

MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at the Village Hall Withington,
at 7.00 PM

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer, Cllr Catherine Boyce, Cllr Nicky Lowe, Cllr David Craig, Cllr David Miles, District Councillor Robin Hughes the Clerk/RFO and, 1 member of the public.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Glenys Webb, Cllr Alex Barrell & County Cllr, Paul Hodgkinson
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. Cllr Brenninkmeijer and Cllr Lowe with Planning of Northfield Farm**
4. **MINUTES of the Meetings** held on the 12th January 2022 were circulated prior to the meeting to Councillor's.

Progress report and comments on the meeting held: 12th January 2021

5. Matters Arising

Request 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. Update it was agreed that the AGM is not a good meeting invite him along to so the Clerk will invite him to a meeting in after the AGM in May.

CC Budget – Update the County Council increased the current budget by 2.6% no 2.99% as reported at the last meeting.

Charging Parish Councils for elections - The Council has introduced charging for election costs (contested only) an estimate for each area will be available later in the year. Cllr Hughes updated that for 2023, this will be 50% of the cost of a contested election for the parish/town. Details will be sent out to you during September so they can be included in your budget discussions.

The Bill is currently making its way through Parliament. Once enacted, it will bring a number of changes to the election process including the requirement for voters to provide ID at the polling station and when applying for a postal or proxy vote.

More details on the changes will be sent out as they become available.

Clerk updated that there is still a lot of information being sent around as lots of other Parishes are upset about this as they had set their precept when this information came out. Point of principal was discussed especially as District and County Councils are exempt. Agreed wait and see what the outcome is and ask GAPTC what their position is on this.

Precept update – Cllr Brenninkmeijer asked a member of the public to update on a conversation that took place earlier in the evening about the precept rise. Currently Withington precept has come out as 6.1% increase, but the meeting was updated that in Tewkesbury Parish Council the increase is 29% and in Cirencester it is 25%. He asked if there is a cap for Parish Councils on this and Cllr Brenninkmeijer said there is not, which clearly shows this could be a dangerous road to go down.

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 them.

Thames Water – there have been no updates as to the planned work at Withington. Cllr Webb has received an e-mail from the landowner, they are going to use to store equipment.as follows.

requirement now to undertake more detailed environmental surveys. This has come about as a result of the trial holes which were undertaken late last year, which concluded that due to the ground conditions (in particular the underlying geology), the construction method will now likely be an open trench rather than directional drilling as was previously looked at.

The Clerk has contacted Thames Water, Highways and CC Hodgkinson to find out if anyone has any up-to-date information on this. She will continue to find out what is happening and report back to the Council. Highways have not heard anything other than to update that the scaffolding at the Mill Inn is due to come down on Friday 25th March. Cllr Hodgkinson has e-mailed his contact at Thames Water for an update, but nothing has been forthcoming so far. Cllr Brenninkmeijer asked the clerk to contact Thames Water again in a months' time if she has heard nothing so that we can understand what is happening with this.

Planning application and updated:

Updates from previous meeting

Woodview Cottage, Erection of new dwelling and garage along with associated infrastructure - 21/00130/FUL to enable creation of a separate vehicular access- The Parish Council object to this application. This is currently undecided. Cllr Brenninkmeijer asked Cllr Hughes if he had seen the Parish Councils objections, he said CDC will take note only of what County Council highways think as they are guided by them. What the Parish Council think still stands it is a terribly dangerous corner.

Meadowside (Land Adjacent to Willowside Farm) Withington Gloucestershire

Creation of 5 residential dwellings (part change of use and part demolition and redevelopment) - 21/01145/FUL to enable partial demolition and re-building of roadside barns. Update was not available at the time of the meeting including the name. Cllr Brenninkmeijer updated that he hoped that when they come to register the name it will be too similar to others in the village and CDC who run street names will reject it.

Mill Inn works – Cllr Brenninkmeijer updated that it is good news that the scaffolding is coming down and asked if he can put something out on the What's app group. He said it will make a change to put out a good news story. There was a discussion on the internal works which are ongoing and when it may be opened as it could be some time.

New Planning applications:

22/00640/TCNR Works to trees in conservation area for Ash Tree suffering with die back. Fell to ground level at The Old Rectory Withington. (For info only)

22/00605/FUL Full Application for change of use and conversion of agricultural barns to 5 no. residential dwellings at Northfield Farm Withington. No extension to the original footprint. The plans were looked at by the entire council and questions asked, once this was completed, Cllr Lowe & Cllr Brenninkmeijer left the room. The Councillors discussed the application in particular, the impact on the conversation area, the traffic on the North Road, and the style and materials to be used. The size of the buildings was also considered but as

it is outside the village it was not necessarily thought that it would appeal to young families and so the size was not a main consideration. The Councillors were in support of the application but there were concerns about the elevation treatment details of the outside of the buildings as this was not detailed. They would like assurance that they will fit in with the vernacular. They would also like consideration of access for safety reasons taken into account especially from the traffic that uses the North Road.

Cllr Webb had sent in her views of the application although she did not attend the meeting they were read out to the other councillors. they were as follows:

Even though the barns are no longer used for agricultural purposes Cllr Webb has no objection to them being converted to residential units since housing is needed. Her concerns were that the size of the properties are all 4 and 5 bedrooms and smaller units of 2 and 3 bedrooms are needed in the village. Cllr Webb raised her concerns of the extra traffic along the north road and the visibility when exiting the track onto the main road.

The Councillors voted and with the comments highlighted they are in unanimous favour of the application.

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

6. Website Project – Progress has been made and was updated by Cllr Brenninkmeijer who has seen the structure of the website. He updated the meeting with images of what it will look like and the lay out of the Website. Cllr Boyce asked if photos of Foxcote could also be included on the website. Cllr Brenninkmeijer said she should send them to the Clerk who can pass them onto James Mander. He said we just need a few images to give a feel of what the villages are like. One of the main features will be the option to post notices which can be updated by anyone designated and developed by us.

7. Finance

Cheques were raised for the following:

- Wickmedia, Agreement to pay (no cheques available)
- Glebe Grass Cutting £816,32
- Mr A Cox. Stop last cheque and issue new one as he has not received them. (No cheque available) Clerk to notify the bank.
- Clerks' salary for £388.22 HMRC £83.06
- GAPTC £135.63

The clerk also updated that Sports England have repaid us the rest of the grant outstanding of £269.00.

Cllr Brenninkmeijer signed the bank statement spreadsheet

8. Update from County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

Covid - the latest figures show cases rising again following the drop previously. At the time of writing Gloucestershire hospitals have larger numbers of patients with Covid 19 than at any time since January 2021. This is due to waning booster effectiveness for those who had the third jab early and also the dropping of all restrictions in February.

The key message is to take care in crowded spaces and to make sure you are fully vaccinated. The over 75s and those who are extremely vulnerable have already started getting the call for the 4th jab to give them extra protection.

River pollution – a topic close to my heart. As I reported previously, I called for action by the County Council to stop the dumping of raw sewage in our rivers. Water companies are discharging harmful pollutants regularly into local waterways and people are rightly outraged about it.

The County Council has a task group looking at this – I am part of that. So far, we have taken evidence from the water companies, OFWAT, farmers, lobby groups, the Environment Agency and other councils across the UK.

We are due to come up with a set of recommendations in April which will be published shortly afterwards. These will include local and national actions which we believe will help halt the never-ending increase in polluted rivers.

9. Update from District Councillor Robin Hughes

Nothing to update the meeting on.

10. Any Other Business

Road Closure at the Crocodile at Compton Abdale from the 29th March – 20th April to install a new water main installation.

E-mail received on change of Boundary from CDC – “As you know, a Community Governance Review is taking place which is considering the boundaries of your parish. Attached was a map issued to the affected properties today. The consultation is open, and this is therefore also a request for a formal response from your Parish Council. We have been asked to submit views to elections@cotswold.gov.uk or letter to Cotswold District Council at Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX. By the 11 April 2022. The final proposal will be considered by the Council at its meeting on 25 May. If approved, any changes will come into effect at the May 2023 elections.”

Cllr found the information sent was wholly inadequate to make any decision, the map was terrible and did not show any detail. The PC requested more information as the map did not show the existing or new boundary. They asked the Clerk to go back and request an OS map so that they have more information to make a decision on.

Action for the Clerk to request a better map from CDC

E-mail regarding the - Elections Bill Parish/Town Council election costs

As you know, the Council has introduced charging for election costs, and they will be preparing an estimate for each area later in year. For 2023, this will be 50% of the cost of a contested election for the parish/town. Details will be sent out during September so they can be included in your budget discussions. This only applies to contested elections. Where there are equal or fewer candidates than seats on a council, then it would not be contested, and no charge would be made. Contested" is when CDC run an election with polling station, voters poll cards etc.

Closure of roads around Withington including footpath at the Old Rectory

The Clerk brought some information on the closure of the footpath whilst this work is undertaken. There were no concerns raised.

Cllr Webb – Also raised the present for Cllr Dunrossil, from the Parish Council. We had originally thought about a rose bush, but that may not be a good idea as it is still not know where she will be living. It was suggested that a picture may be a good idea. It was updated that she had a presentation from the Church committee, on the 22nd March. Cllr Boyce suggested a digital frame that is set up to show pictures of the village which go automatically from one picture to another. She said we could use some of the pictures from the website. It was agreed to defer this item until the May meeting when we may be in a better position to know what her plans are.

11. Date of the next meetings:

AGM meeting – 11th May 2022 at 19.00

Meeting closed at 20.50