

**Withington Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
at 7.30pm in the Parish Room**

**Minutes**

**64/2023 Present:** Councillors: Phil Heath (Chair), Neil Maxwell, Lesley Stone, Martin Timmis, Alan Williams, Cllr Lezley Picton (Tern), Denise Roscoe (Clerk) and 11 members of the public

**65/2023 Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone

**66/2023 Apologies:** Wayne & Helen Thomas

**67/2023 Declaration of Interest:** None

**68/2023 Approval of the Minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 & 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023**  
Corrections were made to previous minutes to include Cllr Maxwell as present.  
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

**69/2023 Public Forum**  
Nothing to report.

**70/2023 Report from Cllr Lezley Picton**  
See attached report.  
Cllr Williams asked if the public may be allowed to use the NHS employee park and ride bus from Oxon. Cllr Picton explained that the NHS won't allow this. Cllr Picton asked for Parishioners to respond to the Budget Consultation as the Council are particularly interested in their priorities.  
**Action Clerk:** to send email to village.

**Cllr Lezley Picton Left the Meeting**

**71/2023 Updates from Previous Meetings:**

- Flooding outside Hucksters Cottage. Reported to SC still waiting for update.
- Potholes on the road past Villa Farm. Some repairs made.
- Faded "Slow" Sign on Rodington Road. Reported to SC no response.
- Road sweeping Caernarvon Lane & Walcot Road & surrounding roads. Ongoing

Cllr Stone and the Clerk met with the Shropshire Council (SC) Highways Manager on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023. He was given a report covering:

- Rodington Road to Walcot Specific Problems: damage to verges, potholes and newly created passing places.
- Telford & Wrekin Local Plan 5 Year Review Consultation increase in vehicles.
- Withington Roads Problems:
  - Sweeping of all surrounding roads
  - Damage to verges
  - Condition of Caernarvon Lane (past the old cottage)
- Weight Limit for Withington
- Shropshire Council "Fix My Street" Communications

Written reply to report requested. To date no reply received. **Action Clerk:** to chase up reply.

A discussion took place regarding drains needing to be cleaned and reporting to SC. It was agreed that a map would be produced detailing the position of drains and gullies in Withington to aid future reporting. **Action Clerk:** to produce Map. **Action Cllr Williams and others:** to record drains/gullies on map.

Minutes confirmed as correct \_\_\_\_\_ 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

## 72/2023 Finance Report

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

### WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 10 January 2024

Parish Council		Village Green	
Brought Forward from 14/11/23	£2,994.71	Brought Forward from 14/11/23	£3,514.88
Receipts since 14/11/23	£0.00	Receipts since 14/11/23	£261.00
		Friends of the Green (2023/24)	£261.00
Payments Approved - 15/11/23	£629.84	Payments Approved - 15/11/23	£0.00
Hire of Hall (Oct, Nov, Dec 23)	£36.00		
Clerks Salary (Dec 23)	£475.04		
HMRC PAYE (Dec 23)	£118.80		
Payments made since 14/11/23 for approval	£36.00	Payments made since 14/11/23 for approval	£0.00
CPRE Membership	£36.00		
<b>Balance Carried Forward to 10/01/24</b>	<b>£2,328.87</b>	<b>Balance Carried Forward to 10/01/24</b>	<b>£3,775.88</b>
Defibrillator Funds	£222.40		
Coronation Proceeds	£291.71		
<b>Balance Available to the Parish Council</b>	<b>£1,814.76</b>		
Payments for approval - 10/01/24		Payments for approval - 10/01/24	
Hire of Hall (Jan 24)	£12.00	None	
SALC Membership	£149.88		
Payroll Administration	£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 14/11/23  
£36.00 CPRE Membership

Payments for approval 10/01/24  
£24.00 Hire of Hall (Jan 24)  
£149.88 SALC Membership  
£50 Payroll Administration

### Budget Forecast 2023/2024:

The balances for the year end 2023/24 have been estimated to be:

Parish Council £997. Village Green £3,826

### 2024/2025 Budget and Precept:

Councillors (Cllrs) resolved to increase the Clerks salary by £209 per year, from 1 April 2024, in line with the National Joint Council pay award 2023/24 effective from April 2023.

Cllrs discussed the budgets prepared by the Clerk. Cllrs expressed concern over the projected year end balances which show a significant decrease due to additional expenditure (such as the website) and an increase in existing expenditure.

It was established that the Parish Council hadn't increase the precept for approximately 10 years. Cllrs resolved that an increase was needed to ensure that the PC remained solvent. **Action Clerk:** to establish if there is a cap on the percentage (%) increase to the precept. To prepare revised budgets with an increase of either the cap% or a maximum of 5%.

## 73/2023 Planning

### Church Farm Solar Farm 22/03486/FUL:

The contract with E66 (Elgin) is ready to sign. Cllrs resolved to sign the contract. **Action Cllr Heath:** to arrange for signing.

Minutes confirmed as correct 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Chairman

**Telford & Wrekin Council Local Plan 5 Year Review:** Consultation end date 31 January 2024. Cllr Stone reported that Telford & Wrekin Council (T&W) unexpectedly reviewed their Technical Paper in December 2023 and therefore the draft response she has prepared requires revision. **Action Cllr Stone:** revise draft response. Cllr Heath thanked Cllr Stone for preparing the response along with Gail Robertson.

Cllrs resolved to send Withington's final response to T&W, SC, Cllr Picton and Rodington PC. An email will also be sent to Parishioners which will include relevant bullet points from the final response and the T&W official response form.

The proposed plans have been reported to both SC Highways and Severn Trent Water.

#### **74/2023 Withington Drains and Sewerage Problems**

Drain cleansing carried out before Christmas and blockages were reported by STW. No problems until next heavy rainfall which resulted in sewage leaking and extensive flooding.

New Year – Severn Trent Water (STW) contractor used cameras down the drains. Not received official outcome. However, contractor said there were no blockages.

The surcharged highways manholes need cleansing and inspection as advised by STW these have been reported to SC Highways. Clerk (8/1/24) requested flow modelling report from STW. No reply. **Action Clerk:** to chase STW.

#### **75/2023 West Mercia PCC – Safer Roads Grant**

The West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner has sent an invitation for applications for funding to make a difference to the safety on local roads.

Cllrs have identified areas in Withington that may benefit from additional roads signs that warn drivers of other vulnerable users such as walkers, horse riders and cyclists. There are also bends that would benefit from chevrons. Applications need to provide a map detailing the location of any agreed fixtures endorsed by Shropshire Council. The application deadline is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 (noon). **Action Cllr Williams:** to investigate whether the funding is appropriate for Withington and prepare a proposal if so.

#### **76/2023 Withington Website Inclusion of Recommended Tradesman etc**

Cllr Williams suggested that a page be included on the Withington website giving details of recommended tradesmen. Concerns were expressed that inclusion of tradesmen on the website may suggest that the PC endorse the tradesmen. Cllrs resolved that tradesmen would not be included on the website.

#### **77/2023 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.

#### **78/2023 Village Green Committee Report**

1. Events: Carols around the Christmas tree, an annual event and a Christmas Eve football match.
2. There have been instances of people parking on the entrance to the Village Green on Caernarvon Lane and therefore blocking access. Councillors resolved that a notice should be displayed. **Action: Village Green Chairman** to get quotes for a notice for approval.

#### **79/2023 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 7.30pm.**