

MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 11th May 2022 at the Village Hall Withington, at
7.00 PM

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr Glenys Webb, Cllr Nicky Lowe, Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer, Cllr Catherine Boyce, Cllr David Craig, Cllr Alex Barrell, Cllr David Miles, County Cllr, Paul Hodgkinson, 2 members of the public, and the Clerk/RFO.
2. **APOLOGIES:** District Councillor Robin Hughes,
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. None**
4. **MINUTES of the Meetings** held on the 23rd March 2022 were circulated prior to the meeting to Councillor's; These were signed by the Chairman.

Progress report and comments on the meeting held: 23rd March 2022

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 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 after the AGM in May.

There was a discussion following the updates from the last meeting from CCllr Hodgkinson on the County Council's task group looking at River pollution which he is a part of. Cllr Lowe said that there had been pollution of the river in Andoversford some 10 years ago which killed all the fish after a fire at the industrial site and the river has never recovered. She said she has been made aware that there are still issues with chemicals and the river could still be, being polluted. CCllr Hodgkinson said that he would speak to the environment agency to see if they have been monitoring it, he also suggested that councillors speak to the land owners that own parts of the river in question, he said that 10 years on something should have been done about this. Unfortunately, pollution in our rivers is happening all over the country and there isn't a single river that has bathing status.

Further Action 01/11/05/22 the Clerk to write to the environment agency to see if they are monitoring the river.

Further Action 02/11/06/22 for Cllr Lowe to investigate further rumours that chemicals are still being dumped in the river.

Charging Parish Councils for elections - there has been no further update on this. Cllr Webb said that in all the time she has been on the Parish Council she has not known a contested election. CDC are introducing a charge for elections Cllr Hodgkinson said he understands this is happening every where not just with CDC. Cllr Craig asked what the costs consists of? this was discussed and it will include things like the venue the voting papers, 2 members of staff to man the election office, it was agreed it can be quite an expensive exercise.

Road Closures - It was updated that we have still been receiving confusing updates from Highways on the position of Thames Water and keep receiving notifications that they will be closing roads around Withington which are all to do with the work Thames Water were going to carry out and which is still on hold. Cllr Hodgkinson has a meeting with Dan Tiffney in a few weeks time and will put the issues to him, if the clerk can send him the Parish Councils queries.

Further Action 03/11/05/22 for the Clerk to e-mail Cllr Hodgkinson and update him on all the confusing e-mails, they are still receiving and the lack of information received from Highways.

E-mail received on change of Boundary from CDC – This came out of the Community Governance Review and Withington PC were asked to consider a change of boundary. The Clerk went back to CDC and asked for better information, which was circulated, we were chased for comments and the Clerk responded that she had not received any. The proposed change to the Coberley/Withington boundary was considered by the Council – the proposal was to bring the property known as Needlehole from Withington into Coberley – this was formally agreed.

Cllr Webb – updated that she has still not heard what is happening to Cllr Dunrossil, this was in respect of a gift for all her service on the Parish Council. Cllr Lowe said she would make some enquires with Jane Bruce and let us know.

6. Planning application and updated

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 as it is on a really dangerous corner. It was updated that the CDC will only take information from highways as they are guided by them. **11/05/2022** the Clerk updated that this has been approved – the Parish Council are very disappointed in Highways as it appears that every application that their opinion is required, they seem to have no objection and it is like a table top exercise to them. The PC agreed that highways have surely not visited the site as it is on a dangerous corner. They asked if this is something Cllr Hodgkinson could raise with them, he said he has raised this with them and agreed he does not think that they have visited the site in question. It was agreed the PC cannot do anything, but agreed, it is an accident waiting to happen. The Parish Council feel they are being ignored when it comes to their objection to planning matter like this and It was felt that Highways are not doing adequate research. It was agreed that before we go back and complain, Cllr Brenninkmeijer suggested that we look at the information provided in the application to make sure it is correct before we ask Cllr Hodgkinson to take this up with Highways. Cllr Brenninkmeijer will look at the distances provided to Highways to make sure they are correct before we take this further.

Mill Inn works . 21/04511/LBC – the Clerk has received an update from Eleanor Ward, Senior Conservation & Design Officer – It has been noted that the Withington Parish Council support the proposals included in the application I realised that I had not responded to the question in their initial comments in regard to the use of blue natural slates to the rear lean-to. Please find below my explanation as to why this material is retained in the application and not replaced with natural Cotswold stone slate.

Although natural Cotswold stone slate is strongly characteristic roofing material of many of the historic buildings in the district, Welsh Slate also became prevalent due to the industrial revolution in the C18th and C19th. As the lean-to element of the building is later than the main building forms, appearing to date to the C19th the use of Welsh slate for this lower subsidiary form is common of its date and aids in the understanding of the historic development of the listed building and as such forms a part of its special character. The roof of the lean-to was already clad in natural blue slate and as such, and due to the reasoning above, its re-use to this element of the building is considered acceptable in my professional view.

7. Finance

Cheques were raised for the following:

Wickmedia – Invoice 7521 £36.00 Cllr Brenninkmeijer to ask Mr Mander to cash his cheques.

Clerks Salary – Feb 22 – March 22 - £248.60

HMRC - £62.15

Community First Insurance - £404.34

Withington Village Hall Committee - £750.00

Following the change of Finance Officer to Cllr Alex Barrell – Cllr Brenninkmeijer will go through the signing of the bank sheet.

It was discussed that it would be good to have another signatory for the Parish Council now that Cllr Dunrossil has retired. Cllr Brenninkmeijer will take on this and the Clerk will look at the forms needed to do this.

8. Update County Councillor

Tour of Britain is going to be coming through the area in September, the white way will be resurfaced with the worst areas being around North Cerney and Chedworth. He is looking to escalate this area with Highways

A417 Missing Link. The contract for construction of the new dual carriageway (to replace the bit of single carriageway around the Air Balloon) has been awarded to Kier. Subject to final consent being given by the Secretary of State for Transport, the new road will start being built in early 2023 which is now getting close.

Road safety fund. At a recent county council meeting a greater focus on road safety following the death of 6 people on our area's roads just this year alone. The Council has just launched a fund for parish and town councils to dip into in order to promote safer highways. It can go towards things like signage, road markings and equipment for Community Speedwatch groups.

9. Any Other Business

Bus Shelter Guttering was discussed, as it is not fit for purpose as there is no down pipe. Cllr Miles said he will look to see if it can be renovated. Cllr Webb said if there is anything that can be done, to let us know the costs as the Parish Council will look to fund this as we have a repairs budget but will need receipts.

Action 04/11/05/22 for Cllr Miles to look at the renovations and costs and report back.

Date of the next meetings:

The next meeting will be in July 2022

Meeting closed at 20.45