

Payments Approved at the Meeting for Both Accounts

All payments made since 9/03/2021

£51.98 D Roscoe (ink)
£257.60 Zurich Insurance
£35.00 K Maloney internal audit

Payments to be made

£12.00 Room Hire (12/05)
£532.48 Clerks Salary (June 21)

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

10/2021: Appointment of representative for Shrewsbury Place Plan

Cllr Stone agreed to be the PC representative at the Shrewsbury Place Plan meetings when they resume. Cllr Stone asked for input from the other Councillors before attending a meeting.

11/2021: Reports on Parish Plan

St John the Baptist church

It has also been a tough year for the parish church, with very few face to face services, no face to face coffee mornings or other social events.

Wrockwardine Deanery was very quick to move to online solutions with Rev Andy Ackroyd doing daily reflections, Rev Lisa organizing zoom prayer services, Di Woolridge organizing various online Messy Church activities and a weekly Deanery wide online service, which continues to be produced even now we are once again holding weekly services in all churches.

We have held twice monthly Zoom coffee mornings which continue to be well attended, and we have committed to having these until the monthly coffee morning in the Parish Room can recommence (current estimate for this is 2nd June, with people being served and then 7th July should be self service). We were able to join in the Radio Shropshire "Carols on your doorstep" on the village green and also held an Easter Egg trail on Easter Sunday 4th April 21. We are hopeful that the Summer Fete can take place on Saturday 10th July. We have also been regularly receiving and delivering food bank donations and thank the parishioners for their generosity.

The lack of services and social events has had an impact financially, but people have adapted and donated directly which has helped significantly and we have continued to meet our financial responsibilities.

Parish Room

It has been a tough year with hardly any rental income, but we did reduce all outgoings to a minimum and we held a raffle which was well supported and were successful in applying for some grants from the council, one of which we used to have the main hall redecorated, the other has been banked for now while we review what the future holds. At present thanks to parishioners support we are still in a healthy financial position.

We will be starting to hold events, following risk assessments and following government guidelines from now on. The Charity "Time for a Cuppa" afternoon in aid of families facing dementia on Saturday 29th May organized by Saskia Mills being the first major event.

Hare and Hounds

The Hare and Hounds will be opening on Monday 17th May after being closed for most of 2020/21 due to Covid-19. Whilst it has been closed it has had a refurbishment.

The conversion of the outbuilding to a holiday let has been put on hold for the moment.

The Hare and Hounds is listed as an "Asset of Community Value this listing is for the Pub itself and the carpark it does not include the parcel of land behind the carpark, or the holiday let.

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 7 July 2021 _____

Chairman

Footpaths

It's been good to see so many people out walking round the lanes and footpaths once we'd all got over the initial shock of lockdown and social distancing. I was hesitant to walk too many footpaths and touch gates and touch gates and stiles initially, having read lots of comments from worried farmers on social media. But after the first few weeks these fears seem to be allayed and I was able to tackle some of overgrown plants and trees by the stiles.

Several stiles in the Parish needed attention and despite reporting these to Shropshire Council in 2019 and earlier (well before we had heard of Covid-19) no progress was made. Alan Williams, however, came to the rescue and obtained materials to carry out some repairs from the Council before Christmas. Many thanks to Alan for doing this. Shropshire Council also repaired the bridge in the field at the end of Sunnyfields

Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust Annual Report to Withington Parish Council

1. Progress has been delayed by the pandemic, but under CDM Regulations (Construction Sites) we have managed to make some progress throughout. The 42m retaining wall in the East Basin at Wappenshall Wharf is nearing completion and the basin concreting is 30% finished. It is planned to re-water the basin later this year. The new toilet block for the cafe has its footings in and new floor installed. The walls will be built and the roof constructed by early Autumn. The cafe is planned to be open by Autumn 2022.
2. The section of the canal beside the Pelham Road to Berwick Wharf has had the dead and dying dangerous trees taken down and a new hedge has been planted. This work was done by the National Trust's contractor, and our SNCT volunteers will now be helping NT people to re-make the towpath on the opposite side. When this is completed the section will be re-watered.
3. Berwick Tunnel approaches have been cleared of fallen trees and much rubbish. There is now a towpath that can be walked from the Uffington road right up to the south portal of the tunnel (about a third of a mile). Widows Bridge is about half way and this will be re-pointed by the autumn using Canal & River Trust apprentices.
4. We are in the process of partnering with the National Trust, as they plan to have a cycle route along the towpath of the canal right into Shrewsbury. If Peter Nutting, current leader of Shropshire Council, is re-elected on 6 May, he wishes to get this project into council plans.
5. Although no work has yet started within Withington Parish, things are progressing well through the Sundorne Estate in Upton Magna and we hope to be doing some more scrub clearance along the canal's line towards Withington in the autumn.

If anyone in our parish would like to see any of this work, please contact Bernie, on 07971 016322 and I'll arrange to give you a conducted tour of the sites and show you our plans for the future. In the meantime, please visit our website at www.sncanal.org.uk or find us on Facebook for much more information.

Cllr Williams asked what would happen if there were any blocks on the route of the old canal? Bernie replied that the Trust would negotiate or enforce compulsory purchase.

Withington Village Green Committee Annual Report

We have had no virtual or in person meetings this year. We have discussed issues via e mail. These have included:

General Maintenance - The cutting of grass, pruning of trees and weed killing the path. These have been done by Ron Lucas and other committee members.

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Chairman

New Benches – These were researched, and we will be purchasing a solid oak bench from the Green Wood Trust in Coalbrookdale. We have already two of theirs on the Green.

Walcot Road Entrance Fence – This fence borders the Shrubbery and the footpath onto the Green. It needs one or two posts to be replaced. This has been arranged and should be completed by the end of the month.

Ron Coulson Plaque – We have commissioned and just received a slate plaque recognizing his contribution to the Village Green. It will be attached to the repaired fence and named Coulson Gate.

Events on the Green – The only significant event arranged on the Green was the Radio Shropshire Christmas singalong. The Christmas tree and wet area were illuminated using battery powered lights. These were donated by Peter Littlewood and Wayne Thomas

Future Events – This Summer we could have the Church Summer Fete on Saturday 10th July 2021 and a Tractor Run on Sunday 29th August 2021

Football Posts – There has been a request to replace the damaged set. This will be discussed at a meeting in June. This could also be an Annual General Meeting, subject to approval.

12/2021: Date of the 2022 Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Village Meeting:

Wednesday 4th May 2022

13/2021: Dates of the Parish Council Meetings for 2021/22

Wednesday 7th July 2021 (7.00pm)
Wednesday 1st September 2021
Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Wednesday 12th January 2022
Wednesday 9th March 2022

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Chairman