

**Withington Parish Council
Annual Meeting
Wednesday 7th May 2025 in the Parish Room at 7.30pm
Minutes**

01/2025: Present: Councillors Phil Heath (Chair), Joe Ford, Lesley Stone, Martin Timmis Alan Williams, Cllr Brendan Mallon (Tern Ward), Denise Roscoe (Clerk) and 10 members of the public

01.5/2025: Welcome: Councillor Heath welcomed everyone

02/2025: Apologies: Jon Scutt, Brenda Marshall, Michael & June Prater, Stuart Jones, Steve & Yvonne Walton

03/2025: Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office by Councillors: Councillors signed their acceptance forms.

04/2025: Declaration of Interests: None reported

05/2025: Election of Chairman: Councillor Heath was elected Chairman unopposed. He signed the Chairmans declaration of acceptance of office

06/2025: Election of Vice Chairman: Councillor Martin Timmis was elected unopposed.

07/2025: Approval of the Minutes of the 5th & 24^h March 2025: Minutes were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

08/2025: Adoption of a Revised Village Green Constitution

The revised Village Green Constitution recognises the Parish Council and Shropshire Council as Trustees of the Village Green. From now on there will be separate meetings for the Parish Council and the Trustees of the Village Green

Parish Councillors adopted the revised Village Green Constitution by signing the Trustees agreement form.

09/2025: Responsible Finance Officer's Report

**WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
7 May 2025**

Brought Forward from	05/03/2025	£3,540.39
Receipts since	05/03/2025	£6,849.00
	Shropshire Council - Precept	£6,849.00
Payments Approved -	05/03/2025	£2,457.84
	Hire of Hall (Mar 25)	£12.00
	Clerk Salary (Mar 25)	£516.64
	HMRC PAYE (Mar 25)	£129.20
	Lanyon Bowdler (for STGP)	£1,800.00
Payments made since	05/03/2025 for approval	£633.46
	Hire of Hall (24 March)	£6.00
	Zurich Insurance	£241.00
	Internal Auditor	£60.00
	SALC Membership	£182.60
	Hugofox Website	£143.86
Balance Carried Forward to 05/03/25		£7,298.09
Coronation Proceeds		£291.71
Balance Available to the Parish Council		£7,006.38
Payments for approval -	07/05/2025	
	Hire of Hall (May 25)	£12.00
	Phil Heath (Voucher)	£50.00
	Clerk Salary (Jun 25)	£516.64
	HMRC PAYE (Jun 25)	£129.20
Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:		

Minutes confirmed as correct 2nd July 2025

Chairman

Payments Approved at the Meeting

All payments made since 05/03/2025

£6.00	Hire of Hall (24 March)
£241.00	Zurich Insurance
£60.00	Internal Auditor
£182.60	SALC Membership
£143.86	Hugofox Website

Payments to be made

£12.00	Room Hire (May 25)
£50.00	Phil Heath (Voucher)
£516.64	Clerks Salary (Jun 25)
£129.20	HMRC PAYE (Jun 25)

TSB banking mandate: Councillors resolved to continue using the TSB for banking.

Approval of Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

The Council approved the 2024/2025 AGAR which was signed by the Chairman and Clerk

Adoption of May 2025 Financial Regulations

Councillors resolved to adopt the revised financial regulations.

Adoption of May 2025 Risk Management Assessment

Councillors resolved to adopt the revised risk management assessment.

10/2025: Reports on Parish Plan

Church

There have been some significant changes in personnel with the Team Rector, Rev Andy Ackroyd & the curate, Olivia Haines moving on to Madeley & South Lakes respectively, both will be missed. The process to replace Andy is a frustratingly slow one, but progress is being made; at the moment there is no suggestion of replacing Olivia.

Weekly services continue to happen and major celebrations like Remembrance Sunday, Carol Service & Easter attracting larger than normal congregations, we are extremely grateful for everyone that attends services and social events or supports in any way.

Jon Scutt

Parish Room

Regular lettings for Tai Chi, Yoga, WI (& associated sewing & quilting) continue as well as hosting monthly coffee mornings as well as Parish Council & Parochial Church Council meetings. There have been a few one-off rentals.

The rental income from all these activities have covered regular expenses with the 100 club providing income to cover improvements to the water heaters in the toilets & kitchen.

We thank everyone that supports the parish room in any way through the year.

Jon Scutt

Hare & Hounds

The pub was bought back in August 2024, and we were sorry we had to close the pub for four weeks while we worked on the bar area. We stripped out the old bricks on the bar, carpets were taken up. Everything was stripped out, the timber floating floor behind the bar was all taken out. New concrete bases were put in along with new bar shelving/racking the bar was taken apart and sanded for a week.

We put two new brick fireplaces in with Oak beams and new Log Burners as well as new blinds, we painted inside and externally we added a new logo, new lighting and repainted. This was all before opening on the 1st of August. Since opening on the 1st of August, we have been really pleased with the way the pub is going. I'm sure people will agree! The feedback we have had is great.

We have had food vendors on the car park that you will probably be aware of and that has also proven to be very successful.

Recently we have stripped out the back room behind the dartboard and made it a usable room for further dining and it could even be held for future meetings for parish or village.

We have also totally stripped out the old kitchen behind the bar and replaced it with a completely new commercial kitchen which we are hoping to open very soon. The work in the old prep kitchen is ongoing and will soon be completed. This will allow us to be able to serve hot food, but it will be very basic simple food.

Last week we had a visit from Shropshire Council 's hygiene and rating department who have rated the bar and cellar a five!

The cellar was awful before and we have made it a lot better and safe. I'm sure people will notice that from the drinks that we serve.

Only last week we decided to crack on with works at the rear of the pub to make a level outdoor seated dining area with smoking shelter, this is now ongoing and due to be completed in the next two weeks so sorry for any inconvenience for that.

We have also started to strip out upstairs which was not habitable, and our plan is to make this a holiday let and we've already submitted building regs to the local authority.

That is probably as much as I can tell you at the moment, but we will update you at the next meeting as to where we have got to.

Jo and I would just like to thank you all for your help and support over the last 8 months.

A J Manley

Footpaths

People continue to use and enjoy our local footpaths and with a lot of help from Alan and his P3 colleagues plus materials from Shropshire Council, the stiles and posts have been maintained as far as possible. I am particularly pleased that the stile between Ian Roberts' field by Caernarvon Lane and the Griffiths' field behind Sunnyfields has been reinstated. Thank you, Alan and team!!

At the time of writing, the line of the footpath from the new stile to the far corner of the field has not been marked but I have contacted Mr Griffiths about this. To be fair the field has been extremely waterlogged over the winter so walking the path was virtually impossible anyway. Indeed, walking many of our footpaths has been challenging over the wet winter months. But now the fields are drier and the evenings are lighter we can all enjoy spending more time in the countryside.

What is disappointing though is the number of thoughtless dog owners who spoil the countryside for the rest of us by not picking up dog mess or by picking it up but abandoning the plastic poo bags. It is not just unpleasant and a health hazard for other walkers, but dog mess is toxic to wildlife and farm animals if the bacteria and viruses it contains are eaten while grazing. E.g. it can cause cows to abort their unborn calves or sheep to develop neurological disease and die. And don't think that rain will wash the poo away. It won't wash away the toxic bacteria and viruses contained in the poo. They remain on the land.

Apart from dog mess, which I don't have a solution for, if anyone notices any other footpath issues please let me know and I will do my best to resolve them.

Helen Thomas

Canal

Work carried out by the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust volunteers in the past year includes:

- 1) restoration of 2 historic narrowboats built in 1936, one of which will be transported by road to Wappenshall Wharf in the Summer;
- 2) the lift bridge on the eastern edge of Rodington village is under reconstruction and the brick and stonework have been rebuilt and the line of the dry bed canal has been cleared of rubbish and self set trees;
- 3) at Uffington Electricity Sub-Station all the trees and stumps that were in this section of the canal have been removed and the vegetation has been cut back to clear the towpath;
- 4) at Berwick Wharf the towpath has been widened to allow machinery to get to the Berwick tunnel area. Widows bridge here has been re-pointed and the coping stones re-set;
- 5) at Newport the Strine Brook, that runs under the canal here, which is in water here, has been cleared of vegetation and will be made into a viewing area with an information panel;
- 6) our Flagship project at Wappenshall Wharf has progressed really well. The east basin has now been re-watered, the stable block has been built, and the cafe will be opened in the summer. We are just working on the car park re-surfacing with permeable paving blocks.

Bernie Jones

11/2025: Dates of the Parish Council Meetings and Annual Meetings for 2025/26

Wednesday 2 July 2025
Wednesday 3 September 2025
Wednesday 5 November 2025

Wednesday 7 January 2026
Wednesday 4 March 2026
Wednesday 6 May 2026:
Annual Village Meeting
Annual Parish Council Meeting
Annual Village Green Trustees Meeting

Minutes confirmed as correct 2nd July 2025

Chairman