

MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 15th September 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, Cllr Jane Gibbs, District Councillor Robin Hughes the Clerk/RFO and 2 members of the public
2. **APOLOGIES:** County Cllr, Paul Hodgkinson
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. None**
4. **MINUTES of the Meetings** held on the 21st July 2021 were circulated prior to the meeting to Councillor's.

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

5. Matters Arising

Action Winter Actions Plan your Local Highways Manager to update and prepare a plan if required. Cllr Brenninkmeijer said he is happy to work on the Winter plan. for the Clerk to pass on the information. Actioned and Closed

Action Lorries using Woodbridge Lane for access into the village - 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. Actioned:- Highways have agreed to put a sign up for no lorries to enter Woodbridge lane.

Resignation of Cllr Lady Mavis Dunrossil and Cllr Jane Gibbs. It was updated that since the last meeting, Cllr Gibbs has sent her resignation to the Chairman and Clerk, and Cllr Mavis Lady Dunrossil is moving away and so she has also resigned. This was discussed and the Chairman passed on thanks to Cllr Jane Gibbs who has been on the council for 4 years. Cllr Dunrossill has been on the Council for at least 40 years and this was discussed. The Chairman passed on the Councils thanks to her for her incredible service to the community and agreed she will be greatly missed.

On a positive note it was updated that at the last meeting Alex Barrel had shown interest in become a councillor and it had been noted that if any vacancies arose the council would get back in touch with him. He attended the meeting and so the Council voted and agreed unanimously to co-op Alex Barrel to the Parish Council. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact Mr Owen Smith again and asked if he would reconsider his original application to join the council as there will be a vacancy after Xmas.

6. Planning application and updated

21/01145/FUL Full Application for Creation of 5 residential dwellings, (part change of use and part demolition and redevelopment) at Meadowside (Land Adjacent To Willowside Farm)

Clerk updated that she has received notification today that the above planning application has been granted. This was discussed, Cllr Hughes said that although it was disappointing the planning officer who worked on the application was the most experienced at CDC and would have been very thorough in his examination of all the facts.

21/03240/FUL Erection of an outbuilding for use as a studio at the Cabin Woodbridge Lane – This was discussed and the Parish Council have concerns that this Studio should not be residential and it should be stated on the planning form that it is for non residential purposes only. This should not be treated as a separate residential unit and if planning is granted the Parish Council request that it is conditioned for non residential use only.

They have concerns that this is the first step to becoming residential.

21/02879/FUL - Full Application for Erection of two storey rear extension at 6 High Street Withington, this was discussed and there were no objections to this application.

7. Road Closures in Withington

The Road Closure at the Mill Inn was discussed at the last meeting and that a notice has been made by highways to install traffic lights for scaffolding to be erected. Since the original notice it has been updated to completely close the road for 3 months as they need to attend to the roof and the scaffolding needs to come out further and is right on the corner of the building. The closure has been notified to take place from the 11th October – 3rd of January. Cllr Hodgkinson has been chasing this up with the Street works team and the Highways manager, the Clerk had sent him information from the last meeting which also highlighted the concerns of traffic using Woodbridge Lane as a short cut and getting stuck along the road.

It has been agreed by Highways to place new signage at the beginning of Woodbridge Lane but the Council felt very strongly about the disruption to the village for such a long period of time. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Highways Manager Dan Tiffney and ask him to meet with the Council to look at all options and for the Councils concerns to be raised to them once again.

The letter was to include the following:

- The chaos it will cause in the village,
- Access from that end of the village to the defib.
- The length of time the road will be completely shut,
- To stress that the Parish Council is appalled that the only solution offered will disrupt the entire villages and business for 3 months.
- What other solution for pedestrian access are proposed - the Clerk to ask how children are going to get to the school,
- To highlight the access to Emergency Services vehicles.
- To highlight why single file traffic has not been looked at, as this road closure will affect the whole village and cut it in half, it is the only arterial road through the village and the only access for one end of the village.
- To stress that it is unacceptable that this will also continue over the Christmas period. To highlight that Cllrs felt this was only taking into consideration the needs of the Pub and not the village as a whole,
- To ask what evidence is there that the Mill Inn has looked at alternative solutions to dealing with the roof repairs.
- Also to include the problems the village is having with the access to Woodbridge Lane.

The Parish Council asked that the Highways manager come out and discuss this issue face to face with members of the council on how the decision has been reached and to ask that a more sensible solution to meet everyone's needs and keep the village open to be discussed.

Action 1 15 /09/2021 for

the Clerk to send a letter to Mr Tiffany at Highways

8. Website project – Cllr Brenninkmeijer has spoken to James Mander

There was an update from the clerk who has had computer problems over the last month and so she has had to buy another laptop, as the old one could no longer cope especially with all the zoom meetings that took place at the beginning of the year. There was then a problem with transferring the e-mails across as they are still using a Pop setting which is very old and was difficult to achieve. It was therefore requested that the e-mail is updated as soon as possible as it is using a very old system and needs to be updated to a cloud based Microsoft 365 system as a matter of urgency this was discussed but no agreement was reached at that meeting the Clerk will contact James Mander to discuss the process further and to obtain the costs involved.

9. Finance

The Clerk brought an update on this year's Audit process, due to Covid last year and the time it took getting the meetings on line we did not manage to complete the audit within the timeframes stated but this was due to unprecedented world pandemic. Because of this we were fined by the company PFK little john but we did fill out the paperwork later in the year when we were able to. However this was not internally audited due to visiting people's homes and lock down. The Audit was carried out as normal this year with an internal auditor carrying out the work required and the Council completed within the timescales. However, the external auditors have written to say we did not comply with last year's Audit and so we cannot exempt our small parish from a full Audit. Which meant more work answering questions from them and a full audit taking place. (they found nothing wrong with the finances) it was felt this was to justify the £240 fee they have now sent us on completion of the work. The Councillors were appalled that this was done and ask the Clerk to write to the Local MP to raise the issue that we were given no allowances for a global pandemic, no flexibility as we could not lawfully meet the usual timescales and the situation was unprecedented.

Action 2 15/01/2021 or the Clerk to write to GAPTC and Mr Clifton Brown

Cheques were raised for the following:

- Clerks salary for June and July for 31.5 hours due to additional Audit work £340.76
- No payment to HMRC
- Wickmedia £36.00
- Village Hall committee have requested a donation to the village hall of £750.00 – The Clerk will send with a letter.
- Play Area grass cutting there was another invoice from Andy Cox which the chairman had paid and so a cheque will be raised to cover that. Cllr Webb said she will pass on that Mr Cox should now be sending his invoices direct to the Clerk in future as agreed at the last meeting. £37.50

Cllr Brenninkmeijer signed the bank statement spreadsheet

11. Update from District Councillor Robin Hughes

Nothing to update

12. Correspondence

Information from GAPTC on training new Councillors this was passed onto Cllr Boyce and for the Clerk to also send Cllr Miles a copy.

Action 3 15/09/2021 for the clerk to send Mr Miles the GAPTC information on training

The Clerk has received an e-mail from Mrs Sue Humm regarding the signage to Brassington Gardens – Mrs Humm, wrote on behalf of her mother who lives at 8 Brassington Gardens in Withington. Who receives mail and deliveries which are intended for number 8 Compton Rise, wrongly delivered to her door instead. The reason for this is because there is no street name plate on the way into Brassington Gardens, which is a cul-de-sac leading from Compton Rise. There is a street name plate at the beginning of Compton Rise which says 'Compton Rise, leading to Brassington Gardens', but this isn't sufficient as there isn't another street name plate after that to indicate when you enter Brassington Gardens. She has concerns about the emergency services being called as the majority of people who live in that culde sac are elderly and they may have a problems locating them. The Clerk will write to highways and ask for a street name to be put on the Brassington Gardens entrance.

Action 4 15/09/2021 The Clerk to write to Highways for a street name to be placed at Brassington Gardens entrance.

13 Any Other Business

The Clerk was asked to contact the Church and ask them to put the Clock right as it is 6 or 7 minutes slow and the Parish Council ask that it is put to the correct time

Action 5 15/09/2021 for the Clerk to speak to the Tower Captain about the clock

Cllr Brenninkmeijer raised an issue with the new EE Telecom tower, as it is running on a generator which is supplying power 24 hours a day. In the planning permission details it said it would be connected to the mains electricity which is only 10 metres from the complex, the tower was installed back in May so it is nearly five months ago. The landowner has given permission for SSE to connect it up but nothing has happened yet. It was updated that the generator produces huge quantities of diesel fumes which are highly toxic to everyone/everything as the smoke being emitted is not filtered/cleaned by any exhaust system unlike most cars. It was agreed that the problem from the health point of view is the emitting of diesel fine particles called PM2.5 and Nitrogen Dioxide/black carbon which can cause serious health problems and indeed death, the generator at Compton Hill spews out many times the UK limit of these poisonous gases, so any passer byers on the road close to the tower will be exposed and as many walkers/bikers go up and down the hill they are being unwittingly put in danger of their health, not to mention the damage to the environment and wildlife.

The councillors agreed we would write to EE telecom who own the sight expressing our serious concerns and asking why the complex still has not been connected up to the electricity mains.

Action 6 15/09/2021 for the Clerk to write to EE about the issue of emissions

14. Date of the next meetings:

The next meeting will be held on the 10th November 2021.

Meeting closed at 21.00