

MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 21st July 2021 at the Village Hall Withington, at
7.00 PM

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr Glenys Webb, Cllr Mavis Lady Dunrossil, Cllr Nicky Lowe, Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer, Cllr Catherine Boyce the Clerk/RFO and 5 members of the public
2. **APOLOGIES:.** Cllr Jane Gibbs, District Councillor Robin Hughes, County Cllr, Paul Hodgkinson
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. None**
4. **MINUTES of the Meetings** held on the 6th May 2021 were circulated prior to the meeting to Councillor's; The clerk updated them to include Cllr Boyce's attendance at the meeting and that the planning referred to the Rectory not the Old Rectory. They were agreed as a true and accurate record and will be signed when we meet in person.

Progress report and comments on the meeting held: 21st July 2021

5. Matters Arising

5a Kings Head , there has not been an update on this planning but it has been permitted.

5b Update on Filming – the School received £200.00 and the Parish Council Received £500.00 it was agreed that the money would be used to update the website which would be of use to the whole village.

5c 21/01169/AGFO - Agricultural Barn for fodder machinery storage at land parcel off Withington to Cassey Compton Road. There was some confusion with this as it was removed from the website when the clerk went to add comments it turned out that as it was an agricultural barn it did not need permission from the Parish Council and so it has been passed.

5d Cllr Webb updated on the issue of dog waste bins CDC suggested using the bin at The Mill Inn which can also be used for dog waste. Cllr Webb said that villagers may not know they can use it and asked the Clerk to go back to CDC to ask if they can have stickers to put on it to inform users of this.

6. Planning application and updated

Clerk updated that she has not receive any planning in since the 6th June. Looking at the website she has picked up a number of tree works as follows

21/02310/TCONR Avecote Kings Head Lane removal of Hazel tree and Ash Die back.

20/03130/FUL now 21/02053 - Land Parcel Hill View permit

20/04361/FUL Non Material Amendment to permission 28th May fenestration alterations and installation of a flue conversion of barn to form 1 detected new dwelling Shornhill farm

21/02187/TCONR Coppicing two deadwood large sycamores and one lime tree at Daffodil House.

7. Website project – Cllr Brenninkmeijer has sent out a proposal for improving the website and the procurement of a laptop. It was agreed to update the website first, the clerk wrote to James Mander but the letter asked to confirm costs but was not clear enough that the Parish Council wanted him to proceed with the website. The Clerk will confirm that Mr Mander can start work on the website.

8. Update on Osborne and Rich

Cllr Dunrossil gave an over view of the charity, she said there is a plaque in the church that tells you about it. It was set up for the poor of the parish to receive coal, later on it was made more flexible to cover sums of money and eventually mainly used to fund Bus travel to school as over 16s use to have to pay for this. That has now changed and so nothing has been paid out for a while. At a meeting of the Parochial church on the 8th October 2020 there was a discussion about the future of the charity and it was agreed to wind the charity up and distribute the remaining fund between the school and the church. The payments were made in January 2021 and The School received £2000 and the church £575. A question was asked that the Charities Commission have been informed that the charity has closed and Cllr Lowe confirmed that the letter does state that.

9. Councillor Vacancy

Cllr Lowe said that she had been approached by Alex Barrell who would potentially like to become a Councillor again. Cllr Webb thanked Cllr Lowe and asked her to thank him but a potential candidate who has been in touch with the council formally was at the meeting tonight. There had been 2 formal applications but Mr O Smith had decided not to continue at this point due to commitments at home. It was agreed to pursue the candidate at the meeting. Mr Miles told the council about his back ground and there was a discussion. Mr Miles was formally approved by the Council and the Clerk gave Mr Miles to forms to fill out to sign at his first meeting which will be held in September.

10. Finance

Cheques were raised for the following:

Clerks salary for March and April for 55 hours due to the Audit work and a planning meeting and a regular meeting in both months. £497.20.

There was a discussion on the HMRC payment as Cllr Webb has received a letter from them saying that there is a credit on the account and that after checking payment submission deduct the credit amount from the next payment. Cllr Webb said she is not sure what to do and after discussion it was agreed by the Council not to pay the HMRC amount until the credit quoted is reached. HMRC payment £0

Play Area grass cutting paid for by Cllr Webb to Andy Cox. Information/invoice received from the last payment. There were 2 further invoices to pay for cutting the grass around the play area and grass cutting the village green. 1 cheque was raised to cover both invoices of £37.50 and £20.00. The cheque to be raised to Mr P Webb, it was agreed that going forward Mr Cox should send all invoices to the Clerk to arrange payment as it is not proper that the Chairman should be paying for these and claiming it back.

Insurance is up for renewal and the letter set out two options, one included a long term agreement of 3 Years and included a discount at £404.32 the other did not tie the council in but cost £425.62. the clerk was asked for last years figure which she has added retrospectively of £463.25 for 2020. After discussion the council agreed to take the 3 year agreement.

11. Update from County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

Covid - The Covid rate is up, hospitalisations stable. The rate of positive cases in the Cotswolds has gone up significantly recently to their highest level since January. However, hospitalisations and deaths from covid are still low in Gloucestershire, so this is something to watch closely over the next few weeks. If the link between infections and serious illness can be kept at bay we will be in a much better place than previously.

Vaccinations – over 90% of adults in Gloucestershire have received at least one dose of the covid vaccine. Another very good stat is that 73% of the 18-24 year old group have already had the first jab.

Roads - Signs in the village have been cleaned by Highways, Cllr Webb said that the school had written to Cllr Hodgkinson about the state of the road signs in the village and they have been cleaned and replaced in places. We are still waiting for most of the works promised by Highways at the Kilkenny/Foxcote junction as a result of the site meeting we had in February.

A couple of roads in the area are due works: The Whiteway between North Cerney and Chedworth; the road is prone to bad flooding near Rendcomb Airfield and Highways have been trying various solutions to fix it. The latest fix will be happening soon. Gloucester Road, Andoversford will have additional traffic calming this financial year near to the school as a result of excessive speeds from some vehicles and concerns raised by parents and residents. The road takes a lot of traffic as a rat run to and from the A40.

Please also report online any signs which are covered in vegetation or illegible – there are too many of these out there!

Cllr Webb asked if any of the Councillors would like to raise anything Cllr Boyce said that unfortunately another accident has occurred at the Foxcote junctions and residents are concerned about it. They are waiting for Dan Tiffany from Highways to get back to them and will update us as soon as he does. She also said that there have been issues with the rain in Foxcote as it runs down the road and the drainage cannot cope in the village.

12. Correspondence

12a Letter received from Dr Paul Morris Shipton Oliffe response to previous letter of 5th January which was an exploratory letter to ask the opinion of all the parish councils in the Cotswolds. The idea was to reduce from 30 mph to 20 mph. the problem is that it could be expensive and the costs involved at around £10,000 to adopt a lower speed limit. You need a Traffic Regulation Order, and consultation with the local population and

Gloucestershire Police along with new signage. Gloucestershire Highways has estimated the cost at £10,000, putting it beyond the means of most individual villages. The recent letter said that he had received 45 replies most were supportive but the common themes are the cost of £2500 per village that might be needed the frustration with the authorities at achieving anything. His letter has been sent to MP for the Cotswolds and Cllr Paul Hodgkinson and the Gloucestershire highways and the police commissioner. The Parish Council noted the letter.

12b Highways have been in touch with the clerk about Winter Salt. Also to update the details of the parish snow warden, they require, confirmation of our Snow Plough Operator and Snow Wardens. To confirm the information they hold is correct. Your stock of Bagged salt and your request for delivery of new bags before this coming winter - deadline for bagged salt request 13th August - so I can arrange delivery as soon as possible. Also a Winter Actions Plan - do we have one, when was it last updated? Please work with your Local Highways Manager to update this if required or prepare a new plan. This was discussed by the Council Cllr Brenninkmeijer said he is happy to work on the Winter plan. Cllr Boyce asked if the snow warden covers Foxcote. Cllr Brenninkmeijer updated that the snow warden has to liaise with GCC and they advise which roads he must clear first.

Action for the Clerk to pass on the information to Cllr Brenninkmeijer about the winter action plan.

12c The Clerk brought an e-mail from Marsha Llewellyn Communications specialist about filling out a litter survey for Parish And Town Councils. The Clerk went through the questions with the Parish Council and members of the public at the meeting and she will fill it out and return it, quite a lot of the questions were about Litter picking equipment and village clean ups.

Action for the clerk to respond to the survey

12d Consultation about Dog Fouling and the renewal of a public space protection order. From CDC about gaining consultancy with you on a proposal to renew public spaces protection order across CC for a further 3 years with regard to dog fouling. Welcome views or ideas about the renewal order. Agreed agree to continue and also mention dog fouling bins a problem as CDC say they can provide them as no man power to empty them Clerk to respond and point this out.

Action

13 Any Other Business

13a It was updated that a notice has been made by highways to install traffic lights at the Mill Inn for scaffolding to be erected. Since then, Cllr Webb said that they are looking to close the road completely to attend to the roof and the scaffolding needs to come out further and is right on the corner of the building. They are asking for the road to be closed completely for 3 months and villagers are very worried as there are problems with large vehicles getting stuck along Woodbridge lane, which was reported on the local "what's app group", this part of the village is in constant use by these large vehicles and the road is a one way track with only one passing place outside a villagers house and damage has already been done to his gate post due to the congestion. If the road by the Mill Inn is closed it would cause chaos and is the only access from that end of the village to the defib. There is no defib at the Church end and this could be potentially fatal. It was agreed to write to Cllr Hodgkinson to see if he can raise this with highways.

Action for the Clerk to write to Cllr Hodgkinson and for Cllr Webb to send the pictures to the Clerk from the “what’s app” group

13b A member of the public raised a 7 ½- ton, low loader got stuck along Woodbridge lane recently, his sat nav took him through the woods and turned down the lane which has damaged the road and will damage the bridge. He asked if it is possible to have signs put up that the road is not suitable for these vehicles and is a single track road.

Action for the Clerk to add the request for a sign at Woodbridge Lane to stop large vehicles being sent down the road from Withington Woods, by their Sat Nav. Include this in the e-mail to Cllr Hodgkinson, to see if highways can do something about that as well

A member of the public also raised the issue of lorries being sent down Harnham Lane for the Racing Stables, Cllr Lowe said that the Post Code has now been changed which took 6 months to achieve and this should address the problem from now on.

13c Cllr Brenninkmeijer said that he had been looking at the Village “What’s app” group and there are some things on there that the Parish Council could respond to. It would need someone to monitor it and respond on behalf of the Parish Council. His example was the telephone mast recently installed and the discussion on the signal, Cllr Webb said that it was only an emergency mast and so it would not necessarily enhance the signal to villagers. Cllr Brenninkmeijer said it would be a good avenue to disseminate information to the village, it was agreed this may take some time and who would be willing to take this on.

13d A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could continue to hold these meetings on Zoom, as they were well attended by the village and useful. The Clerk said that she had read some information about a hybrid meeting from GAPTC and would look out the information and send it around. Cllr Brenninkmeijer said that if she felt strongly about this she could write to Mr Clifton-Brown our MP as this was a Government decision to return to holding them face to face. Cllr Brenninkmeijer said that he would check that the new computer also has this capability.

Action for the clerk to find out if we can hold Zoom meetings or a hybrid going forward.

Update on GAPTC Website - return to face-to-face council meetings after 6th May confirmed

The regulations that allow local authorities to hold meetings remotely expire on 6th May and from 7th May all councils must return to face-to-face meetings. There was a High Court challenge, supported by NALC, to allow virtual meetings to continue, but this failed and on 28 April it was confirmed that councils must return to holding physical meetings.

Hybrid meetings

GAPTC - have received questions about holding hybrid meetings where councillors can join in remotely if they prefer not to attend in person. Legislation does not allow this, but if you have the technology, councillors can watch but not participate in discussion or vote and the same would go for the public, who could watch but not ask questions in public participation or comment at any other time. (currently not possible as there is no wifi in the Village Hall)

14. Date of the next meetings:

The next meeting will be Held on the 15th September 2021 at 19.00 and 10th November 2021.

Meeting closed at 20.20