

Withington Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 15th November 2023
at 7.30pm in the Parish Room

Minutes

43/2023 Present: Councillors: Martin Timmis (Chair), Neil Maxwell, Lesley Stone, Alan Williams, Cllr Lezley Picton (Tern), Denise Roscoe (Clerk) and 14 members of the public

44/2023 Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone

45/2023 Apologies: Cllr Phil Heath, Yvonne & Steve Walton, and David Higson

46/2023 Declaration of Interest: None

47/2023 Approval of the Minutes for 6th September 2023 & 6th October 2023

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

48/2023 Public Forum

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

Concerns were expressed regarding the condition of the road over Haughmond Hill. Cllr Picton reported that Shropshire Council (SC) Highways plan to replace the surface next year.

Telford & Wrekin Council is carrying out a 5-year review of their Local Plan. The consultation dates are 25th October 2023 to 12th January 2024. The plans to build 338 new houses in Rodington and Rodington Heath will have an impact on Withington. It was resolved to hold an extraordinary meeting on Thursday 7th December 2023 at 7.00pm.

49/2023 Report from Cllr Lezley Picton

Consultation on the Riverside regeneration plans is open until 15 November 2023. This isn't the final design.

SC have identified £38M savings out of the £51M required. It is anticipated that by the end of the financial year (April 2024) there will be a shortfall of approximately £4M (7%).

The Northwest Relief Road plans have been approved. SC planning department are working through the planning conditions. The Department of Transport are funding the road.

The Marches Forward Partnership has been signed this involves Shropshire Council working with Herefordshire, Monmouth and Powis Council's joining together to secure Government funding for major projects that will benefit the Marches region.

Cllr Lezley Picton Left the Meeting

50/2023 Updates from Previous Meetings:

- Flooding outside Hucksters Cottage. Reported to SC still waiting for update.
- Potholes on the road past Villa Farm. A pothole outside Villa Farm has been fixed but there are still many others. The Clerk sent a report to the head of highways regarding all the problems on this road. It seems the email malfunctioned. **Action: Clerk query whether received.**
- Faded "Slow" Sign on Rodington Road. Reported to SC no response.

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 10th January 2024 _____

Chairman

- Road sweeping Caernarvon Lane & Walcot Road. Getting the roads swept is ongoing. However, the Clerk has asked for all of the drains in the village to be cleared including the drains over the hill on the road to Upton Magna. **Action: Clerk**
- NALC – Civility and Respect Project. Cllr Stone reported that women cllr’s network meeting covered the White Ribbon Day, the civility and respect project was not discussed.
- Slurry treatment pavement Woodside Close. No response from SC. Cllr Williams suggested that this should be left as both pavements are the same now.
- Withington Website. The Clerk reported that the most cost-effective option is to stay with Hugo Fox. As Withington is a small council Hugo Fox wont start charging until April 2024. Paying a yearly invoice, the PC will receive a reduction of 15% resulting in an annual price of £102+VAT per year (£8.50+VAT per month). The Councillors resolved to stay with Hugo Fox and pay a yearly invoice.
- Mower Insurance. Cllr Williams has arranged for both mowers to go on the same insurance thus reducing the renewal cost of the old mower from £268 to approx. £100 per year.

51/2023 Finance Report

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

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 15th November 2023

Parish Council		Village Green	
Brought Forward from 05/09/23	£6,869.12	Brought Forward from 05/09/23	£2,936.61
Receipts since 05/09/23	£2,182.96	Receipts since 05/09/23	£700.46
Tractor Run	£2,090.76	Friends of the Green (2023/24)	£307.00
Thomas (Insurance Refund)	£92.20	Tractor Run Donation	£378.46
Payments Approved - 06/09/23	£3,667.84	Funeral Parking (Jly)	£15.00
Hire of Hall (July & Sept 23)	£24.00	Payments Approved - 06/09/23	£0.00
Repayment Village Green	£3,050.00	Payments made since 05/09/23 for approval	£122.19
Clerks Salary (Jun 23)	£475.04	A Lewis - Petrol	£30.55
HMRC PAYE (Jun 23)	£118.80	A Lewis - Petrol	£30.11
Payments made since 05/09/23 for approval	£2,389.53	A Williams - Mower Insurance	£61.53
Tractor Run Donations	£2,270.76	Balance Carried Forward to 14/11/23	£3,514.88
D Roscoe - Microsoft	£59.99		
M Timmis - Website Hosting	£22.79	Payments for approval - 15/11/23	None
D Roscoe - McAfee	£35.99	None	
Balance Carried Forward to 14/11/23	£2,994.71	Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:	Lawn Mower Maintenance, Hedge Cutting
Defibrillator Funds	£222.40		
Coronation Proceeds	£291.71		
Tractor Run less Ins	£0.00		
Balance Available to the Parish Council	£2,480.60		
Payments for approval - 15/11/23			
Hire of Hall (Oct, Nov, Dec 23)	£36.00		
Clerks Salary (Dec 23)	£475.04		
HMRC PAYE (Dec 23)	£118.80		
Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:			

Payments approved:

Payments made since 05/09/23

£30.55	A Lewis - Petrol
£30.11	A Lewis - Petrol
£61.53	A Williams – Mower Ins
£2270.76	Tractor Run Donations
£59.99	D Roscoe – Microsoft 365
£22.79	M Timmis – Website Hosting
£35.99	D Roscoe – Mc Afee

Payments for approval 15/11/23

£24.00	Hire of Hall (Oct, Nov, Dec)
£475.04	Clerk Salary (June 23)
£118.80	HMRC (June 23)

Minutes confirmed as correct 10th January 2024

Chairman

It was resolved that the Budget Forecast for 2023/2024 and the Budget for 2024/2025 will be presented to the PC meeting on 10th January 2024. **Action: Clerk**

52/2023 Planning

Church Farm Solar Farm 22/03486/FUL: The PC's solicitor has redrafted the contract and sent it to E66 (Elgin) for agreement. Awaiting response from E66

The Oaklands 23/04718/FUL: Replacement barn, proposed garage with games room and change of use for additional garden land. Cllrs resolved that there would be no objection. **Clerk Action:** to post resolution on the SC planning register.

53/2023 Withington Drains and Sewerage Problems

Since the 22 October 2023 there has been intermittent problems with sewage flooding the road between Bakehouse Yard and The Old Vicarage. This has been reported many times to Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency.

To temporarily solve the problem a Tanker has been sited (for many days) outside Yew Tree Cottage to empty the drains. A parishioner expressed concern over the siting of the tanker and the effect on residents with it running 24 hours a day.

Parishioners have been given conflicting reports on what is causing the flooding and Severn Trent aren't able to identify the problem due to the water levels in the sewerage system.

Cllrs resolved to write to Severn Trent and the Environment Agency asking for an update, the cause and what action will be taken. **Action: Clerk** to write letters and ask for the tanker to be sited elsewhere.

34/2023 Policing Community Charter

Withington's priorities for the quarter January 2024 to March 2024:

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 Tractor Run and The Bonfire were a success. Negotiations are being made to get more free saplings. The following work on the Green is needed in the next few months: The grass needs to be fed, weeded and rolled, maintenance of the dust on the footpath, the fruit trees need to be pruned.

56/2023 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 10th January 2024 – 7.30pm