

MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 11th January 2021 on Zoom at 7.00 PM.

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr Glenys Webb, , Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer, Cllr Gibbs, Cllr Nicky Lowe, Cllr Catherine Boyce, County Cllr, Paul Hodgkinson, District Councillor Robin Hughes and the Clerk/RFO.
2. **APOLOGIES:.** Cllr Mavis Lady Dunrossil, Cllr Jeremy Theyer,
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. None**
4. **MINUTES of the Meetings** held on the 15th January 2020 were circulated prior to the meeting to Councillor's; matters arising were picked up. It was agreed as they are so old they were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Progress report and comments on the meeting held: 15th January 2020

5. Matters Arising

- The Chairman asked Cllr Lowe to pass on that a number of horse boxes have been coming through the village and she has had a few complaints.
- It was updated that the village wall has now been repaired. Cllr Webb said that this has been damaged again by a lorry going through the village, there was discussion about some sort of buffer stone to be looked at to stop this damage. The Clerk will contact Cllr Theyer to ask him to contact Mr Chapple to repair the wall but also to look at ways the wall can be made safer in future.
- Issues with Bromford housing, this is on-going, the problem with changes of staff and Covid making contact difficult. There is no further update to this.
- The Chairman updated that the Old A40 is now open again and that is great news.
- Cllr Boyce asked for an update on the rebate from HMRC that was mentioned at the last meeting. Cllr Webb said that she had heard nothing from them and presumes it was a mistake on their part.

6. Planning and updates

20/04361/FUL - Full Application for Fenestration alterations and installation of 1no. flue to facilitate conversion of barn to form 1no. detached dwelling, new access and associated landscaping at Shornhill Farm Withington Cheltenham.

The meeting discussed the application, it was agreed it is a redundant building which will be sympathetically developed and will be a positive addition to the area. The Clerk will respond to the CDC website

Action 1 11/01/2021 for the Clerk to respond to the planning application

20/03130/FUL An updated application to this was submitted between Xmas and New Year – the application is still pending but closed to comments. Cllr Hughes was asked if he had any updates on the application, but he did not.

Cllr Gibbs raised an issue with Trees and hedges being taken down by the old Kings Head pub building. Cllr Gibbs said she has not seen any information about this and it is in the conservation area. Cllr Hughes said he would check with the planning officer.

Action 2 11/01/2021 for Cllr Hughes to speak to CDC planning about this

7. Finance - Wickmedia, Glos Playing Fields Assoc -

The Parish Council were asked to authorise the following payments:

Payee	Amount	Cheq no
Wickmedia		
Gloucestershire Playing Fields (Annual)	£50.00	568
Village Hall donation		

The Clerk said that she has been in touch with James Mander and he has been unable to go to the Bank in 2020 due to Covid and so he has sent back all the cheques for the website. There was a discussion around issuing him a new cheque and also how we can pay as he will have the same problem at the minute. There was suggestion that the clerk takes the cheque to the bank and pays it in for him using his bank details.

Precept Letter - The Parish Council were asked to look at a report on the budget these were circulated prior to the meeting and to suggest any additional items for next year. The forecast was discussed, and the grass cutting was picked up as there has been considerable additional expenditure this year due to the Children's play area getting very overgrown and the Village Green also needing to be regularly cut. This had previously been done by a Councillor and had not incurred additional cost. This will be additional expenditure of around £200 per year.

The forecast is that the budget will be overspend by £400.00

After discussion the Councillors discussed the various options and voted to:

- 1) Increase the budget by 3% to cover the additional grass cutting
- 2) Leave the precept at the current level

The Parish Council voted 3 – 2 for option 2 - to leave the precept at its current level.

Action 3 11/01/2021 for the Clerk to fill out the precept and council tax request letter and send it back to CDC.

8. Update from District Councillor Robin Hughes

- Cllr Hughes said that the planning application for the telephone mast has been passed, they have moved a bit from the original application. Cllr Brenninkmeijer said he had heard that they can sell space to 3rd parties on the mast and is disappointed that it went through.

9. Update from County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

- Cllr Hodgkinson updated on the Covid situation in the area - over the last few weeks with cases on the rise and it has been very worrying, but it does seem to be coming down from its peak in this area.
- Vaccines – these started rolling out in our county last month and many thousands have already received them. The most vulnerable and the over 80s, plus care home staff and residents, NHS staff and now some over 75s have also just started getting the jab.
- Cllr Hodgkinson met with Cllr Boyce in Foxcote with Dan Tiffney who is the new highways managers to look at various issues from potholes to signage. Cllr Boyce thanked him and said that local residents appreciate that their problems have been recognised.
- Cllr Hodgkinson was asked if there is an update with the road repairs to the Withington Woods road, he said it is still in the plan and will be started in the new quarter from April until the end of June all being well.

10. Correspondence

The clerk has received a letter from Dr Morris about speed limits in the area, he is looking for opinion from Parish Councils in the area. Process to adopt a lower speed limit is expensive and the current government have no plans to impose a national 20 mph limit in residential areas hence why Cotswold villages want to do this and make the change themselves at getting villages together to spread the cost which is estimated at £10,000. The Clerk will send the letter around to all councilors to look at and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

11. Any Other Business

Cllr Webb said that the accounts have now been sent back to the external auditors there have been some issues with it not being done, threats to fine us have been made but thanks to Simons hard work they have now been sent off.

Cllr Hughes was asked about some digging which is taking place on the site of the new rectory and was he aware of it, had and had a planning application been submitted. Cllr Hughes said he would ask.

Action 4 11/01/2021 for Cllr Hughes to ask the planning officers about work being undertaken at the site of the new rectory.

Date of next meeting - to be held on the 18th March 2020 at 19.00 via a Zoom meeting

(the clerk will send out information to Councillors prior to the meeting) Members of the public can request joining details by e-mailing the clerk before the meeting at the following e-mail address - parishclerk@withington-gloucestershire.co.uk

The meeting closed at 20.30 pm