

MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING Held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at the Village Hall Withington, at 19.00.

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr David Craig, Cllr Glenys Webb, Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer, Cllr Nicky Lowe, County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson . Also, in attendance four members of the public, and the Clerk/RFO.
2. **APOLOGIES:**, Cllr Catherine Boyce, Cllr Alex Barrell and District Councillor Jeremy Theyer.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**
Members were reminded to declare any interests that may arise during the meeting.
None.

MINUTES – TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20th March 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Planning updates and applications - including road closures

24/01089/TCONR Works to trees in conservation areas for T0022 Mature Fraxinus excelsior, remove dead wood and reduce canopy by 1-1.5m showing signs of ash dieback. T0146 Mature Fagus sylvatica, remove tree, Included Union at risk of failure, replant 1 8-10 standard Fagus sylvatica as replacement T0161 Mature Fagus Sylvatica, reduce branches with squirrel damage at Manor Hall Chedworth Road Withington.

24/01238/TCONR Works to trees in conservation areas for Fell conifer approx. 30 feet high in garden of property at Jubilee Cottage Kings Head Lane Withington.

24/01048/LBC Listed Building Consent for Structural repairs to the barn including localised rebuilding of the northern wall at The Old Rectory Withington

24/00951/FUL Full Application for Demolition of existing workshop and erection of a 1 bed dwelling and associated works at Lovat Cottage Withington.

The Parish Council has concerns as it is not a residential building, it is an additional building. The air source heat pump will be loud in this environment especially at night. Concern on use once it has been built.

The treatment of waste water has not been detailed and there is concern on the drainage.

The documentation is incomplete and needs clarification specifically around destination of outpouring and run away water and where the waste treatment is going to go.

Environmental report discrepancies on wildlife and ponds. The next-door neighbours letter has more accurate information on these factors than the applicants report.

The Parish Council has concerns that this will be used for short term lets.

They do however, like the design profile of the building itself. Against 6

Action 1

5. Play Area Fencing

Cllr Craig has been in contact with Castlethorpe homes, they have offered to contribute to the repair of the entire fence running the length of the playing field. Remove all concrete posts to gain access and to take away the old fence panels, replacing them with a powder coated metal fence. The total cost of this would be around 10k this was after contacting 5 contractors who looked at it, and only 2 were willing to carry out the work. The offer is to pay half of the cost and the Parish Council will need to find the rest. Cllr Craig had hoped to get some help from Morrisons (water contractors) but all contact has ended and they have left the village. Looking to take this forward discussion was held as to how to find the money and from other sources. The Parish Council could ask for the village to help clear the overgrown field this may reduce the costs by around 2.5k but that would be reliant on members of the village helping with this.

Cllr Craig asked CCllr Hodgkinson if there are any grants that he could suggest for this. He said there was nothing from GCC that he could think of. The Community Levey fund was suggested using the safety aspect as the only thing that would fit. This will be explored further. It was agreed to generate a clear plan, going forward.

Action 2

6. Clerks Role,

Information was presented on adverts for Parish clerks in the county and how they are written. JD description and an advert sent around to look at. Only a few adverts out there at the minute to compare. This was discussed.

Cllr Brenninkmeijer suggested that the Cllr look at the list that has been sent around to see what they can take on to reduce the burden on the clerk, as it was felt that it may put people off if they looked at the full list. He suggested that a Cllr could update the Action list, there was a discussion on this. It was agreed that the PC needs to be clear what we need to do before advertisements which should have gone out before the next meeting.

Action 3 for Cllr Brenninkmeijer to scope out what roles can be separate out from the Clerk and look at suggestions as to how this could be dealt with. Cllr or Clerk - Cllr Viney, Barrell and Craig to work through this.

7. Clerks update – Discuss action table, (Check drop box before the meeting)

The Meeting went through the outstanding Actions. Cllrs are asked to update their actions, no later than the Monday before the meeting going forward.

8. Update from County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson – including CDC meeting clash dates. 25/9 - 27/11.

- White way has been resurfaced, he said the downside to that is that it is now, very fast, there is a dangerous mix of cars and cyclists and that may need to be monitored. Cllr Craig asked if there is a cycling awareness groups and can the PC concerns be mentioned at that group.

- Reminder to the village that if there any issues that they should be reported on the Gloucestershire fix my street app. This is easy to do and updates you as to when the issue is likely to be repaired.
- A417 missing link – extensive work is ongoing in this area. There is a lot of work going on overnight with road closures and this will displace onto other roads at night in the area.
- A436 new signage, number of accidents incorrect – he will look into that.
- Thames Water – River Colne has recently been in the National press as in 2023 Andoversford pumping station released, 2000 hours of raw sewage into the River and is one of the worst in the area. Thames Water are going to attend the next Andoversford PC and if anyone would like to go along it is the 1st Thursday of the month.
- CC Hodgkinson is going to be helping the Village hall with funding from the build back better fund.
- CC P Hodgkinson asked if the PC are aware of the New highways manager Mrs A Jon, Cllr Craig said he has sent her an e-mail to welcome her and said it would be good to have a conversation but he has not had a response.

Cllr Brenninkmeijer said that he would like to send his appreciation to the Ash Die Back person (Laura Dennis) who has been outstanding when they have been working on the North road and has worked with the community to work around road closures etc. But he queried that the Ash is a very good wood to burn and why is it not being sold for firewood. He said they had been shredding it and she had not responded to that question when it was posed. He had mentioned that you could save the County Council some money and speed the process up, he even offered to take it away for them. He said it was a waste of an opportunity that has value. Cllr Hodgkinson said he would look at that.

9. Finance – Cheques to be raised:

Insurance quote - 3 year long term agreement - Annual £442.18 3 year agreement - £420.07 agreed, this is less than budgeted. This does not cover the speed camera. **Parish Council agreed – to go for the fixed 3 year agreement.**

GAPTC – annual membership £138.00

Grass cutting – £45.00 + £30.00 Mr Cox

Clerks Salary – Feb + March £305.05

10. Correspondence

Clerk presented some road closure notices:

10th May – Tree Works Wood bridge lane – one day

3rd – 5th July Thames Water to repair fire hydrant work.

An E-mail update on the speed camera was received from Cllr Boyce and was read out. She has received an update that the speed camera post was placed on the wrong side of the road. Since she raised this with the speed watch team, she has received another message from Bob Passmore, Community Speed Watch Liaison Officer who has been very helpful in trying to sort out the error. He said “ Having visited the location I did come away with grave misgivings about the effectiveness of a ASW camera; not so much the operational aspects which would be fine but the sheer volume of speeding traffic that you will have to manually verify each day but in speaking with colleagues at Highways (about other

possible options) I learned that greater things than a humble ASW camera might be coming to your aid at Foxcote. I'm afraid I don't have any details, but my boss Rod Manson will be contacting Foxcote PC in the very near future so please watch this space.

Additional points raised:

Cllr Webb updated that she has found a letter which is dated 1935 and came from a previous Councillor, Cllr Mavis Dunrossil who passed on information when she moved from the village. It is an agreement between Mr William Barwell and the Parish Council who approached him to give up a small piece of land for the village green to use as for a memorial for King George the 6th's jubilee. It is witnessed and shows a map of the area in question and the agreement. Cllr Craig will take this forward and look to register the land. It was suggested that a plaque should be put on the wall to recognise that it was given to the village by Mr Barwell and to say something along the lines of, the village green may be small but is enjoyed by all and is maintained and cherished by Withington Parish Council.

Action 4

Member of the public raised the issue of communication around advertising meetings and that the website was not up to date. He asked that this could be updated. It was agreed that Minutes go on the website once they are approved. It was agreed to post the date on the what's app group when they are taking place.

11. Dates of meetings

24th July 2024
18th September
20th November

Meeting Closed at 21.15