

**Withington Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 22nd July 2020
at 7.30pm via Remote Conference Facility**

Minutes

01/2020 Present:

Councillors Phil Heath (Chair) Neil Maxwell, Lesley Stone, Martin Timmis Alan Williams, Cllr Lezley Picton, Denise Roscoe (Clerk), and 2 members of the public

02/2020 Welcome The Chairman welcomed everyone

03/2020 Apologies None

04/2020 Declaration of Interest: Cllr Stone declared an interest regarding planning.

05/2020 Approval of the Minutes of 4th March 2020

The minutes were approved and will be signed by the Chairman on 23rd July 2020

06/2020 Public Forum

Cllr Williams reported the weeds in Woodland Close and the overgrown willow tree causing a nuisance in Sunnyfields **Action: Clerk** to establish ownership and report.

07/2020 Report from Cllr Lezley Picton

Please see attached report.

Cllr Williams expressed gratitude to the refuse collectors for doing a good job during the lockdown

08/2020 Updates from Previous Meetings

SmartWater Signs: Authorisation given by Shropshire Council. Signs will be fitted in next few weeks.

Lamp Post Poppies: Have received 10 more poppies for display on VJ Day 15th August 2020. That need fitting. All poppies to be taken down at end of August. Next display Remembrance Day November.

09/2020 Finance Report

The Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020 were approved by all.

**WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
As at 21 July 2020**

Parish Council (Incl Defibrillator Funds)		Village Green	
Brought Forward from 04/03/20	£3,371.64	Brought Forward from 04/03/20	£7,392.25
Receipts since 04/03/20	£6,127.00	Receipts since 04/03/20	£429.00
SC Precept	£6,000.00	Friends of the Green (2020)	£429.00
Covid Grant	£127.00		
Payments Approved - 04/03/20	£12.00	Payments Approved - 04/03/20	£0.00
Room Hire (04/03)	£12.00	None	
Payments made since 04/03/20 for approval	£2,172.30	Payments made since 04/03/20 for approval	£0.00
Clerks Salary (Mar 20)	£495.04	None	£0.00
SmartWater	£599.40		
British Legion Poppies	£30.00		
Roscoe - Ink	£25.50		
Timmis - Website Host	£16.79		
Zurich Insurance	£257.60		
K Maloney - Internal Audit	£35.00		
British Legion Poppies	£30.00		
Clerks Salary (June 20)	£510.32		
SALC Membership	£137.65		
Information Commissioner	£35.00		
Balance Carried Forward to 21/07/2020	£7,314.34	Balance Carried Forward to 21/07/2020	£7,821.25
Payments for approval - 21/07/2020		Payments for approval - 21/07/2020	
None		None	
Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:		Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:	
		Lawn Mower Maintenance	
		Hedge Cutting	

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 2020 _____

Chairman

Payments Approved at the Meeting for Both Accounts

All payments made since 04/03/20

£495.04	Clerks Salary (Mar 2)	£35.00	K Maloney – Internal Audit
£599.40	SmartWater Kits	£30.00	British Legion Poppies
£30.00	British Legion Poppies	£510.32	Clerks Salary (June 20)
£25.50	Roscoe - Ink	£137.65	SALC Membership
£16.79	Timmis – Website Host	£35.00	Information Commissioner
£257.60	Zurich Insurance		

10/2020 Ron Coulson Memorial

Village Green Committee to get costings for a suitable memorial.

11/2020 Planning

Penates, Caernarvon Lane, Withington SY4 4PX Ref. No: 20/02372/FUL:

Formation of first floor accommodation, to include raising of roof height. No objection

Villa Farm, Withington SY4 4PU Ref No: 20/01439/FUL: Conversion of two agricultural building to residential use. No objection

12/2020 Village Green Committee Report

Village Green Chairman reported that the grass and the hedges have been cut. The next main job is to spray the weeds on the path. Cllr Heath asked for a meeting to be arranged to discuss the weed spraying, Ron Coulson memorial and recycled plastic benches as the standard bench.

13/2020 Parish Council Meeting Dates for the Future

2nd September 2020

4th November 2020

6th January 2021

10th March 2021

5th May 2021 (AGM & Village Meeting)

14/2020 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 2020 _____

Chairman

Report from Cllr Lezley Picton

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – JULY 2020

When we met in March, I'm not sure any of us could have predicted the enormity of what would happen to the world over the coming months.

As you can imagine the Council's day to business altered beyond recognition with all efforts focussed on Social Care services and helping those in need across our County. Many staff were redeployed into Community Reassurance Teams delivering food, prescriptions, PPE etc. The crisis showed just how strong our communities are, many self-help groups were formed and are still working alongside the Council staff to help those in need, in particular those who are still shielding, although this number has reduced significantly. Friends and Neighbours also played such an important part in helping people.

One positive that came out of the crisis is the number of people who are still undertaking voluntary activities within their communities. I would especially like to thank all those in the parish who are regularly undertaking activities such as checking on neighbours, litter picking etc which started during their hourly exercise.

There has been some good news, we managed to continue all our waste collections, residual and green, many councils stopped their green collections at the start of lockdown. Our Highways Teams have worked throughout, and some 7,500 potholes have now been attended too. Following the government guidance, more firms returned to work and other outstanding highway/drainage works have been undertaken and work continues apace.

For many years there has been a desire to see the Council making better use of digital technology. Well, it certainly has been doing that and will continue to do so. Most staff are working from home and productivity has not been affected. Even us Councillors are now having virtual meetings; it has taken a bit of getting used to but it's working well. Committee meetings including Cabinet and Full Council are being held remotely and will continue to do so.

The Council cannot return to the way it worked before Covid and this has allowed staff and members to look at how the Council should operate in the future. There is a desire to see the Council spread out across the County, less centric so a hub and spoke model is being trialled and is working well.

Not only is this crisis costing the Council millions of pounds of additional expenditure, but it has also lost millions of pounds in income. We are not alone; every council is experiencing a similar situation and we are in regular contact with our MPs and Ministers to ensure they understand our situation. The government has stepped in with various amounts of funding but what shape the Council will be in after we get through this crisis, only time will tell.

On a more normal note the refreshed Local Plan will be going to Cabinet on Monday 20th July (and was released to the public on Monday 13th July), there are no changes to the open countryside status for Withington.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions relating to my report or on any other matter of council business. Just thought that this might save some time.

Best wishes

Lezley Picton - Shropshire Councillor for the Tern Division

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 2020 _____

Chairman