

Withington Parish Council

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 8th May 2024 in the Parish Room at 7.30pm

Minutes

01/2024: Present: Councillors Phil Heath (Chair), Neil Maxwell, Lesley Stone, Alan Williams, Denise Roscoe (Clerk) and 8 members of the public

02/2024: Welcome: Councillor Heath welcomed everyone

03/2024: Apologies: Cllr Martin Timmis, Bernie Jones, Jon Scutt, Brenda Marshall, Helen Thomas

04/2024: Declaration of Interests: None reported

05/2024: Election of Chairman: Councillor Heath was elected Chairman unopposed. He signed the declaration of acceptance of office

06/2024: Election of Vice Chairman: Councillor Martin Timmis was elected unopposed.

07/2024: Approval of the Minutes of the 13^h March 2024: Minutes were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

08/2024: Responsible Finance Officer's Report

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 8 May 2024

<u>Parish Council</u>	
Brought Forward from 12/03/24	£2,166.99
Receipts since 12/03/24	£6,556.53
Way Leave	£61.53
SC Precept	£6,495.00
Payments Approved - 13/03/24	£655.84
Hire of Hall (Mar 24)	£12.00
Clerk Salary (March 24)	£475.04
HMRC PAYE (March 24)	£118.80
Payroll Administration 2nd Half	£50.00
Payments made since 12/03/24 for approval	£3,383.28
Zurich Insurance	£241.00
Hugo Fox Website	£122.28
Internal Audit	£75.00
SC Repayment Village Green	£2,945.00
Balance Carried Forward to 07/05/24	£4,684.40
Defibrillator Funds	£222.40
Coronation Proceeds	£291.71
Balance Available to the Parish Council	£4,170.29
Payments for approval - 08/05/24	
Hire of Hall (May 24)	£12.00
Clerk Salary (June 24)	£516.84
HMRC PAYE (June 24)	£129.00
Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:	

<u>Village Green</u>	
Brought Forward from 12/03/24	£3,744.28
Receipts since 12/03/24	£227.00
Friends of the Green (2023/24)	£57.00
Friends of the Green (2024/25)	£170.00
Payments Approved - 13/03/24	£45.70
W Thomas - No Parking Sign	£45.70
Payments made since 12/03/24 for approval	£56.39
A Lewis - Petrol	£28.07
A Lewis - Petrol	£28.32
Balance Carried Forward to 07/05/24	£3,869.19
Payments for approval - 08/05/24	
Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:	
Lawn Mower Maintenance, Hedge Cutting	

Payments Approved at the Meeting for Both Accounts

All payments made since 12/03/2024

£122.28	Hugo Fox Website
£2,945.00	Village Green SC Repayment
£241.00	Zurich Insurance PC
£28.07	A Lewis – Petrol
£28.32	A Lewis – Petrol
£75.00	Internal Audit

Payments to be made

£12.00	Room Hire (May 24)
£516.84	Clerks Salary (Jun 24)
£129.00	HMRC PAYE (Jun 24)

Minutes confirmed as correct 3rd July 2024

Chairman

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

09/2024: Reports on Parish Plan

St John the Baptist Church – Jon Scutt

We have continued to have weekly services, in addition to regular weekly services there have been some special services for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and various Christmas related services. There was a wedding in August 2023.

We were able to have the full range of social/fundraising activities with a summer fete, easter egg hunt, harvest auction, Christmas Bazaar and carol singing on the village green. Thank all those that organised and supported these events.

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. Through regular and one-off gift aid donations and fund raising the church has paid all it's financial demands and remains financially healthy and we thank people for their continued support and generosity.

Parish Room – Jon Scutt

The Parish Room continues to host a range of activities including Yoga, Tai Chi, monthly coffee mornings, flicks in the sticks, charity events, Womens' Institute, sewing group & quilting groups.

The Parish room remains financially in a healthy position, supported by the 100 club and we will be looking to have the outside redecorated in the coming year.

We thank everyone that has supported the activities that take place in the Parish Room and that are in the 100 club.

Hare & Hounds – Phil Heath

The pub has managed to stay open during difficult trading conditions for the hospitality sector. The only concession to these difficult times has been for the pub to close on a Wednesday, which is it's quietest trading evening.

A charity quiz is now held frequently to both raise money for various charities and generate revenues for the pub. These have proved very popular.

The takeaway food service on a Friday evening continues to be very popular and you can now eat in as long as you place your order beforehand.

Unfortunately, the pub has become very run down of late with for example the collapse of the ceiling in the ladies toilet and the large number of potholes in the carpark although recently one of our local residents repaired most of these with stone donated by the owners of the pub

The pub and carpark are listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) which means that if the owner decides to sell pub for use other than as a pub the community has the right to bid for the property and, if it is accepted, given 6 months to raise the funds.

The fact that the ACV only covers the pub and car park is an advantage to the community as it will make it less expensive than if it also covered the outbuilding and land at the rear. The ACV runs out in May 2024 and we will ensure that it is relisted.

Footpaths Helen Thomas

Relatively little has been going on with footpaths in the Parish in the last 12 months. The two biggest issues have been, firstly the terrible weather over the winter which turned several paths into boggy ponds rendering them virtually unwalkable. Secondly is the ongoing issue with people not picking up dog mess or picking it up but abandoning the plastic poo bags.

There are a couple of stiles that require mending and I understand from Alan that Shropshire Council are liaising with the local ramblers to provide a working party to fix various stile and posts in Upton Magna and Withington over the next few months.

The footpath that goes diagonally across the field behind Sunnyfields has still to be resolved. At the moment the footpath is not cleared through the crop although to be fair the route was far too wet to walk for most of the winter. Also, the access at the end of the path into the next field requires a new stile or gate. I will chase up again with the council.

Finally, there is an issue with the footpath that runs from Drury Lane right at the boundary of the Parish. The path starts from the road and goes diagonally across the field, but access is blocked with an electric fence. It has been reported to the Council, but does anyone know who owns the field?

If anyone notices any footpath issues, please let me know.

Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust Annual Report – Bernie Jones

The Shrewsbury & Newport Trust's flagship project at Wappenshall Wharf is close to reaching the conclusion of its Phase 1. This will see the quality café open on the ground floor of the smaller warehouse later this year, which will look over the now re-watered East Basin. The upper floor of the building will house a visitor centre that will celebrate the life and works of Thomas Telford. It will also enable visitors to learn about the history and heritage of the canals and the people who lived and worked on them.

The section of canal in Rodington that crossed the river Tern has been cleared of debris and fallen trees. The timber lift bridge that stood at the eastern approach to the village has had its foundations exposed and a replacement bridge is being constructed.

Sundorne Estate and National Trust have worked with our Trust to clear the tree succours along the Pelham Road and plans are afoot to repair the bridge over the canal's dry bed on the CJ Wild Bird food road.

Further afield, the North and South Portals of the Berwick Tunnel have been significantly improved and the approaches now have open towpaths once more. The Lengthman's hut at the North Portal has been re-built and Widows Bridge brickwork, close to the South Portal, has been re-pointed and its capping stones replaced.

The section of canal beside the Electricity Sub-Station in Uffington has been cleared of fallen trees and the towpath has been re-established.

Withington Village Green Committee Annual Report – Wayne Thomas

We have not had any formal meetings since the last AGM. However, we have managed to meet when necessary and informally.

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 3rd July 2024 _____
Chairman

We have held several events over the year. These have included the Village fete, Bonfire celebrations, Christmas carols, football matches and parking for birthdays and funerals. In addition, we had a very successful Tractor Run.

We continue to maintain the hedges, cut the grass on the Green with the new mower, and prune the trees. We are investigating ways of improving the path.

We are very grateful to “friends of the village green” for their financial support. In addition to committee members and villagers for their efforts in maintaining the Green and holding events.

There are several ongoing issues which we will need to address at a meeting at a date to be confirmed at the AGM. These include:

1. Review of the constitution.
2. The maintenance or improvement of the footpath.
3. The replacement or change to the padlock on the entrance gate.
4. A communal BBQ.
5. Wheels to help move the goal posts.

10/2024: Dates of the Parish Council Meetings for 2024/25

Wednesday 3rd July 2024
Wednesday 4th September 2024
Wednesday 6th November 2024

Wednesday 8th January 2025
Wednesday 5th March 2025
Wednesday 7th May 2025:
Annual Village Meeting
Annual Parish Council Meeting
Annual Village Green Meeting