

## **MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MEETING Held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at the Village Hall Withington, at 19.00.**

- 1. PRESENT:** Cllr David Craig, Cllr Glenys Webb, Cllr Catherine Boyce, Cllr Mike Viney, Cllr Alex Barrell, Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer, County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson Also, in attendance 11 members of the public and the Clerk/RFO.
- 2. APOLOGIES:** Cllr Nicky Lowe 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. Cllr Brenninkmeijer read out the definition.
- 4. MINUTES – TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024** were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.
- 5. Questions from members of the public that are not on the agenda.** None raised

### **Planning updates and applications - including road closures-**

Road closure notification for 7<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October or until the work is finished. From Compton Rise to the High Street for drainage works

Cllr Craig updated that several points have been made on the Village What's App group following this notification. He has written to Ann Johns and Dan Tiffney both highways, following concerns.

- 1) No consultation with the Parish Council
- 2) What impact assessment has been completed and why has it not been shared with the Parish Council.
- 3) What has been done to ensure daily reinstatement of the threw access during non-working hours
- 4) What has been done to agree daily start and end of works timed to admit schools and access without detour. i.e. Ash die back work, who have been considerate over timings.
- 5) What consideration has been given to traffic lights to permit access whenever feasible.
- 6) Consideration of this closure with any planned Ash Die back work as in work on the Foss Way
- 7) What is the duration of this work left open for as long as it takes. It was felt this gives a licence for slow progress.

Cllr Hodgkinson has also followed up separately and requested consultation. The issue has been passed over to Dan Tiffney as it originated under his management. He has e-mailed Cllr Craig with a promise to get a response to him before this meeting. (none was sent)

It was agreed a plan of works should have been provided to households affected. There is also a planned road closure at the high street to carry out works to the Church Wall.

**National Highways** have sent information about the essential carriageway resurfacing work scheduled to be on the A419/A417 overnight in October.

**24/02647/FUL Fulford** Withington Variation of condition to plans

No material change, nothing to add, just change of location and design of the extension. No objections

**Appeal of Northfield Farm** Withington change of use and conversion of agricultural buildings to 5 dwellings. Appeal to Secretary of State against the decision made by CDC. Already submitted objection comments, these have been forwarded to the appeals officer by CDC. Nothing further to add.

#### **6. 2000 trees meeting – Update**

The Clerk has received an e-mail from the organiser's of 2000 trees, and they have offered to attend a meeting with the Paish Council this was discussed.

After discussion it was suggested that Cllrs, Brenninkmeijer and Cllr Viney would get together to formulate an invitation and an agenda between themselves. They represent different perspectives of this for the village, they will look at getting some points together to discuss:- such as, numbers, traffic, mud on the road and the issue of people wondering around all hours of the day and night. Cllr Brenninkmeijer said he may have a personal interest in this item as he is a neighbour but is happy to do the preparatory work but not take the lead on this item.

**Action 1 18/09/2024** Cllr Brenninkmeijer and Cllr Viney to come up with bullet points on specific points to be raised with 2000 trees organiser and then on that basis, an e-mail will then be written to them offering them a specific date that they can join one of the Parish Councils meetings.

#### **7. Village Wall repairs – Update**

The Village Green wall was knocked down by Pulham's coaches, Cllr Barrell met someone on site who promised to get the wall fixed in 2 weeks' that was 3 weeks ago. Cllr Barrell also contacted highways about this, and they have been out and repaired the wall.

For information - Concern was raised about the wall that needs repairing that belongs to the church as the estimated time for repair is one day, many people thought it might take longer this will affect the village as the road will need to be shut to do this. This item was discussed for information only.

#### **8. Village Green – Update** Cllr Craig – updated that the true ownership of the village green has been identified and the owner of the property has been written to. He is happy to meet and is interested in this as he didn't know there was a provision in his deeds but is happy to take it forward with the Parish Council. Cllr Craig will arrange to meet the property owner and take this forward. The Parish Council agreed to pay for any costs incurred in doing this.

## 9. Play Area – Update on Swings

Following the issues with the swings seats that need replacing, and some repair work needed. One of the metal struts that comes off the swings has a break in it due to rust and will also need replacing. Cllr Viney has contacted Greenfields who are based in Gloucester and who did some work to the play area some years ago. They will come out to look at the issues. Cllr Viney was unable to meet the inspector but will catch up with him and find out what the issues are and get a quote for the work. He will then bring this back to the Parish Council. Cllr Viney was asked if Greenfields do inspections as the Parish Council were unhappy with the last inspection as a lot of these issues were not picked up.

**Action 2 18/09/2024** Cllr Viney will see what information Greenfields come back with, get a quote for the work and see if they can help the Parish Council with future inspections, the next one is due in January 2025.

## 10. River Coln OFWAT letter – Update

Cllr Craig updated that members of the village, such as Margeret Wright have been involved with the state of the rivers locally and have set up, Guardian for the rivers. Recently they with the Parish Council submitted a petition to OFWAT that Thames Water should allot funding to Andoversford sewage work to improve and update the facilities. Andoversford was not included in the original funding for Thames Water to update the facility. Cllr Craig distributed an update from Margeret Wright and the River Guardians. She included her e-mail address if anyone would like to contact her. Cllr Craig updated that the Parish Council intend to give specific attention to this issue in the November meeting, when Harvey Sherwood and Margeret Wright can attend. Some information came to light that some heating oil was leaked into the river over the weekend and Cllr Lowe was going to investigate that further. It looks like it was caused by a private house holder.

Cllr Hodgkinson updated that there is a Glos County Council environment select committee set up and they have requested that Thames Water & Seven Trent Water attend a specific meeting in November where questions will be put to them. He said if anyone has any comments and thoughts he can raise them at the meeting. Cllr Craig said that we will put something out on the village what's app regarding this.

**Action 3 18/09/2024** To put this item on the agenda for the next meeting. Harvey Sherwood and Margeret Wright to be invited specifically.

**Action 4 18/09/2024** for Cllr Lowe, Margeret Wright and Harvey Sherwood to be informed of the County Council meeting. Cllr Hodgkinson asked for contact details to get in touch with these people. He will update on the date but provisionally it is booked in for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00. He said they are just waiting for confirmation from the water companies involved.

## **11. Playing Field Community engagement**

A lot of people have recently raised issues with the playing field. There have been two recent acts of vandalism, 2 Windows smashed in the Pavilion and the Cricket wicket was dug up to make a ramp. There have been questions asked as to what the Parish Council are doing about this. Cllr Craig said that we need to start a conversation with the village on the best way to tackle this, and how it can be taken forward. It was agreed that we need to get engagement in the community and get people involved. It was agreed to have an open session between the village hall committee and the Parish Council to invite the community to come along and ask for their engagement.

**Action 5 18/09 2024** to set up an open session to attract the right groups of people to Cllr Craig and Chair of the village hall committee to liaise over this.

## **12. Clerks advert**

Cllr Brenninkmeijer is working on the Job description. The Clerk had some more adverts from GAPTC which are like her role for the Parish Council to look at. Cllr Brenninkmeijer has produced a JD. As the current Clerks husband gets involved in the finances it was agreed to look at splitting this part of the role out. Cllr Brenninkmeijer updated that he has divided the role into 3 elements, Finance, Admin and Governance. It may be an answer to split all the component parts out rather than looking for one individual to do all of them. It was agreed that the Parish Council take away the document and discuss it further virtually and agree on the way forward.

**Action 6 24/07/2024** for Cllr Craig to set up a virtual Parish Council meeting to agree the JD and advert for the departing Clerk. Then Cllr Brenninkmeijer can formulate the next steps.

## **13. Review of Councillors Roles and balance of workload**

This is related to the item above and the Parish council decided to defer this item and discuss at the virtual meeting they are holding.

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

The Clerk is still chasing up the action's enforcement notices; 2 letters have now been sent.

Cllr Craig will chase Castlethorpe homes over the fencing for the playing field. There has been no further engagement, and he will chase this up.

Chase up Kings Head Stable – response from CDC explaining why nothing has happened regarding this. - Planning: The activities on site remain under investigation, and a breach of planning control has been confirmed. However, to manage the temporarily significantly restricted capacity within the enforcement team, breaches of planning control exerting only the greatest degree of harm are currently being given the

highest priority. Officers will notify those reporting breaches of planning control of any significant updates that may occur. The worry of the Parish Council is the 7-year rule. Cllr Hodgkinson updated that this is the effect of services being stretch to capacity. He will keep raising this and the Parish Council were urged to get Dist. Cllr Theyer to also raise it. He said the only thing to do is to keep watching, take photos and build a portfolio of evidence. After discussion it was agreed the Parish council could write to the householder and encourage them to formalise the buildings by making an application.

**Further Action 7 18/09/2024** Cllr Brenninkmeijer to draft a letter to the owners from the Parish Council of the land asking them who owns the land, so that we can write to the legal owner regarding the breach, encouraging them to formalise the work undertaken in that area and by making a full planning application.

Signatories - Before the next meeting to agree 4 signatories for the Parish Council so that when Internet Banking is taken forward by the new clerk this is included. For Cllr to message Cllr Craig if they are willing to be additional signatories.

Village Hall to confirm if they have also registered the land of the village hall with the land registry. Confirmed that they have investigated this and have the deeds for the hall.

Escalate missed bin collections in Foxcote, Woodbridge Lane and Kings head Lane to CDC. Cllr Hodgkinson raised this with UBICO, 4 weeks two session missed. Was missed but came back out after chasing. Last 2 weeks there have been collections by a roadside collections team.

- 15. Finance – payment of invoices** – Cllr Lowe did not attend the meeting and so the Clerk will need to arrange for her to sign the cheques outside of the meeting.

**Cheques raised**, Clerks hours + expenses £475.20, HMRC £95.00 DD Wickmedia Ltd £83.28. Withington Village Hall £51.00 Grass cutting A Cox £80.00+ 85.00.

**16. Update from District Councillor Jeremy Theyer**

Cllr Theyer sent across an e-mail from Lisa Spivey the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Safety about some upcoming forums that she runs. The next one is on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and is around the Cost of Living. Speakers include Citizen's advice and Cotswold Food network. He suggested that the Parish Council attend.

**17. County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, Update:**

He updated that there has been a lot of progress on the A417. There are at least 400 people working on the area. Overall it looks to be on schedule.

The new Government are consulting on the national policy planning framework, this is around the number of new houses to be built. This will be a big impact on CDC and doubling the current housing target. Currently the target is for around 550 new houses to be built in the whole Cotswold for the year. They are currently sending back feedback as the Cotswolds have a lot of AONB in their area and this will mean squeezing a lot more houses in a small area, there are infrastructure issues to take into account. He said there will be no direct impact on Withington but it will come into force later this year.

**Ambulance response times** - Cllr Hodgkinson has got worst in our area, he said there are 2 categories, emergencies for these cases the target time is 8 mins in the Cotswolds its currently 21 mins. Serious cases, including strokes and Heart attacks the target time is 18 mins, in the Cotswolds its currently 1 hour 2 mins.

## **18. Correspondence**

E-mail received re - Ash die back replanting scheme – information received to start to tackle the effects of the disease within the county. During the three years, GCC Highways have removed **12,640** infected Ash Trees with an aim of replanting at least two trees for every diseased tree felled. The Parish Council have been encouraged to use their local knowledge to assist in identifying suitable areas within the community where replanting can be undertaken. They want to look at planting in groups of mixed native whips (young tree seedlings 2-3 years old) rather than larger specimen trees.

Within the capacity of the Ash Dieback Project, there are two options available.

1. Submit areas to be considered for replanting on highways land by the Ash Dieback Team.
2. Submit a request for whips / trees to be donated to the parish council, to plant themselves within the community.

If you would like to submit a request for trees to be planted during November 2023 to March 2024, please complete the attached form, and return to by 14/10/2023.

**Action 8 18/09/2024** Cllr Brenninkmeijer will look at the conditions of this request.

## **19. Date and time of the next meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

**Meeting Closed at 21.15**