

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 (AGAR) which was signed by the Chairman and Clerk

09/2022: Report from Cllr Lezley Picton

Please see attached

10/2022: Reports on Parish Plan

St John the Baptist Church – Jon Scutt

We have continued to have weekly services where the government Covid restrictions have allowed it. Throughout the pandemic we have been doing regular risk assessments to ensure we are operating in line with the latest guidelines and for the safety of worshippers. In addition to regular weekly services there have been some special services for Easter, Remembrance and various Christmas related services and one funeral last year and we are looking forward to hosting a songs of praise to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on June 5th.

While we were not able to have the full range of social/fundraising activities we would normally hold, we were able to hold a summer fete, bonfire, Christmas Bazaar and carol singing on the village green and thank all those that supported these events. We hope to have a full range of social activities this coming year.

We have held monthly coffee mornings on the first Wednesday of the month, to which everyone is welcome and have been coordinating the monthly donation to the Shrewsbury Food Bank from the village, in addition we have supported the Children's Society and Hope House charities.

The lychgate is in a very tired state and we have been fundraising to replace this and now have sufficient funds and are waiting for Manleys to do the work.

Through regular and one-off gift aid donations and fund raising the church is financially sound and we thank people for their continued support and generosity.

Parish Room – Jon Scutt

The Parish Room is now fully open and when the Tai Chi class recommences on 31st May, all the pre Covid activities will be back up and running as they did prior to the pandemic. All village halls, including the Parish Room, benefitted from a generous Covid related grant, which means financially we are in a healthy position and as a result have purchased a new vacuum, replaced some lighting, replaced the fence at the back of the plot and had a tree removed.

We thank everyone that has supported the activities that take place in the Parish Room.

Hare & Hounds

The Hare & Hounds has now re-opened after Covid. Unfortunately, it has not yet recovered all of the customers that used to visit before Covid.

At the moment meals aren't being served in the Hare & Hounds on a Friday evening and Sunday lunch time. However, a takeaway service has been set up on a Friday night which has proved very popular. Menu's are displayed on the WhatsApp and the village noticeboard.

The conversion of the outbuilding to holiday lets has come to a stop due to unforeseen circumstances.

Footpaths Helen Thomas

Some of the access routes to footpaths and stiles became quite overgrown last year where farmers didn't cut the hedges back by the footpaths and I struggled to keep on top of this with just some garden loppers and secateurs. But most were eventually cleared, and I will monitor through the summer.

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 6th July 2022 _____

Chairman

Several stiles in the Parish needed attention and through Alan Williams contacts at Shropshire Council we now have some materials to mend stiles and posts etc. Many thanks to Alan for doing this

Last summer there were a lot of potato fields with footpaths crossing them in both Withington and surrounding parishes which were not always reinstated after planting. Whilst I am happy to walk around the edge of fields planted with crops it is not always feasible given the massive size of modern fields and potato fields can be quite challenging anyway!

Shropshire are producing a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan and sent out a questionnaire in January which I completed. I did highlight demarcation of footpaths, inaccuracies between maps and reality on the ground as well as the challenges for cyclists, horse riders and walkers on single track country lanes in the feedback.

The linking of routes will be part of the plan and with this in mind, Upton Magna Council have recently approached us with a suggestion of linking a bridleway that ends at a field with the footpath network using a permissive path across Sundorne Castle land which seems very sensible. The path runs along the boundary between our two parishes.

If anyone notices any footpath issues, please let me know

Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust Annual Report – Bernie Jones

The past year has seen a huge amount of progress with the canal's restoration. Most parishioners will have seen the section that has been partly restored alongside the Pelham Road. The trees that removed by National Trust were dangerous since many of them were losing branches in high winds and some had died. But the Berwick Tunnel section has also been opened up and the towpath re-established too.

There have also been lock gates installed at Newport's Town Lock. Our "flagship" project at Wappenshall Wharf has seen over 3,500 cubic metres of spoil removed from the basin and its floor sealed with 6" of ferro-concrete. A 46 metre retaining wall has been built along its northern edge and the towpath has been re-established. The small Grade 2 Listed warehouse has been re-roofed and insulated, new rainwater goods installed, and much damaged brickwork has been repaired. The building's new toilet block has been mostly constructed and a new water supply installed.

If any parishioner would like to see any of these sections, please contact Bernie Jones on 07971 016322.

Withington Village Green Committee Annual Report – Wayne Thomas

1. There have been no in person meetings this year. Those that did take place were not quorate. Communications were undertaken by e mail.
2. There have been the usual events held on the green this year. These include:
 - Village Fete
 - Car parking for various events
 - Messy Church
 - Bonfire
 - Carol Singing
3. Future events from today include:
 - Beat the bounds on 21st May
 - Beacon, Barbeque and Beer on 2nd June
 - Jubilee picnic
 - Summer Village fete
 - Tree planting October
 - Bonfire
 - Christmas Carol singing
4. We have ordered a slate replacement plaque for the silver jubilee oak.
5. We will order a platinum jubilee plaque and oak tree for October.
6. Thanks to Ron for maintaining the grass on the green and to Denise, Alan and Wayne for pruning trees and some of the hedges.

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 6th July 2022 _____

Chairman

11/2022: Date of the 2022 Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Village Meeting:

Wednesday 10th May 2023

12/2022: Dates of the Parish Council Meetings for 2022/23

Wednesday 6th July 2022

Wednesday 7th September 2022

Wednesday 2nd November 2022

Wednesday 4th January 2023

Wednesday 1st March 2023

Wednesday 10th May 2023 APCM & AVM

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 6th July 2022 _____

Chairman