

**MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at the Village Hall**  
**Withington, at 7.00 PM**

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr Glenys Webb, Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer, Cllr Catherine Boyce, Cllr Alex Barrell, Cllr Nicky Lowe, Cllr David Craig and County Cllr, Paul Hodgkinson the Clerk/RFO and 12 members of the public, including the Deputy Area Highways Manager Mr D Tiffney and Mr Bartlett and Mr Godhenman of Thames Water.
2. **APOLOGIES:**, Cllr David Miles, District Councillor Robin Hughes
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. Cllr Brenninkmeijer with Planning of the Old Rectory.**
4. **MINUTES of the Meetings** held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were circulated prior to the meeting to Councillor's.

**Progress report and comments on the meeting held: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**5. Thames Water presentation on Upgrade to the Water Main and traffic plan**

Mr Bartlett Senior Project Manager for Thames Water and Mr Godmenan presented to the meeting how the new pipeline and watermain works will be achieved. This included the impact this will have on the village – the route was discussed that will run through the village. The pressure of the water is currently very high when it gets to Harnham Lane and this will hopefully be addressed with the new pipeline. Mr Bartlett went through the process and the environmental issues. The road at Compton Rise will need to be closed for a section of approximately 120 meters. Once the work has been carried out in Harnham Lane they will move to Kings Head Lane. As this road is narrow it will need to be closed for a couple of weeks.

Question on Harnham lane pressure - currently very poor, it was updated that currently as the pressure is so high each house has a PRV (Pressure reducing valve), which is a regulator. It could be looked at but the new pipeline will resolve this and there will be better pressure going forward.

Harnham Lane work – each house will have a pit outside their homes of 1x1 meter for a pipe to be fed through, this is a smaller and will solve the pressure problems.

**Timelines and Road Traffic** plans are currently effected by the works to the Mill Inn.

Thames Water are hoping to start work on the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb to mobilise the site compound just off Compton Rise, in a field, they will use the field for storage of pipework with work estimated to start around the 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. There was a discussion on the building works at the Mill Inn as they have not finished their work. It was updated that Compton Rise road will be closed around mid-March. For about a week and then Kings Head lane, will also need a road closure from the 14<sup>th</sup> June until 21<sup>st</sup> June. They are hoping this section will be completed by the 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The works to Harnham Lane junction will be a 3 way traffic lights and the road will not be completely closed but they will need to be there from 30<sup>th</sup> March to around 5<sup>th</sup> May . These are estimated plans which are currently on hold because of Mill Inn works.

Cllr Webb said she has received a letter from Mrs Guinn about the compound letter she has received from Mr David Peake she is very distressed by it. She has tried a few numbers to get in touch with the contactor, but no one is responding to her. She cannot attend tonight as she is sheltering but feels the compound is too close to her home. Cllr Webb asked if someone can contact her and put her mind at rest. Mr Bartlett said the land owners had requested that position in the field it was their least favourable. He said they will look to put it to one side of the field. He said the cabins are not the closest thing in the compound to the house but will try to minimise disruption and will only be working until 18.00 in the evening and 19.00 at the latest. Copy of the letter was given to Mr Bartlett with objections. It was suggested that if they have a diagram it could be shown to the lady concerned so that she is aware where the things will be placed in the compound. Mr Bartlett agreed to do this, Cllr Webb also asked that if there are any changes she will also be included in the communications so that she aware.

Cllr Webb raised an issue that a temporary road restriction has come into the Clerk this week – from Compton Rise to High Street – 6<sup>th</sup> January continues 18 months road closure, they are not sure where it has come from, this was to Mr Tiffney, who will look into it. Mr Tiffney updated that he thinks it is to do with Ash Dieback tree works. But later updated that it is actually a duplicate order related to the work on the pub. It is now null and void and has been superseded by a more recent order. He said there are no more closures or disruption planned for the village - except for when Thames Water arrive.

Mr Tiffney also updated that the Mill Inn have not asked for an extension yet to the road closure that is in place at the other end of Withington. Mr Tiffney asked if the village would like a rest between road closures or should the Water main work start as soon as possible. The consensus was that the Mill Inn is not progressing very fast and have only just submitted a planning application for the new works (on the Agenda for this meeting). Thames Water said that the Water Main is working under pressure and it regularly bursts at Harnham Lane. They said they are very aware how important this is, due to pipe pressure the longer this goes on the more often it is likely to burst with all the disruptions this causes.

It was agreed that the residence are desperate for new water main and the Mill Inn has no urgency. It was felt that the village should not suffer due to the incompetence of contractors endlessly renewing a closed road permission to block a road for only the Mill Inns benefit.

The Water Main work is much more important to the village, Mr Tiffany took this information on board and said they will take this into account and as soon as Thames Water have the go ahead the village is happy for them to get on with the work. It was agreed that the village will not be happy to shut both ends of the village at once and so the Mill Inn has to finish by the end of May. Beyond this date Thames Water can not get on with their work, emergency vehicles will not be able to get into the village and ecological constraints must be taken into account to consider birds and animals at that time of year. Mr Tiffney was asked to put pressure on the Mill Inn because of these factors.

## **6. Matters Arising**

Response from Mr Clifton-Brown that our letter has been passed onto Kemi Badenoch MP, as the Minister responsible for Local Government Policy, Finance and Improvement, and ask for the Government's response to the points you make.

Football nets are now up, six aside net up as well, Cllr Craig updated that he had co-opted help to put the nets up but that they do not have a lot of life left in the.

## **7. Planning application and updated:**

### **The Mill Inn**

Repairs and refurbishment to roof. Renew the existing stone roof tiles. New lime render to 3 no. small dormer gables. Install new Welsh roof slates to small rear roof. Rebuild 3 no. chimney stacks.

After discussion the Parish Council agreed they would support the Planning Application

On the proposed Elevation plan - it states that the roof will be replaced with Cotswold stone slate and just below that roof is another roof which is covered in Welsh slate and will be replaced with Welsh slate, the PC discussed this and felt that as it is going to be replaced it should all be replaced with Cotswold stone slate, this part of the building was a later addition. It was felt that the whole roof should be the same material and in keeping with the rest of the building and so replaced with Cotswold stone slate on the entire roof.

Voted – Unanimous.

### **Meadowside (Land Adjacent to Willowside Farm) Withington Gloucestershire**

Creation of 5 residential dwellings (part change of use and part demolition and redevelopment) - Variation of Condition 2 (drawing numbers) of permission 21/01145/FUL to enable partial demolition and re-building of roadside barns

After discussion it was updated that the structure is not as sound as they had hoped. Since planning was permitted the building has deteriorated and cannot now be converted as they had first expected. It was agreed that from the first survey to this variation it has deteriorated very fast this was discussed. The Council had concerns that this had not been picked up earlier, and the suddenness to the deterioration. There was also concern that the name Meadowside is still being used and this name already exists within the village.

No other comments PC support this latest application

### **The Old Rectory Withington Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 4BG**

Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer reported an interest in this application.

Erection of two-storey extension to the north elevation and associated works

The Parish Council support this application - it has been sympathetically planned, and uses traditional materials. The owner has taken time to consult with historic England. New extension will be built on part of the site that had a previous building from 1870, as the building has had many changes they will not try to replicate that building, the advantage to this is that the points of entry had already existed. The Church Warden has spoken to Cllr Webb and they have no objections. Parish Council is in favour of the planning application.

### **2 Woodview Cottage Chedworth Road Withington Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 4BN**

Erection of new dwelling and garage along with associated infrastructure - Variation of Condition 2 (drawings) of permission 21/00130/FUL to enable creation of a separate vehicular access

The Parish Council object to this application on the following grounds:

The splay requirements are not fulfilled

The proposed entrance is on a blind dip

It is the only passing place on the hill

It is on the brow of the hill

It is a dangerous place to put an entrance

**Action for the Clerk to respond to Cotswold District Planning on the above.**

## **8. Budget Setting and Precept for 2022**

Projection of accounts for the budget for next year was presented to the Parish Council.

There have been a lot of ups and downs due to the covid pandemic.

There is a Deficit on the accounts of £471 with an assumption that we raise the Precept this year. The reason we need to do this was discussed. We increased the precept in 2008/09 and in 2009/10. But then it was not raised for over 10 years, this was a conscious decision not to increase but to bring down the reserves that the Council holds from 2 years expenditure to 1 years. Last year due to the situation of Covid and Furlow it was also agreed to hold it. But If it had been increased by 2% a year we would be in a position of having £5000 more in the budget. By not rising it for so long we now have to do something to prevent the reserve from falling further and to achieve budget balance. It was agreed, that we need to do something.

It was suggested that we should increase this years precept by 3% + £200 to start to build income. Because of the Defib increase in cost, grass cutting payments it mean costs are on the rise, we have also build in £100 to move the Councils IT forward and the Parish Council has agreed to purchase its own laptop for the clerk and updated software this has not being built into this years budget.

The Council discussed the level of Precept it was suggested a rise from £4170 to £4500 as it has not been raised for more than 10 years. The Parish Council cannot keep diminishing the reserves and reluctantly the precept will need to be increased. The Council agreed to this suggestion.

The Council thanked Simon Green for all his hard work on the budget.

Cllr Boyce – asked about an e-mail she had seen about CDC starting to look at charging Parish Councils for contested elections – Currently this is still in discussion but as soon as there is more information it will be brought to a future meeting. It may be on the horizon

**9. Website Project** – Progress has been made and was updated by Cllr Brenninkmeijer who has seen the structure of the website. They are looking at the following:

Host page and introduction to Withington with local view of the village,

A page for notices,

When meetings are happening, Agendas - this can be updated individually,

Who the Council members are - list of names, and contact details.

History page, which will incorporate Foxcote

Services and amenities such as pub opening times, bus timetable and routes and walking routes

A page on Council's policies and documents – we need to decide what this will cover but it could incorporate hybrid meetings and explanations on how the precept was agreed and how the budget is worked out.

## Minutes and Meetings

A gallery of images

The next stage is to build the pages themselves and it should be available by the end of February, at the beginning of March it should be available for the Parish Council to look at before it goes live. Cllr Boyce asked that links to planning are incorporated. Cllr Webb asked about the laptop. Cllr Brenninkmeijer said that this is the first priority, and we will look at the laptop once this has been finalised.

**10. Vacancy for Councillor** – It was updated that we have filled both of our vacancies for new Councillors, and Cllr Webb welcomed Cllr David Craig and Cllr Alex Barrell.

## 11. Finance

Cheques were raised for the following:

- Clerks' salary for October and November for 37 hours £334.48
- Community Heartbeat Invoice for Annual Support of the Defib £151.20
- Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association £50.00

Cllr Brenninkmeijer signed the bank statement spreadsheet

## 11. Update from County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

Public Health situation – in terms of Gloucestershire – case numbers are not the highest in UK but the highest they have ever been. However, last week hospital numbers are quite low, there were about 120 in hospital, in the peak of the pandemic there were around 250 people in hospital in Gloucestershire and so that is half the amount last year. Whilst case numbers locally are still at very high levels, in the Cotswolds they are starting to come down a little. It's too early to say whether this will continue but there is certainly hope that we have now reached a peak.

**Vaccinations**, in Gloucestershire has reached 80% of those aged over 16.

**CC Budget** - Next month the County Council will be setting their budget, the administration's proposal they are putting forward is to increase the current budget by 2.99% so likely to be the figure agreed.

## 13 Any Other Business

The Clerk has received an e-mail from Ben Shurmer who is the Bromford neighborhood coach for Andoversford and has asked to come to a meeting to share some views of some of the residents in the area on the need for improvements to the facilities in the area for young people. I would like to know if there are any plans on improvements, or if there is the possibility to access funding or grants. He said there has been recent tension in the area and he wanted to come along to the meeting. He said some parents felt unwelcome in the cricket grounds, there have been complaints about a den that was built. (may have been built in the woods on private property) he said there is nowhere to ride their bikes and asked

if there are any current plans to improve facilities. He will try to come along to the next meeting.

Cllr Webb updated that she has had a letter from Sport England on the septic tank. We provided some information to them on invoices and we may received a rebate on the grant.

**14. Date of the next meetings:**

The following meeting after that will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

AGM meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 19.00

**Meeting closed at 21.15**