

MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 23rd March 2016 AT THE JUBILEE HALL, WITHINGTON AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillors Glenys Webb (Chairman), Cllr Mavis Lady Dunrossil, Cllr Jeremy Theyer, Cllr Jane Bruce, Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer, Cllr Nicky Lowe, Cllr Jane Gibbs, Five members of the public and the Clerk/RFO.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

Absent no apologies received District Councillor Robin Hughes.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:** There were declarations made from Cllr Brenninkmeijer re- 2000 trees and agenda item 6 Planning matters.

3. **MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on the 13th January 2016. Were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

3.1 **Matters Arising - progress report and actions from the previous meetings**

- **Thorndale planning 01/09/2015** issue with the Jockey accommodation, as one does not want to move into the new accommodation they are looking to put an application in to keep one of the caravans on site. **04/1/2015** no update. **13/01/2016** Application is expected for this. Application went to the Feb planning meeting. Cllr Hughes did not attend this meeting and so there was not an update
- Defibrillator - for the Clerk to contact the Brewery and ask if they would permit/consider the Parish Council putting a Defibrillator at the Mill Inn pub.
- The Clerk suggested that she investigate the possibility of using a small company to take over the payroll as she has been made aware of a small company that does this for Parish Council and it is very reasonable.
- Maintenance of the Notice board – Cllr Webb and C.Cllr Hodgekinson met Bromford they said they would come back with a proposal in a couple of weeks, Cllr Webb said that we are no further forward. Their suggestion was to extend parking by taking a part of a garden from a bungalow but this would need to get agreement from the tenant. Cllr Webb also asked about the path and the trees growing through to Harnham Lane houses which are now shooting again she showed them but has as yet nothing has been done.

AGENDA ITEMS

4. **Update from the organisers of 2000 trees**

The meeting welcomed Brendon Herbert and two of his colleagues from the 2000 trees team who gave a presentation to the meeting: BH informed the meeting how the festival had originally started, with a group of friends, with various skills, coming together to put together a small festival. In the first year they had a licence for 2000, the idea was to give everyone a sapling to plant when they left, therefore calling it 2000 trees. However, they discovered it was more expensive than the ticket price so scrapped the sapling idea but kept the name.

The plans they have for the future were explained to the Parish Council, that they hope to expand, they have had discussions with CDC about extending the capacity from, 4799 to 9999 on a phased increase.

They went on to explain how they monitor noise, (last year went into the village at different times of the day and took meter readings). They admitted that there is an increase in traffic but this will be addressed if they get bigger. They are also asking for the main stage to be able to carry on until 11.15 as they currently struggle with after hour's entertainment and are looking to have acoustic guitars after 11.15 which will not be noisy. CDC is broadly supportive and has asked that they make the village aware of their intentions.

Questions were taken from the Parish Council meeting:

It was argued that it is not the bands that cause the noise but the silent disco with people singing at the top of their voices, they said that they had taken readings and were happy the noise level was the same as ambient noise.

There was a discussion about complaints, and that problems which are directed to the neighbourhood services team are not addressed promptly enough as they do not work at the weekend when the festival takes place. It was suggested that there is an issue with complaints not getting to the organisers. If there is any problem it was suggested they talk directly to the organisers through the website or through Shelia Platt.

They were asked how they will manage the traffic for more people coming and going from the venue. They said they are looking at about 500 cars a day during the peak entry flow 12 – 5 on Thursday and then peak Friday 8 – 12. They were asked if a sign could be put up in advance of the festival to warn the village that it is about to take place. They also said that on the Sunday they intend to implement a new traffic team on a full time basis this year giving the priority to the village to keep the traffic flowing through.

CDC has suggested they install a temporary traffic light on the main A road but after discussion it was pointed out this would cause havoc.

Asked - if the weather is bad how will you deal with the state of the roads and the impact of lots of cars coming out on to mud, they said they have signs and the track on the farm is reinforced in case the weather is very wet.

Asked - what the licence this year permits. Music midday to 11pm and 2am on Thursday the proposal is Midday to 2am all 3 days. Conditions are that the main stage is limited to 11.15pm they want an extension to play acoustic music this is by using a small PA system. The sound will be monitored for noise management.

Asked - why is Thurs so late, originally it was only Friday and Saturday but adding a Thursday as a thank you to their fans, and it also makes management easier now it is a mini event.

Asked - Clean-up what time is allow to do this? They responded that they allow as long as it takes, contractor comes in and do this for them.

Asked - When are they hoping to start increasing numbers, this year it is hoped, that is the plan.

Asked - How are free tickets distributed, there is a ballot and they give 60 pairs away to people in neighbouring villages.

5. Clean for the Queen – tidy up the village

Clean up was organised by Cllr Theyer, there was a good turn out and thanks were passed onto him for organising it.

6. Planning matters: Pre –application consultation for Withington Estates.

Cllr Brenninkmeijer would like to put an application in again for two Wind Turbines on his estate. He presented packs for everyone to look at and these were discussed, he said that he wanted to ask the Council's opinion before his formal application is sent to the planners at Cotswold District Council. Cllr Brenninkmeijer asked the Parish Council to look at the pre-planning application and asked for feed back and ideas. He took questions from the Parish Council on where it will be sited, if he had contacted anyone who will be affected by the application, the colour of the turbines, the visibility to the village. Cllr Brenninkmeijer went through the packs in detail and explained options, costs involved and conservation to the environment and wildlife.

The Councillors thanked Cllr Brenninkmeijer for his detailed information packs and were happy with all the answers given. Councillors were happy that the turbines are sited in a better position than the last planning application and will be less intrusive to the village. They were happy that all their questions were answered fully and informatively.

7. FINANCE -

Cheques to be agreed by the Council and payments made to the following

Clerks salary	£226.85
HMRC Cheque for	£56.17
Glebe Grass Cutting Contractor	£739.37
GAPTC	£131.14
Wickmedia hosting cost for the website	£36.00
Village Hall donation	£750.00
The Pat Kearney Plaque – to Cllr G Webb	£86.40

All signed by Cllr Webb and Cllr Dunrossil, the cheque for Cllr Webb was signed by Cllr Bruce.

8. Update from County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson (verbal update by the clerk as he is not attending)

The Clerk read out Cllr Hodgkinson's update:

He has chased Bromford for action following the meeting with Cllr Webb on site on 3/2/16. They promised to send confirmation of the next steps by the end of February.

Cllr Hodgkinson has spoken to Mrs Swann (her issue sorted) and to Mr Sherlock about mobile phone coverage.

Re - the difficulty of vehicles passing the Mill Inn – he forwarded an e-mail from Richard Gray on 15/1/16 as he was requesting further information.

9. Update from district Councillor Robin Hughes

Cllr Hughes did not attend.

10. Correspondence

Correspondence from Police with an update on the names of officers in charge of the North Cotswold Neighbourhood policing team, for all non- urgent issues, PCSO Mel Oliveira will be the officer to contact – this was passed to Cllr Brenninkmeijer for information

Correspondence from Rural Gloucestershire asked for a member of the Parish Council to attend an event at Stowell Park, Cllr Dunrossil said she would look into this.

John Hicks and the playground inspection. The clerk updated that he will try to come out the same sort of time as last year and he will also be inspecting the primary school at the same time.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Request for playing field to be used for parking for the open gardens event to raise funds for the church roof. Have been asked by Sue Prout this was discussed and agreed.

Action for Cllr Webb to let the organisers know.

For information, the village fete will be held at Sycamore house which is Cllr Dunrossil house.

There was a lot of discussion about the proposal to consider creating a New Unitary Council based upon the existing boundaries of Cotswold and West Oxfordshire District Councils. This would mean that, if approved by government, all existing County functions currently delivered within the Cotswold District Council area would transfer to the new locally based Unitary Council.

It was agreed a letter would be sent to District Cllr Robin Hughes regarding the unitary authority and that the Council are against it.

Action for the Clerk

Pre-application advice from Mr Wadland re- the purchase of the Kings Head pub and applying for it to be delicensed and turned into a house. The Parish Council was asked for their feedback and opinion. The Parish Council were asked If there is any major objections, the consensus was that they would miss the pub but it had been closed for a year and was not currently viable. There we no objections to this application going to CDC.

12. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGM will be held on 4th May 2016 at 7.30 pm

MEETING CLOSED: 09.30pm