit

Payments to be made if within budget
£470.83 Clerks Salary (June 19)

Minutes confirmed as correct 3rd July 2019 _____

Chairman

£3,470.00 Shropshire Council Loan Repayment

Year End Accounts for 2018/2019

Year End Balances Parish Council £2,843 (which includes £442 for the defibrillator)
Village Green £5,827

The internal audit was conducted by Karen Maloney who reported that the accounts were excellent as always.

The Council approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Return which was signed by the Chairman and Clerk

09/2019: Report from Cllr Picton

Bus service consultation involves reductions in some bus services and an increase in the fee for the Park & Ride. It was felt that the increase in the Park & Ride fares was short-sighted. It could be cheaper to take cars into town and park. This against the spirit of the Park & Ride which was started to keep cars out of town and encourage people to use the buses services.

Shropshire Council planning committee are being reorganised instead of having 3 committees there will be 2 one for the North and the other for South of the County.

10/2019: Appointment of representative for Shrewsbury Place Plan

Cllr Heath was appointed the representative and will be attending a meeting on 22nd May at the Guildhall with the Clerk

Cllr Picton left the meeting at 7.45pm

11/2019: Reports on Parish Plan

The Parish Plan is an important document as it feeds directly into the Shrewsbury Area Place Plan which is used by Shropshire County Council (SCC) departments when reviewing requirements for such projects as road improvement, housing and commercial planning, and water and sewerage improvements.

The Withington Parish 5 year plan was first published in 2003 and updated in both 2008 and 2013 following consultation with parishioners. The plan has now been updated in 2018 based upon the results of a questionnaire issued in October to all 96 houses in the Parish.

On this occasion a different approach was taken to ensure that Parishioners understood those services the Parish Council (PC) has direct control or influence over and those where the PC have to work with the service provider to address the needs and concerns of the Parish

1: Services and assets over which the PC have direct control or influence

- Planning & commercial Development
- Village Green
- Roads & Traffic
- Footpaths & Bridleways

2: Assets that the PC do not have direct control or influence over but are considered important to the Parish and have been registered as Community Assets as defined by the 2012 Localism Act. The Act enables the PC to designate assets which are deemed to be of importance to the community. When such assets come up for sale the Act gives community groups time to raise money and bid for the asset when it comes on the open market.

- Parish Room
- The Hare & Hounds Public House
- John the Baptist Church

Minutes confirmed as correct 3rd July 2019 _____

Chairman

- Village Green (VG) – The PC decided that even though they own 2/3rds of the VG with Shropshire Council owning 1/3rd we would register the VG as a Community Asset for additional protection.

3: Assets and services that your PC does not have direct control or influence over but impact Parishioners and therefore you PC needs to work with the providers to ensure the services are maintained and developed.

- Oil, Gas & Electricity
- Water & Sewerage
- Bus Services
- Internet Access
- Mobile Libraries

4: Facilities and services specifically for under 18's as in recent years there has been an increase in the number of families with children moving into the Parish.

5: Facilities, services, projects that are available in or would have an impact upon the Parish if implemented

- Restoration of Shrewsbury to Newport Canal
- Bowbrook Archery Club

○ **Church – Parish Plan Questionnaire Response**

The following report was presented by Cllr Heath on behalf of the church

St John the Baptist Church Do you have any comments regarding the Church and the services they offer

Comment	Response
No, but glad evening services are included on the rota of services	Thank you
I think that the church could be better at reaching out to new residents in the village	Fair comment, we have prepared a welcome pack and try to deliver this in person to new residents.
Member of PCC	More would be very welcome!
We would prefer 3 morning services per month and only 1 in the evening	There are only so many leaders (vicars, lay people etc.) to go around the 13 churches in the Wrockwardine Deanery so we have to work with other parishes over this. In response to comments that 11:00 was not suitable for families we are trying holding family services at 9:30 instead, but so far have not seen much change to the congregation.
I believe they are quite adequate	Thanks

○ **Parish Room – Parish Plan Questionnaire Response**

The following report was presented by Cllr Heath on behalf of the parish room

What additional event/services would you like to see at the Parish Room

Comment	Response
Children's activities	We would support any parishioner that would like to arrange children's activities and offer favourable rental rates for regular bookings.

Minutes confirmed as correct 3rd July 2019 _____

Chairman

Better range of films	We have asked for suggestions and input into the choice of films, we have selected comedies, dramas, family films – but the audience is generally the same 20-30 people.
Pilates classes	We already offer Yoga & Tai Chi classes. However, we would support any parishioner that would like to organise this and offer favourable rental rates for regular bookings.

○ **Hare and Hounds**

The following report was presented by Cllr Heath on behalf of the Hare and Hounds
The Hare and Hounds are open seven nights per week and all day on a Sunday. They serve meals on a Friday night and Sunday Lunch time. Throughout the year they run a number of events for charity. The development of the legion building, on opposite side of car park, is an ongoing job, the roof has been repaired. When finished it will be holiday let

○ **Footpaths**

The following report was presented by Helen Thomas
Further to the report made at the 20th March meeting. Various issues relating to the definitive map have been reported to Shropshire Council. Time has been spent checking the footpaths there are 3 rotten stiles to be mended (Cllr Williams offered to help) and vegetation has been cut back. The aim is to cover the footpaths in the drury lane area. The Footpaths Project aim is to join all the churches in the Wrockwardine Deanery via the footpath/towpath networks. Initially the focus will be on the boundaries linking with Upton Magna. An application for grant funding under the National Lottery Heritage Grants is in process.

○ **Canal**

The following report was presented by Bernie Jones
The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust has made much progress in the past 12 months. Our flagship project to bring Wappenshall Wharf back to life finally, after 10 years of planning and fundraising, got underway last October.

The project will now be completed in 3 phases. Phase 1 will see the smaller of the 2 Grade II Listed warehouses carefully restored and a quality Coffee Shop/Bistro installed on the ground floor. The upper floor will be available to hire for both community and business use.

The income from this enterprise will be used to fund the second larger warehouse, which will then open as a visitor attraction to celebrate the life and works of Thomas Telford. Working in partnership with Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, we will be putting on display the wealth of material and artefacts they have in their Telford Collection, the majority of which has never been put on public display.

The third phase will be to complete the landscaping of the wharf itself. Anyone from our village is more than welcome to come to Wappenshall Wharf (Post Code TF6 6DE) on any Friday or Saturday from 1000-1600 Hrs and one of our volunteers will be pleased to show them round the wharf to see what we have been up to and to open up the buildings to enable a look inside.

Another large job that has been undertaken this past year is the opening up of the towpath and clearance of fallen trees and scrub at both the North and South portals of the Berwick Tunnel and un-burying Widow's Bridge. There are weekly work parties here on a Thursday from 0930 Hrs till about 1500 Hrs each week. Again, anyone interested in seeing this work will be made very welcome.

There has also been a £98,000 EU grant made available to dredge a significant part of the canal that is in water in Newport. Our volunteers worked hard to carry out a survey to enable an estimate to be made of the volume of material to be removed. Working with Shropshire Wildlife Trust, this work is to start shortly. Anyone interested to know more is welcome to a public meeting on 21 May in the Cosy Hall, Newport starting at 1900 Hrs.

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Chairman

o **Village Green**

The following report was presented by Wayne Thomas

Meetings. There have been 4 meetings since the last Parish AGM.

Events. There have been the usual successful Village fete and Bonfire events. In addition, the green has been used by parishioners for car parking for individual events.

Maintenance.

- **Path.** We continue to maintain the path with weeding and where necessary dusting.
- **Trees.** We need to have the fruit trees trimmed professionally. In addition “Phil “the Christmas tree is growing well.
- **Grass.** Ron continues to cut the grass and the mower is being maintained.
- **Hedge.** This has been cut and some gaps have been filled.
- **Gate.** This has a new padlock and bolt. The gate has also been repaired and will need to be painted.
- **Benches.** One of the benches has been removed and its plaque placed on the oak bench behind the wet area. A new bench policy has been agreed to ensure that new benches are of sufficient quality and durability.

Finance. We continue to have sufficient funds to allow us to replace the mower and carry out general maintenance. This is thanks to” friends of the village green “.

Village Green Parish Plan Questionnaire Response

It is very encouraging to see that the village green is being used for a wide range of activities.

It is satisfying to see that some parishioners are happy with how the village green is being used at the moment. Suggestions for additional facilities have been addressed previously:

1. A children’s play area with swings and climbing frame, or tennis courts. These have been investigated before and been rejected because of the cost of such facilities and the insurance. A simple swing, installation and safety flooring would cost in excess of £5000.
2. A solid footpath. This has also been investigated and rejected because of the substantial cost (£55,000). The existing path will continue to be maintained.
3. New benches have been bequeathed in the past and we have agreed a policy on the quality of them and any memorial plaques.
4. A suggestion about dog poo bins is being investigated in terms of cost and their emptying. There is a litter bin on the Hare and Hounds entrance to the green which can be used and is emptied by the council.
5. A community vegetable garden was seen as not enhancing the green.
6. Additional events are to be encouraged, but it is not the committee’s responsibility to organise them. If parishioners wish to organise events, we will evaluate their use of the green and if appropriate help support them.

It is important that parishioners remember that the green was purchased by local generous donations to the Withington Parish council. It’s maintenance is funded by money donated regularly by “Friends of Withington Village Green”. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact a member of the Village green committee.

12/2019: Date of the 2020 Annual Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 6th May 2020

13/2019: Dates of the Parish Council Meetings for 2019/20

Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Wednesday 15th January 2020

Wednesday 4th September 2019

Wednesday 4th March 2020

Wednesday 6th November 2019

Minutes confirmed as correct 3rd July 2019 _____

Chairman