

The Annual General Meeting of Withington Parish Council

Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7.00 pm. For the purpose of transacting the following business:

Attendees

Cllr David Craig Chairman Parish Council
Cllr Glenys Webb –
Cllr Nicky Lowe – Councillor
Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer - Councillor
Cllr Mike Viney
County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson
Parish Clerk
4 members of the public

Apologies for absence –

Cllr Alex Barrell
Cllr Catherine Boyce
Dist Cllr Jeremy Theyer

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr David Craig was proposed by Cllr Brenninkmeijer and Seconded by Cllr Webb. All voted in favour of this nomination and the motion was carried.

Cllr Craig accepted

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vice Chairman

Cllr Brenninkmeijer was proposed as Vice Chairman and Seconded by Cllr Lowe

Cllr Brenninkmeijer accepted

Finance Officer

Cllr Barrell was proposed but he did not attend the meeting to accept. Nominated by Mike and Glenys

Tree Warden

Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer was proposed as Tree Warden by David Craig and Seconded by Cllr Webb

Cllr Brenninkmeijer accepted

Planning Committee

All Councillors will be members

3. MINUTES OF THE AGM

Were held on the 10 th May 2023 and were signed and agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Chairman's Report - Withington Parish Council AGM 8th May 2024

2023/2024 has been a busy year for the Parish Council with significant change to the Council as well as activity in the village. At the AGM in May. I was elected as Chair following Glenys Webb's decision to step down after many years of dedicated service, for which the whole Council expressed their gratitude.

The Council held five ordinary meetings in July, Sept, Dec, Jan, March as well as an extraordinary meeting dedicated to debate the application in principle for two properties on Land South of Cleveley cottages.

It has been a very busy and complicated year of planning and developments with the construction of 5 properties at Willowside Farm nearing completion, the completion of long-awaited replacement of water mains by Thames Water and a refusal of an appeal to the Secretary of State for planning permission in principle for two properties on land to the south of Cleveley Cottage.

Thames water originally planned to complete its major mains replacement programme was in early November 2023. However, a series of unexpected problems with geography, old infrastructure and weather caused delays and it finally concluded in April 2024. The associated road closures, extensive detours and delays throughout Winter had an increasingly demoralizing impact on our community who deserve credit for their resilience and restraint.

21 planning applications were handled by Parish Council with 81% relating to domestic property and trees, the remainder being agricultural or environmental. (Appendix A for list of planning submissions).

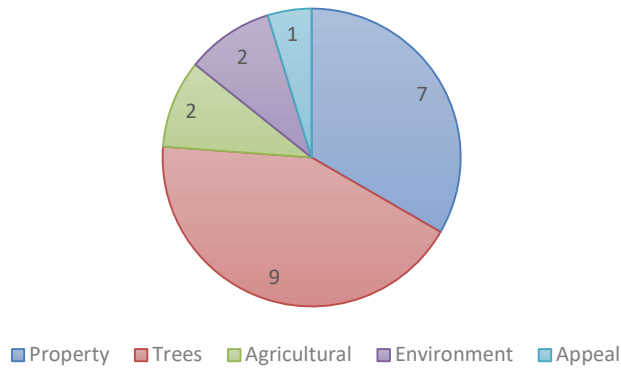
The most significant development was at Willowside which compounded access and delay problems in the village; with contractors parking, deliveries and heavy equipment being frequent frustrations. Castlethorpe Homes has recognized the disruption caused and has made a contribution in kind offer to help replace the decayed playing field fence running alongside Compton Rise provided that the Parish Council is able to support this with matching funds. Discussions are ongoing to source this.

Tree felling has been a major theme. Where felling has been proposed, the Parish Council has requested re-planting of broadleaf trees

The most significant tree operation was on the railway line at The Old Rectory. Whilst consultation with Parish Council or CDC was not required as it was dealt with Forestry Authority, the landowner did share his plans with the Parish Council once permission had been granted.

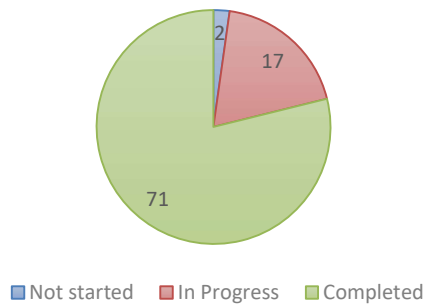
Unfortunately, 70% of our woodland in this area is ash which has been affected by ash dieback. This means that composition of the woodlands with the vicinity are going to change dramatically over the next decade.

21 Planning Applications



The volume of applications, combined with the complexity of a number of cases, together with internal communication and process difficulties at Cotswold District Council (CDC), has added significantly to the burden of our Clerk who has steadfastly provided Parish Council with excellent support and guidance for which I am extremely grateful.

Parish Council Actions



In total the Council handled 90 actions, completing 71.

To help better manage this increasing workload, Councillors have focused on establishing greater clarity and ownership of roles and new ways of working introducing an Action Log.

In June Cllrs Boyce and Cllr Brenninkmeijer attended Andoversford water

treatment plant to better understand the challenges faced in keeping our rivers clean. This has led to better insights and established direct contacts for the future.

Councillor Boyce, who represents Foxtcote, has continued to be an active member and has led a successful campaign to improve road safety conditions on the A436 between The Kilkenny Inn and Withington and has secured a free Community Speed-Watch Camera. Cllr Boyce and I met with representatives of Gloucester Constabulary to discuss the location and next steps. The Parish Council has agreed to fund ongoing costs once implemented. This is project which we all hope will greatly include safety and has already resulted in chevrons being painted at the accident hotspot outside the Kilkenny Inn and additional safety signage being erected including two 'number of incidents' signs.

The Village Maypole Dance green located outside Withington School unexpectedly became a focus for the village when a group decided to camp on the spot for over a week. This raised safeguarding concerns for the school and further concerns when the campers claimed that they owned the land. Consequently, The Parish Council has initiated action to consider the best way of ensuring the security of this small but important community asset.

In January, Cllr Miles stood down as a Councillor having relocated from the Village. Mike Viney volunteered to join the Council and was co-opted at our March meeting.

This concludes my first annual report as Chair and a busy year for Withington.

Appendix A

1. Planning applications
2. Conversion of barn Fulford 11 May
3. Trees Manor Hall
4. Agricultural track Willowside field 18th April
5. Fell license Thornhill farm 21st April
6. Stables Erection of building Ravenswell farm 19 May
7. Trees Church 1st June
8. Trees Avecote Kings head 19th May
9. Trees Old rectory 1st Jun
10. 2 Northfield Cottage extension 21st June
11. Install Solar Panels
12. Hill Bar 12th July
13. Fulford Replacement dwelling 25th July
14. Trees old rectory 7 August Old rectory 1st Sept - adjust garage
15. Change use Barn Shornhill farm 22nd September
16. Tree - The Close 20 September Extension Compton Rise 4th Oct
17. Old rectory extension 31st October Tree Yew Tree house 24th Oct
18. Tree work at the Church of St Michaels Church 24th Oct
19. Change of use - Northfield farm 5 cottages on agricultural land (refused)
20. Tree fell at Keepers cottage 18th Jan
21. Old Rectory erection of 2 story extension – Archaeological survey – on going Feb 24
22. Solar Panes Long Ash – March 24
23. App – appeal to the Secretary of State for refusal of permission in principle for two properties on land to the south of Clevely Cottage.

5. Presentation of accounts from 2023/2024 and Annual Return

There was a brief update of the annual expenditure and budgets to date. The clerk updated that the accounts have been done but we are still waiting for the internal audit report. It was agreed to reconvene once the report is ready and sign the AGAR at a separate meeting, once we have been able to discuss the Audit report. Need to submit the accounts by the end of June.

Action 1 AGM 08/05/2024 Clerk to arrange the audit the Parish Council will meet to discuss the findings. The Chair will sign the AGAR.

6. AOB

The Parish Council would like to thank the village for all the support they have shown at the recent meetings that have taken place and the work for Historic England.

Still asking for comments for the missing pieces project. It was agreed a good way to advertise this would be to put an invitation on the village whats app. If the invitation could be sent to Jan Chappell, she will post it on the village whats app page.

Part, one of the AGM meeting concludes.