

**Withington Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 6th November 2024
at 7.30pm in the Parish Room**

Minutes

46/2024 Present: Councillors: Phil Heath (Chair), Neil Maxwell, Lesley Stone, Martin Timmis, Alan Williams, Cllr Lezley Picton, Denise Roscoe (Clerk) and 12 members of the public

47/2024 Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone

48/2024 Apologies: None

49/2024 Declaration of Interest: None

50/2024 Approval of the Minutes for 4th September 2024

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

51/2024 Public Forum

Attingham Estate are planning to open new parts of the estate to the public and are inviting local communities to have their input. **Action Clerk:** to invite Attingham to give a presentation and answer questions. at the Parish Council meeting on 6th January 2025

Concern was expressed over the drains by the pumping station becoming blocked due to the mud being spread by the tractors using the entrances to the fields near them. **Action Clerk:** to investigate.

52/2024 Report from Cllr Lezley Picton

The Government is driving forward the English Devolution Bill which may see local authorities combined with other local authorities to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.

The Government has opened a consultation seeking views on the detail and practical implications of allowing remote and hybrid attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings (including Parish Councils) in England

Shropshire Councils budget is extremely tight for 2024/2025. Only issues with a health or safety implication will be resolved.

53/2024 Updates from Previous Meetings:

- Flooding outside Hucksters Cottage: The Clerk has recently chased again.
- Potholes on the road past Villa Farm: The larger potholes have been repaired but new potholes have appeared. **Action Clerk:** to report.
- Faded "Slow" Sign on Rodington Road: It was suggested that there should be chevrons on the blind bend. **Action Clerk:** to contact SC Highways.
- Full Fibre Broadband: There are 78 pledges and Openreach have agreed to build in Withington and Upton Magna. However, a further 10 pledges need to be pursued. The Chairman thanked Gail Robinson for heading up the Withington Ultrafast Broadband working group.
- Dog Fouling Signs: Signs received.

Minutes confirmed as correct 6th November 2024

Chairman

54/2024 Finance Report

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

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 6 November 2024

<u>Parish Council</u>	
Brought Forward from 03/09/24	£3,637.03
Receipts since 03/09/24	£0.00
Payments Approved - 04/09/24	£645.84
Clerk Salary (June 24)	£516.64
HMRC PAYE (June 24)	£129.20
Payments made since 03/09/24 for approval	£0.00
Balance Carried Forward to 05/11/24	£2,991.19
Defibrillator Funds	£102.46
Coronation Proceeds	£291.71
Balance Available to the Parish Council	£2,597.02
Payments for approval - 06/11/24	
Hire of Hall (Sept & Nov 24)	£24.00
Microsoft Subscription	£59.99
Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:	

<u>Village Green</u>	
Brought Forward from 03/09/24	£4,312.33
Receipts since 03/09/24	£241.00
Friends of the Green	£241.00
Payments Approved - 04/09/24	£487.63
Brookside GMC	£487.63
Payments made since 03/09/24 for approval	£86.39
A Lewis - Petrol	£27.81
D Roscoe (Dog Signs)	£33.50
R Lucas - Petrol	£25.08
Balance Carried Forward to 05/11/24	£3,979.31
Payments for approval - 06/11/24	
Authorisation to pay the following if within budget amount:	
Lawn Mower Maintenance, Hedge Cutting	

Payments approved:

Payments made since 03/09/24

£27.81 A Lewis (Petrol)
£33.50 D Roscoe (Dog Signs)
£25.08 R Lucas (Petrol)

Payments for approval 06/11/24

£24.00 Hire of Hall (Sept & Nov24)
59.99 Microsoft Subscription

55/2024 Planning

Church Farm Solar Farm 22/03486/FUL:

Elgin are in negotiations to sell the proposed solar farm. The purchaser will be legally bound to pay the Community Benefit Fund to Withington.

Test digging and site inspection will be taking place by end November/early December.

Telford & Wrekin Council Local Plan 5 Year Review:

The next stage will be decided at a meeting of the Telford & Wrekin Council Cabinet on 7th November. The next public consultation will probably take place in December/January as it appears to be going forward for a decision on 13 February 2025.

56/2024 Withington's Sewer and Drainage Problems

During October sewage/wastewater had been coming out of the manholes outside Bakehouse Yard, Damson Cottage and The Old Vicarage and running down the road for at least a week; this is a repeat of the problems that were had last Winter and previous years.

The incidents have been reported to the Environment Agency and to Severn Trent who has blamed the storm and have yet to do any further investigation. Gail Robinson from Bakehouse Yard will be writing to our local MP. **Action Clerk:** to follow up with Environment Agency

57/2024 Shropshire Council's "Fix My Street"

The Rodington to Walcot Road & Caernarvon Lane (going out of the village): both of these roads have been added to a list of Local Engineering Concerns by Shropshire Council highways. The list of sites is reviewed annually, assessed using asset management data, engineering and local knowledge and the highest-ranking sites are then progressed into the Capital works programme.

As Shropshire Council is data led, the Parish Council would like to encourage everyone to report issues relating the roads etc via "Fix My Street" Shropshire Council's reporting system or ring Customer Services on 0345 678 9006 and to also let the Clerk know so she can report them as well. Issues are more likely to be resolved if there are a number of complaints, unless of course it is perceived by SC as being dangerous.

The Clerk has recently reported all the surrounding roads for sweeping plus the flooding before the bridge at Walcot.

58/2024 Policing Community Charter

Withington's priorities for the quarter January 2025 to March 2025

Councillors **resolved** to keep the present priorities: Speeding, investigation of fly tipping on private land and wildlife crime

59/2024 Village Green Committee Report

The Village Green Chairman reported that the hedge had been cut, a working party was being arranged to cut back the trees and the dog fouling signs will be displayed. Arrangements were being made for a Village Green Committee meeting soon.

Temporary homes have been found for the Village Green marquees, but a more permanent solution is needed for the long term. It has been suggested that a small shed/building be put on the Village Green which will house the marquees along with the mower and maintenance equipment. Fields in Trust have given authorisation to erect a building on the Village Green.

Cllr Williams asked for authorisation to investigate and purchase a suitable building. Cllrs **resolved** to accept his request.

60/2024 Date of Next Parish Council Meetings: Wednesday 8th January 2025