

Withington Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 13th March 2024
at 7.30pm in the Parish Room

Minutes

86/2023 Present: Councillors: Phil Heath (Chair), Neil Maxwell, Lesley Stone, Martin Timmis, Alan Williams, Cllr Lezley Picton (Tern), Denise Roscoe (Clerk) and 10 members of the public

87/2023 Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone

88/2023 Apologies: Stuart Jones, Wayne & Helen Thomas

89/2023 Declaration of Interest: None

90/2023 Approval of the Minutes for 10th January & 25th January 2024

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

91/2023 Public Forum

Recently there has been a fibre broadband company surveying the village. Broadband companies may use the existing infrastructure or erect their own telegraph poles which don't require planning permission. They can erect the poles where they wish on Shropshire Council land. However, they must have the landowner's permission (and pay a wayleave) for private land. Cllr Heath asked for Parishioners to contact the Clerk if they find out any further information.

92/2023 Report from Cllr Lezley Picton

There was a good response to the Shropshire Council (SC) Budget Consultation.

The road over Haughmond Hill has been scheduled to be resurfaced. Cllr Picton was asked if steps could be taken to prevent the roadside parking which, as well as being dangerous in places, is causing congestion problems at times.

The Smithfield Riverside regeneration project has been passed by planning. Following a query over funding Cllr Picton explained that the project was being funded by capital expenditure which is separate from SC's revenue expenditure which is used for the annual budget.

Cllr Lezley Picton Left the Meeting

93/2023 Updates from Previous Meetings:

- Flooding outside Hucksters Cottage: Reported to SC still waiting for update. Cllr Timmis reported that the road here seems to be sinking **Action Clerk:** to investigate.
- Potholes on the road past Villa Farm: New potholes in middle of road. **Action Clerk:** to investigate.
- Faded "Slow" Sign on Rodington Road: Reported to SC no response.
- Road sweeping Caernarvon Lane & Walcot Road & surrounding roads: No response
- Response from SC Highways Manager: No response **Action Clerk:** to chase.
- Drains/gullies map: Map completed. **Action Clerk:** to establish Shropshire Council's regulatory duties regarding drain/gully cleaning.
- West Mercia PCC Safer Roads Grant: Cllr Williams reported that having looked at the application form for the grant is evidence based and is aimed at larger Councils.
- Bus Service on road past Villa Farm: Cllr Stone reported that as well as damage to the verges from the buses there has been problems with the drivers. **Action Cllr Stone:** to write to the bus company.

Minutes confirmed as correct _____ 13th March 2024 _____

Chairman

94/2023 Finance Report

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

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 13 March 2024

Parish Council		Village Green	
Brought Forward from 10/01/24	£2,328.87	Brought Forward from 10/01/24	£3,775.88
Receipts since 10/01/24	£0.00	Receipts since 10/01/24	£267.00
		Friends of the Green (2023/24)	£267.00
Payments Approved - 10/01/24	£161.88	Payments Approved - 10/01/24	£0.00
Hire of Hall (Jan 24)	£12.00		
SALC Membership	£149.88		
Payments made since 10/01/24 for approval	£0.00	Payments made since 10/01/24 for approval	£298.60
		Mower Insurance	£298.60
Balance Carried Forward to 12/03/24	£2,166.99	Balance Carried Forward to 12/03/24	£3,744.28
Defibrillator Funds	£222.40		
Coronation Proceeds	£291.71		
Balance Available to the Parish Council	£1,652.88		
Payments for approval - 13/03/24		Payments for approval - 13/03/24	
Hire of Hall (Mar 24)	£12.00	No Parking Sign	£45.70
Clerk Salary (Mar 24)	£475.04		
HMRC PAYE	£118.80		
Payroll Administration 2nd Half	£50.00		
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 10/01/24

£298.60 Mower Insurance

Payments for approval 13/03/24

£12.00 Hire of Hall (Mar 24)
£475.04 Clerk Salary (Mar 24)
£118.80 HMRC PAYE
£50.00 Payroll Administration
£45.70 No parking sign

2024/2025 Budget and Precept:

Due to price increases and additional statutory expenses the Parish Council has had to increase their portion of the council tax from April 2024 by 4.99% and therefore, the charge per household will increase from £56.72 to £59.55 which is an increase of £2.83 per year.

95/2023 Planning

Church Farm Solar Farm 22/03486/FUL:

The contract with E66 (Elgin) has been signed by the Parish Council but we haven't yet received the signed copy from E66. The Chairman has chased this up with E66 and has also been told that they plan to start construction at the end of Summer/early Autumn.

Telford & Wrekin Council Local Plan 5 Year Review:

The next stage of the Local Plan Review will be for Telford & Wrekin Council to produce a publication version of the Plan. Residents and stakeholders will then have further opportunity to comment on the next version of the plan. According to their timetable this should be in Summer/Autumn 2024.

Minutes confirmed as correct 13th March 2024

Chairman

96/2023 Assets of Community Value

The 5-year period for the assets listed as of community value to Withington on Shropshire Council's asset register is coming to an end this year. Cllrs resolved to apply for the Parish Room, Village Green, The Church and the Hare & Hounds be reregistered for a further 5 years. Action Clerk: to prepare applications for submission.

97/2023 Clerks Appraisal

The Clerk has had her annual appraisal and agrees with the outcome. **Action Cllr Heath and Clerk:** to sign.

98/2023 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.

99/2023 Village Green Committee Report

1. The no parking notice has been displayed on the Village Green gate
2. There has been an increase in dogs fouling on the green. Cllrs resolved to erect permanent notices. **Action Cllr Timmis:** to get quotes for 3 notices for approval.

100/2023 Date of Next Parish Council Meetings: Wednesday 8th May 2024

Annual Village Meeting 7.00pm

Annual Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm

Annual Village Green Meeting 8.00pm