

MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 3rd January 2018 AT THE JUBILEE
HALL, WITHINGTON AT 7.30 PM

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr Glenys Webb, Cllr Mavis Lady Dunrossil, Cllr Nicky Lowe, Cllr Jeremy Theyer. Cllr Jane Bruce, Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer and C.Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, 1 member of the public and the Clerk/RFO.
2. **APOLOGIES:**, Cllr Jane Gibbs, , District Councillor Robin Hughes
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. None**
4. **MINUTES of the Meetings** held on the 1st November 2017 were circulated prior to the meeting to Councillor's; they were signed and agreed as a true and accurate record.

4.1 Progress report and comments on the meeting held: 3rd January 2018.

It was reported that a fallen tree has come down half way across the road at Withington Hill, there was a discussion as to who is responsible when it is caused by the snow. It was agreed that there is an issue with various trees that have come down onto the roads and which are dangerous. Cllr Brenninkmeijer said that landowners where written to about this earlier in the year as to what was expected of the verges but not all landowners responded to this request from the Council. Has said he had written to GCC to ask them to follow up with an inspection and to confirm that this has been done but heard nothing, he said there did not seem to be a clear standard. CC Hodgkinson said he would make enquires about this and report back, he would also find out about the trees coming down on the highways through snow and bad weather.

BT phone Box /Defibrillator update Action for the clerk to send details of the box/kiosk to Cllr Webb as she will need to pass the correct address onto Community Heartbeat in order to fit the Defib. Cllr Webb updated that this action was completed but we now need to find an electrician to fit the Defib. The Parish Council has received the invoice to pay for the Defib and maintenance costs which are on the agenda.

5. Planning

Planning updates: Halewell has been permitted, Dovecote House Foxcote has been permitted, and the Kings Head pub change of use has also been permitted.

It was updated that Staple Farm retrospective planning for a temporary building is still waiting a decisions. It was reported that there is a letter of concern on the planning website from the conservation officer which raises the issue that the temporary building is too near the listed barn and a recommendation that it is refused on the basis of the harm which is caused to the setting, the modern appearance and inappropriate form of the structure together with it being too close to the historic building.

New applications:

17/03836/LBC – The Old House, High Street, Withington

No comment where made by the Councillors and had not issues with the planning

17/05241/TCNR Remove trees - Hazel saplings to Silverdale, Withington, to enable dry stone wall to be repaired/rebuilt.

No comment where made by the Councillors and had not issues with the planning

Action for the Clerk to update CDC website

6. Finance: The Budget and precept were discussed and cheques were raised:

Budget and Agree Precept - The Parish Council were presented with the budget and forecast of expenditure for the coming year.

They were asked to make a decision on what to do about this year's precept – it has been kept at the same level for at least 10 years, this year there will be additional expenditure with the Defib and in future years for the ongoing costs, electric, insurance and maintenance. It was suggested that an increase could be added gradually, it was agreed that they would look at the level of reserves and have a bottom line in them so that once it was near the agreed level the Parish Council would consider grounds to increase the precept. It was agreed to keep the reserves under review.

It was unanimously agreed that there are enough in reserves to keep the level of precept the same for another year.

Action for the Clerk to send back the precept letter and calculations to CDC

There has been a request for the annual donation to the Village Hall. It was updated that the Parish Council could procure large items for the Village hall and recoup the VAT, this was discussed.

Action Cllr Webb to ask the village committee for their views on this. It was noted that there is a meeting next Tuesday. This would be a different form of contribution.

Action for the Clerk to send the details of the article to Cllr Brenninkmeijer.

Cheques were raised for the following:

Clerks Salary £290.09

HMRC £58.52

Donation to Village Hall £750.00

Community Heart Beat £2154.00

Community Heart Beat for £151.20 for maintenance

7. Update from County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

C.Cllr Hodgkinson updated that the budget will be increased by 3.99% due to Social Care levy. He updated that it could go up more due to the government looking to relax the maximum council's tax threshold.

C.Cllr Hodgkinson said that there had not been any news on the Old A40 at Northleach but that a lot of people had sent in their feedback on it. GCC are looking to do a temporary fix with a permanent fix in the future. They are currently looking to open up one lane on the closed road.

C.Cllr Hodgkinson updated on the A417, there will be a public consultation taking place hopefully in the next 2 months. There are probably going to be two proposals that Highways England are looking at, the earliest this will be actioned is 2024.

C.Cllr Hodgkinson asked if there were any issues arising from the recent Snow:

It was raised that the process for calling the Snow Warden out was not very effective. A telephone call is made to Amey which was picked up but they inform the Snow warden where he must clear which in this case was the main A40 not the roads in and around Withington which had caused issues for villages. They also gave no instruction to clear the village of Foxcote at all, probably because they had not realised it is in the parish. This was discussed. The Councillors said they were under the impression that the Snow Warden cleared roads in the parish not the main trunk road which should be covered by snow ploughs. Cllr Hodgkinson said he would feed this back. He suggested that Danny Taylor is the contact at Amey on this for future reference. It was agreed that the Snow Warden knows what roads he must clear in the village but he is not able to make his own decisions due to the way payment is made. It was reported that he has to wait for Amey's instruction. It also took 2 hours for Amey to pass on the request for the Snow Warden.

Action Cllr Hodgkinson will look at the records Amey will have of what instructions were given to the Snow warden.

7. Correspondence

The clerk has received some information from Osprey who is looking to change the airspace of RAF Brize Norton which may impact on Parish.

8. Any Other Business

It was reported that the Salt bins need replacing as the old ones are no longer fit for purpose and fill with water. Cllr Theyer has acquired 5 new ones at £20 each. The Parish Council agreed to the expenditure once an invoice has been produced. He will undertake to replace them in the same places as the old ones.

There was a discussion about changing the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will now take place on the 28th February moved from the 7th March.

Meeting closed at 9.00