

Withington Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 2nd November 2022
at 7.30pm in the Parish Room

Minutes

49/2022 Present: Councillors: Phil Heath (Chair), Neil Maxwell, Lesley Stone, Martin Timmis, Alan Williams, Tern Councillor Lezley Picton, Denise Roscoe (Clerk) and 10 members of the public

50/2022 Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone

51/2022 Apologies: Helen Thomas

52/2022 Declaration of Interest: None

53/2022 Approval of the Minutes for the 7th and 20th September 2022

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

54/2022 Public Forum

The Chairman thanked Jon Scutt for putting up the poppies around the village.

Concern was raised over the flooding across the road, just past Church Farm entrance **Action Clerk:** to report to Shropshire Council

55/2022 Report from Cllr Lezley Picton

Cllr Picton's report covered: Business Leader's meeting, Shropshire Leadership conference, budgets for the next financial year, school street schemes, rough sleeping, Divisional Boundary Review and recycling and waste collection calendars. See attached report.

56/2022 Updates from Previous Meetings:

- Speeding – Withington proposed to be included in 20mph pilot scheme. Further information soon. Concerns were raised over the costs involved in replacing signs etc and the scheme not being enforced. It was suggested that flashing signs may be more effective.
- Ownership of Village Green Hedges/Replace hedge by Blandings. No success from Shropshire Council (SC) they contacted land registry but no deeds. **Action Clerk:** Follow up with SC to obtain deeds and official plan of land. **Action Village Green Chairman:** To arrange working party to clear the area of land ready for planting hedge.
- Sunnyfields – Willow Tree:
A limb broke off the tree on 24th October and was removed on the 25th. Report made to SC on 25th asking for progress report on the tree (reported in March) which was examined by SC Arboriculture Officer who was going to liaise with SC Highways. No feedback since June. Concern raised that tree dangerous and that raising the crown not successful. Cllr Williams asked Cllr Picton to intervene. **Action Clerk:** Send details to Cllr Picton
- SmartWater Kits: One response wanting a kit. Kits still available
- Misspelled Rodington Sign: Reported to SC no response yet.
- New Withington signs for the Lees and Rodington Heath: Reported to SC refused request for now.

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 4th January 2023 _____

Chairman

- Broken Withington signs: These have been mended with wooden posts.
- Defibrillator Awareness Session: One response for 2 people. **Action Clerk:** Send information to Cllr Stone

The Clerk is a member of the SC Highways Parish working group who are working on improving the communications between Parish Councils and Highways. SC Highways now have a new system for reporting problems/issues that can be used by everyone. **Action Clerk:** to email village with details.

57/2022 Finance Report

Approval of Accounts to date for the Parish Council and the Village Green

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st November 2022

Parish Council (Incl Defibrillator Funds)		Village Green	
Brought Forward from 06/09/22	£3,551.70	Brought Forward from 06/09/22	£8,338.46
Receipts since 06/09/22	£0.00	Receipts since 06/09/22	£126.00
None	£0.00	Friends of the Green (2022/23)	£126.00
Payments Approved - 07/09/22	£553.84	Payments Approved - 07/09/22	£0.00
Hire of Hall (Sept 22)	£12.00	None	£0.00
Clerks Salary (Sept 22)	£433.44		
HMRC PAYE (Sept 22)	£108.40		
Payments made since 06/09/22 for approval	£12.00	Payments made since 06/09/22 for approval	£144.65
Hire of Hall (7 Sept 22)	£12.00	Mower Insurance	£144.65
Balance Carried Forward to 01/11/22	£2,985.86	Balance Carried Forward to 01/11/22	£8,319.81
Payments for approval - 02/11/22		Payments for approval - 02/11/22	
Hire of Hall (Nov 22)	£12.00	None	
Clerks Salary (Dec 22)	£433.44		
HMRC PAYE (Dec 22)	£108.40		
Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:		Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:	
		Lawn Mower Maintenance	
		Hedge Cutting	

Payments approved:

Payments made since 06/09/22

£12.00 Hire of Hall (7 Sept 22)
£144.65 D Roscoe (Mower Insurance)

Payments for approval 02/11/22

£12.00 Hire of Hall (Nov 22)
£433.44 Clerks Salary (Dec 22)
£108.40 HMRC PAYE (Dec 22)

Prior to the meeting Cllrs received a Budget Forecast giving the projected outcome of the 2022/23 Budget.

The Clerk asked for input on expenditure that might be coming up in 2023/24 to help with setting the precept. Cllr Williams asked for £200/£300 be included for the publishing of the 2023 Parish Plan.

The Budget for 2023/2024 will be presented for approval at the January meeting.

Minutes confirmed as correct 4th January 2023

Chairman

58/2022 Planning

Sunnyside Farm 22/04314/FUL: Alterations, replace existing pitched roof over Kitchen and existing flat roof over Living Room extension. Erection of a front porch. Two storey rear and side extensions

Councillors resolved that there would be no objection to this planning application. **Action Clerk:** to record on SC planning register. However, concern was raised that the timber cladding was not in keeping with the original old small holdings.

The Chairman asked that all Parish Council planning decisions be recorded on the SC planning register. The Clerk pointed out all planning decisions must be discussed at a formal Parish Council meeting. It was resolved that a Parish Council meeting would be convened for any planning applications whose consultation date ends between pre-arranged Parish Council meetings.

Church Farm Solar Farm 22/03486/FUL

The Chairman reported that Elgin Energy have not increased their offer of £4K per MW due to the costs undertaken to date getting the project to planning, grid costs and projected costs for construction

Elgin Energy having been asked to consider the following

An annual payment over the lifecycle of the project or even a shorter period of say 20 years.

A smaller upfront payment at commission followed by an annual payment.

Stated that this may be possible but would still amount to the £4k per MW over the lifetime.

59/2022 Replacement of Clerk's Computer and Associated Software

Councillors resolved to purchase the following:

Computer - £400 (inc VAT)

Microsoft Office 365 - £59.99 per year

Antivirus Software – price to be confirmed.

Action Cllr Maxwell: To purchase computer and set up.

Cllr Timmis asked that the old computer be cleared of data and donated to a local school or cause.

60/2022 Village Green Committee Report

The Village Green Chairman reported that through Shropshire Council Tree Scheme he has been able to secure a feathered oak, to replace the Jubilee oak, and hedging to plant at the rear of the village green.

The following work was identified as needing to be done:

- Prune the trees overhanging the path.
- The hedge near the noticeboard and entrance needs to be cut back.
- The path is getting slippery and may need more dust/grit.
- The hedges around the Village Green need cutting over Winter.
- Clearing of land and hedge planting.

A decision needs to be made on whether to purchase a new lawn mower now or wait 2 years until we may receive a Community Benefit Fund.

61/2022 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 4th January 2023

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 4th January 2023 _____

Chairman