

Withington Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 6th September 2023
at 7.30pm in the Parish Room

Minutes

25/2023 Present: Councillors: Phil Heath (Chair), Lesley Stone, Martin Timmis, Alan Williams, Cllr Lezley Picton (Tern), Denise Roscoe (Clerk) and 11 members of the public

26/2023 Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone

27/2023 Apologies: Jon Scutt, Brenda Marshall, Yvonne & Steve Walton

28/2023 Declaration of Interest: None

16/2023 Approval of the Minutes for 5th July 2023

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

29/2023 Public Forum

Cllr Williams paid tribute to the late Tony Marchant who was formerly a Chairman/Cllr of Withington Parish Council. He should also be recognised for his role on the Amenities Committee and for being very welcoming to new villagers.

Joe Ford gave an update on the arrangements for the Tractor Run being held on 17th September. The route map has been checked and reissued and there are volunteer marshals. There has been a lot of interest shown in entering but not many have signed up. The original insurance has been cancelled (awaiting refund) and a new insurance has been arranged with the NFU with fuller cover. Arrangements have been made for catering but would welcome donations of cakes. There will be first aid and vehicle recovery. A Blood Bike will lead the run and possibly one at the back.

30/2023 Report from Cllr Lezley Picton

Cllr Picton reported that Shropshire Council (SC) is expected to survive its current financial challenges. Good progress is being made on savings targets.

It is planned to complete the digital switchover (when analogue lines will be switched off) by December 2025 at the latest. SC is compiling information addressing any problems parishioners may experience.

31/2023 Updates from Previous Meetings:

- Speeding – Withington proposed to be included in 20mph pilot scheme. Cllr Picton reported no decision from SC.
- Flooding of road (just past Church Farm entrance). Channels have been dug to the drains that are set back from the road. **Action: Clerk** to monitor and report again if flooding experienced.
- Flooding outside Hucksters Cottage. Reported to SC waiting for update.
- Potholes on the road past Villa Farm. Reported as fixed. Some of the potholes have been fixed but there are still potholes outside Villa Farm. **Action: Clerk to report**
- Road sweeping Caernarvon Lane & Walcot Road. Cllr Picton has liaised with Derek Furlong (SC) who requested the Clerk contact him directly. **Action: Clerk**

Minutes confirmed as correct 15th November 2023

Chairman

- Life expectancy of defibrillator. Cllr Maxwell reported the defibrillator is 10 years (2027) and the battery is 5 yrs (2025)
- NALC – Civility and Respect Project. The Clerk contacted Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) over the training costs. They have contacted the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and are awaiting response. Cllr Stone is attending a NALC women’s cllr networking meeting and will report back. **Action: Cllr Stone.**
- Parish Plan. Response from Mathew Mead: Parish Plans are an ongoing process and there are opportunities to add projects in the future. Cllrs resolved to defer the Parish Plan for 12 months (2024).
- Slurry treatment pavement Woodside Close. Waiting for response from SC regarding the date work will commence.

Cllr Stone reported the “Slow” signs on the road outside Harpers Farm have faded. **Action: Clerk**

32/2023 Finance Report

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

**WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
6th September 2023**

<u>Parish Council</u>		<u>Village Green</u>	
Brought Forward from 04/07/23	£6,866.32	Brought Forward from 04/07/23	£2,737.70
Receipts since 04/07/23	£180.00	Receipts since 04/07/23	£257.00
Tractor Run	£180.00	Friends of the Green (2023/24)	£257.00
Payments Approved - 05/07/23	£0.00	Payments Approved - 05/07/23	£0.00
Payments made since 04/07/23 for approval	£177.20	Payments made since 04/07/23 for approval	£58.09
ICO	£35.00	A Lewis - Petrol	£28.38
W Thomas (TR Insurance)	£92.20	A Lewis - 1 Petrol	£29.71
D Malley (Payroll)	£50.00		
Balance Carried Forward to 05/09/23	£6,869.12	Balance Carried Forward to 05/09/23	£2,936.61
Defibrillator Funds	£222.40		
Coronation Proceeds	£291.71		
Tractor Run less Ins	£87.80		
Balance Available to the Parish Council	£6,267.21		
Payments for approval - 06/09/23		Payments for approval - 06/09/23	
Hire of Hall (July & Sept 23)	£24.00	None	
Repayment Village Green	£3,050.00		
Clerks Salary (Jun 23)	£475.04		
HMRC PAYE (Jun 23)	£118.80		
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 04/07/23

£35.00 ICO
 £92.20 W Thomas - T R Insurance
 £50.00 D Malley (Payroll)
 £28.38 A Lewis - Petrol
 £29.71 A Lewis - Petrol

Payments for approval 06/09/23

£24.00 Hire of Hall (July & Sept)
 £3,050.00 Repayment Village Green
 £475.04 Clerk Salary (June 23)
 £118.80 HMRC (June 23)

The free website provided by Hugo Fox will no longer be free from 4th October. The cost of their basic package is £9.99 + VAT per month. The Cllrs resolved that SALC be approached for advice on other website providers with a view to comparing costs against Hugo Fox and to sign up with the most favourable. **Action: Clerk**

Minutes confirmed as correct 15th November 2023

Chairman

The insurance for the old mower has increased from £144.65 to £268.72. Cllrs resolved to accept pay increase if a cheaper alternative can't be found. **Action: Cllr Williams**

33/2023 Planning

Church Farm Solar Farm 22/03486/FUL: Following the meeting on 11th July Cllrs accepted the changes to the E66 contract recommended by the Solicitors acting on behalf of the PC. The required changes were sent to E66 for their approval, they accepted most of the changes and asked if the PC's Solicitor could redraft the contract. Cllrs resolved to ask the PC's Solicitor if there would be further charges to redraft the contract and if there are E66 would be required to pay them.

Action: Cllr Heath.

Manor Farm Cottage 23/03127/LBC: Replace windows modern extension and 19th Century extensions with hardwood versions. Cllrs resolved that there would be no objection.

34/2023 Policing Community Charter

Withington's priorities for the quarter October 2023 to December 2023

The present priorities are speeding, investigation of fly tipping on private land and wildlife crime

Cllrs resolved that the priorities should stay as they are.

35/2023 Village Green Committee Report

The Village Green Chairman reported that the hedges around the Village Green have recently been cut. The newly planted oak tree is thriving. Andrew and Ron continue to make a good job of cutting the grass. On Sunday 17th September the tractors from the Tractor Run will be displayed on the Village Green, after the run, along with various stalls and refreshments.

36/2023 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 15th November 2023 – 7.30pm