

**MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the Village Hall Withington, at 19.00hrs**

**PRESENT:** Cllr David Craig, Cllr Glenys Webb, Cllr Catherine Boyce, Cllr Mike Viney, Cllr Nicky Lowe, Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer and one member of the public

**APOLOGIES,** Cllr Alex Barrell, Parish Clerk, County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, District Councillor Jeremy Theyer

Topic	Item	Discussion	Next Actions & Date
<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rules as to Declarations of Interest were reviewed</li> <li>No Councillors voiced any Declarations of Interest</li> </ul>	
<b>Minutes</b>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Minutes</b> – Approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the council meeting held on Wednesday 8 January 2025</li> </ul>	
<b>Questions from the Public not Appearing on the Agenda</b>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Noise from piling works at Halewell:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The noise is loud, repetitive and of long duration during the day</li> <li>The steel sheets being used to shore up the river are high above the river bank itself at the moment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise from piling works at Halewell – BB to make a complaint to CDC as no notification of this work or its noise consequences were shared with the Parish Council</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Updates &amp; Applications</b>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>25/00256/FUL Cherry Tree House</b> – Unanimous objection of the design not the location of the replacement all tank at Cherry Tree House. The new oil tank will be visible above the height of the wall and a flatter, less high oil tank with the same capacity can easily be found</li> <li><b>25/00313/FUL 1 &amp; 2 Northfield Cottages</b> – Unanimous approval of the new shed to house pump and filtration systems for 1 &amp; 2 Northfield Cottage</li> <li><b>25/00398/TCON The Close</b> – Unanimous approval of reduction in height of Lawson cypress trees at The Close</li> <li><b>25/00521/TCNOR The Garden House</b> – Unanimous approval of reduction in height of caps juniper tree at The Garden House</li> </ul>	
<b>Playing Field Update</b>	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Playing Fields:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The play equipment passed its inspection</li> <li>The equipment requires some TLC, painting and cleaning</li> <li>The Parish Council together with Residents to develop what the play area needs to look like in future</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MV – To set out what maintenance works are required for the play equipment for approval in May Meeting</li> <li>DC – To share the recommendations from the Working Group</li> </ul>
<b>Asset Audit</b>	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreement that a register of Parish assets is required and condition reviewed according to need. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A number of items were identified, including the bus shelter, play equipment and field (excluding the pavilion), defibrillators, noticeboard, phone box, gates, salt bins, computer.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Further investigatory work was currently underway to clarify the ownership of the Village Green.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DC – To prepare an asset register of all assets owned by the Parish</li> <li>Councillors agree schedule to photograph and report on the location of all grit bins in the village and record in the asset register</li> </ul>
<b>Finance</b>	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Invoices</b> were approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GAPTC – £152.09</li> <li>Glebe Contractors – £882.85</li> <li>P1 (Playing Field Inspection) – £141.00</li> <li>Sue Hughes – £462.60</li> <li>Wickmedia – £29.00</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>All future invoices</b> are to be sent by email only to the Parish Clerk</li> <li>The Clerk had submitted Parish Council Budget proposals to the Council. Response awaited.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification of requirement to submit emailed invoices to accompany Payments</li> <li>Village Hall Donation – The Bookkeeper to investigate the repayment amount</li> </ul>

<b>River Coln Update</b>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>River Coln Group:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Harvey Sherwood who was instrumental in presenting the case of the river to Thames Water and Ofwat has decided to move on</li> <li>○ 38 River Guardians have been recruited to cover 28 locations where water sampling and riverbank walking will be undertaken covering the length of the river from Charlton Abbots to Fulford</li> <li>○ Training will take place once the testing kits have been delivered</li> <li>○ Matthew Young has offered to assist with digital mapping and data analysis</li> <li>○ Thames Water have agreed to upgrade the Andoversford treatment plant</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A route guide to a circular walk around Withington is being prepared</li> </ul>	
<b>Update – District Councillor</b>	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report was provided from the District Councillor for Ermin Ward</li> </ul>	
<b>Update – County Councillor</b>	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ambulance response</b> times for the highest category of emergency is 22 minutes versus a goal of 8 minutes</li> <li>• <b>GCC Council tax</b> is to rise by 4.99%</li> <li>• <b>GCC's application to become a unitary council</b> in the first wave has been turned down. It's likely that this will take place in 2028 although full consultation with residents will take place</li> <li>• <b>Report issues with roads</b> through <a href="https://www.fixmystreet.com/">https://www.fixmystreet.com/</a> as this is the most efficient method of reporting and the quickest way to get issues resolved</li> </ul>	
<b>Action List &amp; items not covered elsewhere on agenda</b>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A436 Speed Camera:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An average speed camera zone is being installed between Seven Springs to the Kilkenny in the new financial year</li> <li>○ Parish Council recorded their thanks to Cllr Hodgkinson for his tenacity supporting the Parish Council's campaign, and commitment in highlighting the dangers of this stretch of road resulting in this much-needed remedial action.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Grass Cutting</b> – The contract was agreed for 2025 four cutting to take place on a fortnightly basis</li> <li>• <b>Works Letter</b> – The Parish Council approved the wording of the document</li> <li>• <b>Clerk/Accountant role</b> - a new Parish Clerk had been appointed to undertake the administrative elements of the role and was due to start shortly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Handover of the financial elements of the post would also take place soon.</li> <li>○ Once the new Parish Clerk was in post arrangements for on-line banking would be finalised</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Community Emergency Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Planning Enforcement letter</b> – Draft agreed</li> <li>• <b>Roadside Bollards</b></li> <li>• <b>2000 Trees</b> – The Organiser here will be coming to the meeting on 07-May-25</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Brenninkmeijer to <b>request a copy of an Emergency Plan or template</b> from Cllr Theyer for consideration at the AGM.</li> <li>• <b>Enforcement letter</b> Clerk to action, once in post</li> <li>• <b>Seek clarification from CDC</b> on rules associated with the placement of roadside bollards. Clerk to send letter once in post</li> <li>• Cllr Viney to <b>invite Jan Chapel to attend 2000 Trees</b> meeting to discuss the involvement of the Village Committee</li> <li>• <b>Roadside Bollards</b> – The Clerk to enquire at CDC as to the legal position</li> </ul>
<b>Correspondence/Any Other Business</b>	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGM on 07-May-25</li> </ul>	

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by (Name):

(Signature):

(Date):